



Pinecrest Journal 2012

— Calling, Honor & Faith —

Another Year in the Books

by Gary Smith, Camp Director

Thursday, June 28, 2012, a total of 47 staff members arrived at Camp Pinecrest to begin orientation for the coming week, providing a final opportunity before the start of camp to focus on the important task ahead—creating a godly society that typifies God’s Kingdom.

Camp began the next day, Friday, June 29, as the campers arrived. After check-in, the campers—68 in all—met their counselors, got settled in their dorms and began meeting fellow campers and enjoying their time at camp.

The purpose of camp is not to just have a lot of fun with a little religion thrown in as an afterthought. God and His Word are fundamental to all that takes place from the first day until camp ends. The result of this godly focus is an atmosphere conducive to learning about God and His way of life, building friendships, being challenged and, of course, having fun.

Each day began with a 35- to 40-minute Christian Living presentation by the ministerial staff focused on some aspect of this year’s camp theme: Calling, Honor and Faith. After that, the activity day began, but the spiritual lessons were also to be part of the rest of the day. This approach is based on God’s teaching in Deuteronomy 6:7 about presenting His instructions: “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

Camp began with 100-degree temperatures. With such intense heat, campers and staff were admonished to drink plenty of fluids during and between activities. Staying



hydrated made it possible to enjoy the full array of activities—including archery, riflery, softball, swimming, ropes course, speedaway, the Amazing Race, volleyball, journalism, and a canoe trip down the Black River.

One additional factor helped with the heat.

Many were praying that

God would give the camp relief. He answered by allowing clouds to lessen the intensity of the sun. He also provided an inch of rain leading to more moderate temperatures.

After dinner each night, campers enjoyed a variety of games and challenges. Activities ranged from a Bible scavenger hunt, a dodgeball tournament, team-building games and capture the flag to a dance to close out camp.

The last activity of each day was a gathering called “campfire.” Because of the fiery conditions outside, it was thought best to meet inside to wrap up each day (with a video of a campfire playing for atmosphere). Each day ended with creative greetings, contests between dorms, songs, skits, stories based on the day’s Christian Living lesson and the closing hymn, “We Are God’s People.”

Camp came to a close on Friday morning, July 6, with those making ready to depart realizing that it had all gone by too quickly. Tears were shed, hugs were given and contact information shared. The 17th year of Camp Pinecrest was complete.

A Camper’s Transformation *by Josh Hauck, Dorm 2B*

Two years ago I stepped out of a white van to the warm smell of dust in the air and the warm radiance of the Missouri sun. This was my first impression of Camp Pinecrest, a place that would be instrumental to concrete changes in my attitude and spiritual life.

That first year I started as simply a typical younger teenager without much confidence, self-discipline or people skills. I was in the Church, but I wasn’t really part of it. I prayed occasionally, but it wasn’t a habit. I paid attention to messages—at church and at Christian Living—but I often did not fully understand their meaning. I was doing little more than going through the motions.

Camp Pinecrest changed everything. It was here that I deepened my relationship with God and those in His Church, here that I was taught many basic spiritual lessons, and here that I developed much of the confidence and many of the people skills I possess. I also find that my attitude towards authority and my ability to follow it has taken a remarkable leap.

Almost as memorable as my counselors that first year are the older campers that mentored and guided me towards many of the personal gains I made. They were helpful, confident, encouraging and spiritually sound people—a pleasure to be around. I hope, through Camp Pinecrest, I’m becoming just a little more like them.







Whitney Creech (counselor), Amy Bauer (asst. counselor), Luba Banit, Erica Call, Bonnie Dungan, Mikaela Gannon, Shelly James, Sabrina Moffitt, Katie Raddatz, Rheighanne Sanchez, Sarah Weatherby, Amallia Yeats

The Real Focus of Camp

Whitney Creech

Camp Pinecrest was fantastic. Starting off with a strong emphasis on God's plan and God's purpose here in the Zone took Pinecrest 2012 to a new level. Typically, the camp Sabbath is the pinnacle of campers' enthusiasm for a day of rest after a strenuous week of activities. Beginning on the Sabbath allowed for an opportunity to highlight what camp is all about. Our focus is on God. He is the reason we are here. This year, the whole camp started on the same page.

My dorm was a wonderful mix of backgrounds, experiences and abilities. They blended within 24 hours under the umbrella of God's Sabbath. We were able to take that common experience and focus it into conquering the week's activities.

Perhaps it was only a change in the typical dates for Pinecrest, but I'd like to believe that God knew we all needed a little refocusing on why we come here year after year.



Straight to the Points!

Sarah Weatherby

Archery is my favorite activity at Camp Pinecrest. At first I didn't get any points. Then, bam! I almost got proficiency!

I expected to get at least five points when we went to archery, but I didn't! I got zero points for two turns! That was at the second target. Then I went to the middle target and got 22 points! With only three arrows! 7 points + 8 points + 7 points = 22 points!

It didn't seem like I did anything different (except for being at the middle target), but I clearly did! I think my aim was somehow better that time.

Proficiency requires 25 points in one turn, and I almost got it! Just three points away! Three points! Maybe next time I will get proficiency. Or better!



Cheesy Biscuit

Amallia Yeats

So it's dinner at Camp Pinecrest. I had just gotten my plate and sat down when my imagination wandered. If food could talk, perhaps this is how it would go . . .

From between my salad and pasta the beady eyes of a cheesy biscuit poked (don't ask how there were eyes or how they poked—let's just say they did).

Looking up at me, it spoke—a strange, squeaky voice addressing me: "So you like cheesy biscuits?"

Stammering in shock, I answered, "Why yes, they are my favorite. Everyone loves cheesy biscuits."

It smiled (again, don't ask how). "Of course you do, but do you know why?" I shook my head, and it continued, "It's the ingredients, the work, the care that my maker put into me." I leaned over closer to listen.

"Every ingredient is chosen with care, and only the best can be used. If it's bad, it's thrown out. If it's good, it stays. I cannot be made with only cheese or only flour. I have to be made with everything needed. It takes time, care and patience. And then, in time, you have the best biscuit to sustain and nourish."

With that it fell silent, and I finished my dinner in awe—promising to live to be the best cheesy biscuit ever (and glad that food can't actually speak).



Free From the Tarp

Katie Raddatz

My first ever canoe trip sure was an unforgettable one. The one thing that made it unforgettable was being trapped under a tarp, in the rain, with the rest of my dorm.

While we were all sitting there, cold and wet, we decided to start singing. We were all happy when the rain stopped, and we were free from the tarp.

Being stuck under the tarp made me think how we, as Christians, get stuck in situations. All the time we get stuck in some problem and feel like we're "trapped under the tarp." But we must remember we're not alone, and we must learn to "sing" because no matter how bad it might seem, the troublesome rain will stop, and we will be free from the tarp.



Jolted by the Rock

Amy Bauer

"God is my Rock." These words are foundational in my Christian life. Sometimes, as Christians in today's society, we are jolted by an unexpected experience. That jolt may shake our faith or help us to plant deeper roots. Weeks before camp I fretted over "the canoe trip." Everyone stayed positive and encouraging, but deep down I remained fearful of the unknown.

The most memorable of my experiences on the trip was being jolted by the unseen rock. At that moment, I was flooded by a sense of fear and calm almost simultaneously. Fear that my partner was injured. Fear that we would be separated from the group. Mostly just a general fear of the unknown. These feelings quickly subsided with an overwhelming sense of peace and calm. I regained my footing after being thrown out of the boat, climbed back in after dislodging our canoe, and checked on my partner before we continued on.

In life there are unforeseen obstacles that jolt us out of our complacency, just like on the canoe trip. In these times, we must remember who the Rock of our faith is and call on Him. As it says in Psalm 34:4, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." Just as I sing at church, God is my Rock, my salvation, and my strength. Today, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to experience "the canoe trip."





Seeing Clearly When the Rain Is Gone

Eric Hewitt

Camp Pinecrest might become infamous for its weather. Here in the Missouri summer, the heat is certainly up, cooking the camp to a definite well-done. Granted, it's not always hot here—but if it's not hot, then it's raining . . . and raining . . . and raining. Between feeling like you'll be roasted alive or drowned, activities may get complicated, and you may develop a bad attitude.

However, there is a silver lining to these hot, stormy clouds—you just have to look for it. Our theme for camp this year, which includes faith, really comes into play. God is constantly looking out for us, His children—even though we may not realize it at first. You may be wishing you had rain when it's hot, and you may be wishing for heat when it rains, but that means you start to appreciate each for its advantages. And when the sky clears, you realize that the heat and the rain *together* create beautiful weather.

At Camp Pinecrest, you may undergo trials of various sorts, but if you put your faith in God and stand strong, you will make it through and come out with a treasured, memorable experience—regardless of the weather.



Memorable Loss

Bradley Bales

We were in the final minute of a game of speedaway—in the last half-minute, if you like the added precision and drama. The score was 3-7, and not in our favor. Even with a three-point head-butted goal, we wouldn't be able to tie the game. We were losing, and yet we were having fun. Learning the game, or relearning it, was quite the experience, playing against a team that had already played. A memorable example was Caleb trying to dribble the ball on the field when the other team was crowding him [as if this were basketball].

We did learn, however, and we did relearn. As the game went on we got more goals, we worked together better, we strategized and communicated. Anyway, back to the final half-minute. We had the ball, and we were closing in on the goal. Someone kicked the ball, and it went far to the right of the goal. It was heading right in front of Mr. Hauck's face. Right then, he head-butted it. It didn't go in, but that was something I don't think I'll forget.



Target Practice

Bryan McClain

Just like in archery, life also involves target practice. The target is godly character. If we hit the target, or do something good in life, we are getting closer to what God wants us to become. When we miss the target in life, we have made a mistake and need to get back to doing the right thing. It's important to never give up if we make a mistake or we might forfeit our ultimate destiny of becoming immortal children of God.

Another important part of archery is proficiency, having learned how to use a bow well. God also wants to know if we can achieve proficiency in life. He gives us this target practice to make sure we are ready for His Kingdom. If we never did target practice, there would be nothing to show how we would act in God's Kingdom—that we would remain faithful.

The Bible makes it clear that we need to shoot for our goal in life. The ultimate goal is the Kingdom. Let's remember to shoot for the targets in life that lead to it. If we miss at times, God is very forgiving, and He will listen to our prayers. Let us strive to hit our targets and make it to the Kingdom of God.



Lewis VanAusalle (counselor), Jonathan Reimann (asst. counselor), Bradley Bales, Bearington Bennett, Terreon Craig, Chad Curran, Noah Elliott, Kielm Foraker, Bryce Foster, Brandon Gilbert, Liam Groom, Eric Hewitt, Aaron Lopez, Bryan McClain, Caleb Schmidt

Salvation

Bearington Bennett

The campers of Pinecrest have become like brothers and sisters. They've taken me in like family. They cast a hand forward, waiting for a hand to greet them in return. For young people with families torn or with those close to them deathly ill, those whose world is caving in, with times looking bleak or their lives shattered, your salvation is here.

In the world, many children are abused and neglected by family—those you trust with your life and well-being and those whose responsibility it is to provide you with food, clothing and shelter. These children don't see a future for themselves or any savior coming to rescue them. But for those for whom it seems all is lost, there is one surefire way to get your life back. His name is God.

Our God created you purposefully. And though you may not see it now, things will become clearer in time. We are all God's children, and as such He will care for us, nurture us and make sure that no harm comes our way. You can speak to Him through prayer, and although it may not seem like He is listening because you don't get an immediate response, He's there, and He already knows what you need.

So although times may look rough and you feel like you may fail, just remember: salvation is here.

Drink the Gookinaid!

Noah Elliott

Gookinaid—who likes it? Some people can gulp it down, others . . . not so much. Bad medicine is one of the kinder names a friend and I came up with to describe it.

Though not everyone can stand the taste, and an even fewer amount of people enjoy drinking it, Gookinaid is a very important addition to our diet. It helps Camp Pinecrest stay hydrated after running around all day and keeps up our strength.

Like Gookinaid, God's way of life is not the easiest or most comfortable way of life out there, but we have to follow it to stay spiritually hydrated and receive a place in God's Kingdom. Sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone and drink life's Gookinaid.





Elena Sanchez (counselor), Courtney Shaw (asst. counselor), Cameo Bales, Ellen Cain, Miranda Elmore, Bailey Gatewood, Amanda Gilbert, Emma Groom, Brianna Harman, Katie Hauck, Autumn Havens, Violet Voyles



Sacrifice Taken for Granted

Cameo Bales

When we come to camp we always wonder about making friends with all the campers, but very few of us think about the relationships we can form with our counselors. They aren't just here to keep an eye on us. They're here to be our friends, give us advice and keep us safe. We take for granted everything they do for us. They take a week out of their lives just to make sure all of us campers have a godly and fun time, and they treat us with nothing but kindness. So when you come to camp, keep in mind that there will always be others who are there for you—especially your counselors and, above all, God.

The Heart of the Father

Ellen Cain

In archery usually the bull's-eye is a circle. This year the bull's-eye was a heart symbolizing God's character of love. The archery staff taught us that even as it's hard to get a bull's-eye, it'll take time to learn to live according to God's heart. I tried really hard and got a 7. Missing perfection doesn't mean I don't love Jesus or that He doesn't love me. It means we have to work even harder than the first time. Psalm 31:23-24 says: "Oh, love the LORD, all you his saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage. And He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD." So even though we may not hit dead on in the center, we are probably close. And if not, we try harder.



Scavenger Hunt

Miranda Elmore

The introduction to camp wasn't the easiest time. We faced a very exhausting scavenger hunt. Throughout the journey we walked back and forth over the whole camp—from the entrance all the way to riflery. I almost gave up four times, but I just stuck to it and finished the race. Making this journey reminded me of the struggles and exhaustion of trying to reach God's Kingdom. If you give up, you'll never feel the satisfaction or honor of working hard and receiving the most valuable prize—the Kingdom. Also, don't get distracted by tempting things or you'll lose sight of what you're working toward. With no work there is no gain.



The Flip Side

Brianna Harman

While canoeing, it's hard to paddle against the current, right? It's similar with life and the world. It's hard to live God's way of life because you're paddling against the current. When you get to be older you come to a crossroads in your life. What will you choose? God's way or the world's?

God's way of life seems harder at first, and when you're canoeing and you see two paths, you're bound to go the easy way, right? But if you endure and make it through the harder path of God's way, God will bless you. But if you choose the easy path of the world, it might seem easy at first, but what happens when you hit the rapids? Your canoe flips. The world's path leads to destruction, while God's way leads to love and blessing. Which will you choose?

Swimming Against the Flow

Violet Voyles

So you like to swim? Swimming is so fun, especially when it's hot outside. At camp we did swimming with Mrs. Welch. As an exercise we made a current by walking in a circle in the pool. Then we turned around and went the other way, thereby going against the flow.

We must go against the flow in this world. The world has many evils, including nasty music, sexually immoral TV shows and polluted books. And that's not all. Bullies in school, anger between family members, etc., present big challenges.

But we must remember that God is here to help. We must ask him daily to help us. He's stronger than all our problems.

Bible study is a blessing. Christian Living class at camp is a time to get into God's Word and study it. If you need help understanding the Bible, ask your parents, pastor or a friend. The Bible shows us how to go against the flow.

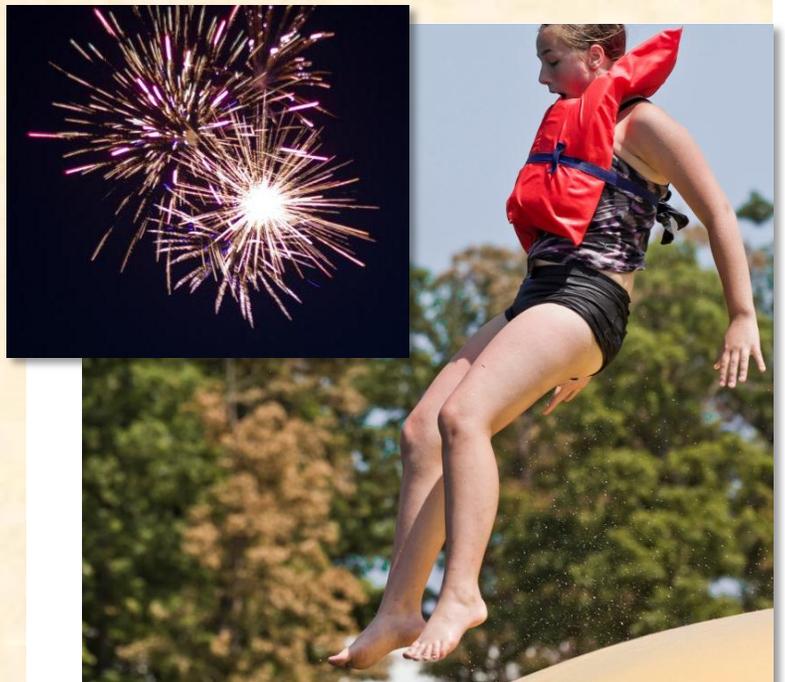
Likeminded friends also help us go against the flow.

So remember: Love God, enjoy camp and go against the flow.

Fireworks

Katie Hauck

This was my first year at Pinecrest and my first time experiencing the July 4 fireworks display here. I was sitting next to my friends watching the colorful lights in intricate shapes and listening to the familiar boom, when I realized how much fireworks are like how I saw my friends. At first they were just a streak of light going into the sky, people passing near me. They would then start to glow on the brink of a sparkle—as I got to know them better. We talked to each other, but we still weren't very close. Then, just as when a firework gets higher and the colors start shooting out faintly, we had become friends because we had blossomed under the confident, helpful and safe atmosphere of Camp Pinecrest. Then, again like a firework, we burst through the darkness surrounding us—our colors and new knowledge exploding and showering on those surrounding us as we leave camp.





The Breaststroke of Righteousness

James Sappington

Splash! Guh! Glug! Gulp! Uhh! This is how I sounded the first time I tried the breaststroke. When I came to Camp Pinecrest this year I learned of the swimming proficiency. I had everything in the bag except . . . the breaststroke. The first couple of times I tried it were terrible, but at the end of the day, with the help of Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Redline, it was “almost” acceptable. After going through the movements on my mattress at night I believed that I was ready. Although I did not attempt that part of the proficiency because of an injury, I was confident in my ability.

To me this experience has been like the journey we are all taking to become better people and Christians and ultimately enter the Kingdom of God. We may do well in some areas of our lives, but God will allow trials to come into our life that are directed toward where we are weak. When we begin to try to overcome a trial it can be like trying to learn the breaststroke. We will fumble, flop and struggle. But like in all things, practice makes perfect. Things will only get easier. As our character and faith become better and stronger, trials and day-to-day life will become easier to face and overcome, just like the breaststroke.

What Is It?

Charles Wilson

What is it that brings together 12 people who don't know each other—some pushed by their parents to be here, some rekindling old friendships, some growing closer to God? What is it that binds them together as one unit? What is it that makes new campers into brothers and sisters when they leave?

What is it about this camp that brings warm-smiling faces, great attitudes and selfless service? What is it that shapes God's young people into having an awareness of God's way of life, which is completely absent in today's world?

Just what is it? It is *God's presence*. The lifelong friendships, building blocks to success, and camaraderie of campers shows that God's hand has a definite role in all this. Let us never forget that after we leave the confines of camp.

Rain in the Heat of the Moment

Trey Havens

After being woken up, I walk to the dorm's entrance door downstairs. I open it and breathe in the outside air. Lake water, grass and other smells fill my nose. But one rises above the others. It is the merciless scent of heat. My shoulders slump, and I become very sluggish. Many outdoor activities follow in the heat, and finally comes journalism class. As I sit inside it begins to rain. Afterward, as we walk outside, the tiny, life-bringing droplets hit our faces. The clouds loom overhead, as if they are messengers from God saying, “You're welcome.” God knew what we needed, so He sent us a gift. That gift was rain—in the heat of the moment.





Charles Wilson (counselor), Kyle Bornhorst (asst. counselor), Noah Baxter, Aaron Bowman, Wesley Call, Andrew Coulter, Austin Hamill, Josh Hauck, Trey Havens, Derrick Latson, Rusty Marshall, Gates McNatt, James Sappington, Lance Wallis



Hard Lessons of Life

Lance Wallis

Every day, many people in this world learn lessons the “hard” way. This usually results in physical or mental pain—for example, burns, embarrassment, cuts, bruises, etc. However, my mistake this year at camp resulted in severe sunburns covering much of my lower legs and arms. How this happened is simple.

The day before I left for camp, I realized I forgot sunscreen, so I dug through some old boxes and found a package of sunscreen. But the day of the canoe trip was my first time using it, as I don’t usually burn very badly. But what I realized after starting down the river was that I had grabbed 1991-2001 sunscreen that was SPF 4! Not 40, not 30, but just plain 4! It still looked thick and useful, but the effects were as useless, if not worse, than tanning oil.

So I have had to spend the remainder of camp with mild pain and burning sensations. This is my third year at Pinecrest. Despite the laughs my painful experience prompted, all in all this has probably been the best camp so far—as greeting old and new friends is completely worth it.

“War”-ball

(Article by Josh Hauck on page 1.)

Kyle Bornhorst

Two sides, one a sea of blue and gray, the other an army of bright green. I take my place with the green army and look in wonder at the massive opposition before us. Our armor is of cotton rather than steel and our weapons dodge balls rather than swords.

We prepare ourselves for the first charge, anxiously awaiting the signal. As the whistle blows we let out a mighty roar as we dash for control of the dodge balls. The battle commences as the green army sends more and more fire into the enemy lines. The blue and gray army bends but doesn’t buckle against the green army’s hurlers.

Nearly 10 minutes in, I am hit in the back. I did not see it coming. It was thrown hard and with good aim. I made my way to the sidelines and the signs of defeat were showing on the green army. Finally, the last person was hit. It was over. The blue and gray had nearly 20 or 30 soldiers still standing. The battle and the war had been lost. The campers won.





Theresa Saldivar (counselor), Amanda Boyer (asst. counselor), Danielle Caldwell, Hannah Clark, Jenny Dungan, Heather Goodwin, Cally Irvin, Kaliana Kalnas, Jillian Kwiatkowski, Erin Sappington, Chelsea Shaw, Carol Tremont

A Beautiful Dorm

Amanda Boyer

Serving at camp as a counselor—one on one with the girls in my dorm—has been an amazing experience.

I have personally seen God working in them all! I've seen it when they've encouraged one another to do good, submitted to one another and shared their thoughts, feelings and goals. I've seen it when they've honored each other, asked questions for understanding and stepped out to use their abilities to serve. And I've seen it in the beauty God has created in each and every one of them.

They are unique and beautiful girls who are seeking to know God and His way. They have started their journey—Pinecrest was a stop along the way. And it has been an honor to be a part of the work God is doing in them at camp.

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God!" (1 John 3:1).



Praying on the Top Bunk

Jenny Dungan

It's early Sunday morning, and I am the only one awake. Feeling lonesome and tired, I decide to cure my lonesomeness and pray. Crawling up into the top bunk, I realize there's not much room between the bed and the ceiling. The only way to pray on my bunk is to sit there with my head leaning over on my shoulder. Now if I did that for 30 minutes, I would have one stiff neck. And if I had lain down, I would have fallen asleep again, and I couldn't just not pray. So I decided to take the pain and pray to God. After that I told myself, "If having a bad neck for the rest of the day is how I will get closer to my Creator, then it's totally worth it!"

Staying on Course With God's Help

Hannah Clark

My team and I are racing down the slope heading to the lake. I already know what we are about to do. Quick eye contact with my teammate and friend confirms it. We throw on a life vest with practiced efficiency. Before I know it, we are in the water paddling with determination. We are off to a good start. I didn't think we were trying to turn, but we did anyway. We had to fight to keep the canoe in line.

While we were zigzagging across the lake, I realize that this is kind of like life. At first it's easy, but then some unseen force pushes you off the path, and you have to constantly correct yourself. And then somehow—after you've been pushed around so much that you think you can't go any farther—you find the strength and determination to straighten out and keep going. God helps us in so many ways, and sometimes it's hard to recognize. But camp has helped me with that. I'm starting to see all these little miracles, and it's so comforting to know Who's making them happen.



Transformed Forever

Chelsea Shaw

One of the most extraordinary things I love about camp is the effect it has on people. And after 19 camp experiences, I've been blessed with seeing this amazing transformation many times. It's incredible how quickly it can occur! I've seen people go from being shy, reserved and unenthusiastic to practically a celebrity in just a few days—someone who clung to the sides and corners of the gym, for instance, leaping up to be at the front of the knockout line.

All of these dramatic turnarounds are a direct result of being in the encouraging and uplifting atmosphere of the Zone. Knowing they won't be put down, people are willing and eager to try new things. They feel comfortable and safe here, and want to branch out and meet people that believe the same way.

Never underestimate the power of words. Those words can change someone's camp experience forever. In my own first couple years of camp, I was extremely shy for a few days. But that would quickly turn around. I developed a deep love for camp. This was made possible by the constant love and encouragement from counselors, staff and fellow campers. Never forget the impact you can have on someone to make their camp experience something they will never forget.



The Blob

Heather Goodwin

Take a deep breath, close your eyes and hang on to your life vest. You jump out and then land seated on the soft air cushion below you. Crawl slowly over its slippery belly—careful not to slide off the side. Once sitting gingerly on the end, you wait to be launched into the air. The tension of waiting for the countdown, with butterflies in your stomach, is all worth the rush and excitement you are about to feel. Time starts to slow down when the countdown starts. Then all is silent.

A *thud* comes from the other end behind you! Before you can process another thought, you are sent flying into the air. At the top, you look down and see the green surface of the lake. You're freefalling, then . . . SPLASH! You're swallowed up by the cool water. Your life vest pulls you up to the surface, and you hear the cheers from your fellow campers and the swim staff. The adrenaline leaves your body, and you're ready for another go.





License to Thrill!

Ethan Hawkins

In a world where Christians are sprayed with rounds of tough trials and constant persecution, it's sometimes difficult to keep our cool with the goal of achieving eternal life. When my dorm and I took up arms on the riflery range, I found it similar in some respects to living God's way.

There are so many challenges to hitting the bull's-eye. When the firing commands are issued, you have to stay alert! You might get hurt if you disobey them. More importantly, if you don't respond or fire at your target, you'll miss the opportunity to shoot—much like our calling from God. Holding that gun steady for a long amount of time is tough! Much like we tire when struggling to live God's way. It's hard work. Sometimes the gun we receive isn't accurate, and we have to make adjustments for the bullet to reach its mark.

Also, accidents happen. The guns can misfire. We have to watch the bullets we're putting in the barrel. The same goes with watching what material we fill our minds with to prevent a spiritual misfire. The gun is also a huge responsibility, as is the Holy Spirit God gives us. If we don't take it seriously, we'll either miss the goal of reaching the Kingdom or hurt ourselves in the process. But if we pray for God's help and, as with riflery, take aim—in this case at the Kingdom of God—there's no way we will miss.

The Amazing Grace

Chris Anderson

Just as the Amazing Race on TV takes a lot of skill and stamina, so does the Amazing Race at Camp Pinecrest. If you think about it, life is like the Amazing Race. It takes skill, determination and, most importantly, God. This being my first camp, and the Amazing Race being one of the first activities—not to mention the temperature was over a 100 degrees!—it took a lot of God's grace to finish. The race was physically challenging, as life at times will be. But God pours out His grace on people. And not just a little—it is often very amazing! So as you go through life, a race, a problem—or *anything*, really—look to God and He will bless you with His truly amazing grace.



I Belong Here

Liam Urwiller

In my essay in the *Pinecrest Journal* last year I told of how shocked I was to be greeted so warmly by all the campers. I was trained by the world that "new kids" get picked on. But this is not the case at camp. Now though, I want to focus on how we should strive to make first-time campers feel the same warm, happy feeling that I felt when I first came to camp.

If those of us who are experienced campers see some who are nervous or who look out of their comfort zone, we need to greet them. But that doesn't mean to just say "Hi" and walk away. Spend time with them, get a conversation going, or even invite them to play a game with you. Make them feel like they belong.

Now I will admit that I haven't been the best at doing this. But my goal is (and *everyone's* should be) to get better at this. In this way you make people feel accepted, happy and . . . well, wonderful! Make them able to say to themselves, "I belong here."





Aaron Creech (counselor), Zach Hoover (asst. counselor), Chris Anderson, James Clark, Darrick Curran, DeJon Emebo, Ryan Foster, Michael Gurinowitsch, Ethan Hawkins, Kurt Hewitt, Andy Lomas, Eli McCoy, Liam Urwiller, Nathan Webb, Calvin Williamson

Two's Company

Kurt Hewitt

As we've been told and know, the primary reason we're here at Pinecrest is to learn about God. However, along the way we are bound to make new friends. And one of the best ways to make friends is escorting the girls' dorms. Escorting helps us break out of our shell because we have to sit with those we're escorting. And it's way more fun to strike up a conversation than to just eat in silence. But in order to have a conversation, both people need to and must speak. It's the same way with God. He is always willing to talk to us, but if we don't leave our shell and talk to him, we are not communicating. So each and every one of us should not only try to make new friends, but also open up and strengthen our friendship with God.



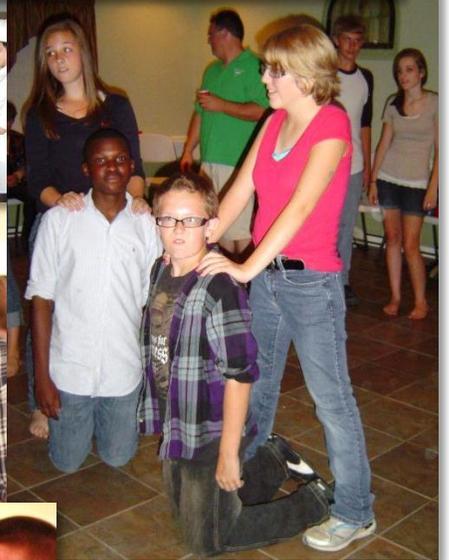
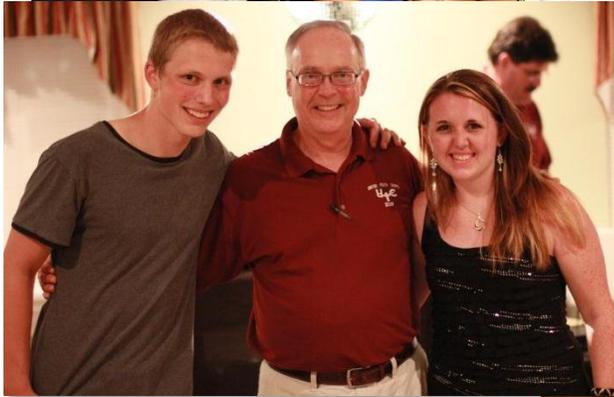
The Melting Pot

Zach Hoover

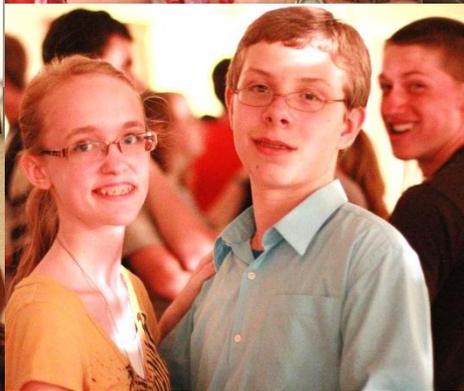
This year the Fourth of July, America's birthday, fell during camp. America is often called "the Great Melting Pot" because there are so many different people of different backgrounds all working towards the same goal, the American dream. Much like our great nation, camp is a melting pot. However, our goal isn't merely the American dream. It's way better. It's *God's* dream.

As I look over my dorm, I realize that people come to camp from all over. We often don't think about just how awesome this is—that people from all different walks of life come together to get closer to God and each other. So, no matter who you are or what you're good at, there's a place at camp for you.





Mr. Smith with recipients of the Ozzy Engelbart award for best participation at camp, Josh Hauck and Danielle Caldwell.



Administrative and Activity Staff

(Counselor staff listed with dorms)

United Youth Camp National Director: *Steve Nutzman*
Camp Director/Program Coordinator/Counselor Coordinator: *Gary Smith**
Asst. Camp Director/Dining Hall Monitor: *Brian Shaw**
Communications/Security: *Mark Welch**
Treasurer/Housing/Schedule/Laundry/Proficiency Awards/Canoeing Food: *Liz Smith*, Debbie Indelicato*
Transportation: *Vince Szymkowiak*, Jim Chance Reggie Warren, Mitch Knapp, Eddie Dungan*
Health Provider: *Melody Moss, R.N.*, Martha Sappington*
Video: *Jeremiah Patton** (also Photography)
Christian Living/Compass Checks: *Gary Smith*, Ministerial Staff*

Amazing Race/Wilderness Skills: *Rod Foster*, Dixie Lewis, Jeremiah Patton*
Archery: *Jim Call*, Laura Call*
Canoeing: *Allen Hirst*, Jason Musgrove, Luke Helterbrand, Shawna Lewis, Brian Elmore, Mark Worthen*
Educational Class: *Gary Smith**
Journalism: *Tom Robinson*, Laura Little, Jane Havens*
Riflery: *Randy Curran** (also Audiovisual), *Susan Curran*
Ropes Course: *Mark Welch*, Debra Ham*
Softball/Speedaway: *Joe Dobson*, Nick Hollon*
Swimming: *Barb Welch*, Pam Redline*
Volleyball: *Mike Hauck*, Penny Urwiller*

**Department heads*



There's Always More to Learn

Melody Moss

I love coming to camp because I always learn something new, even though I am not a camper anymore. This year Mrs. Welch taught me the proper way to breathe while swimming the breaststroke so I could quickly and efficiently swim the length of the pool. Mr. Call taught me how to shoot the bow and arrow left-handed since I am right-handed but left-eye dominant. I was able to greatly improve my archery score and even hit a couple of bull's-eyes!

Camp always teaches me spiritual lessons as well. As a nurse, I tend to rely on my training, but God always reminds me to rely on Him because He has all of the answers when I don't know what to do next. I am thankful for the reminder that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, not by my own strength!



The Power of One

Penny Urwiller

Congratulations! You've been accepted to camp! The thrill and excitement of seeing those words was rivaled only by the sheer reality of "What have I done?!" Years had passed since I last served at camp. So while memories of unity, fun and God's love shared with old and new friends filled my mind, self-doubt crept in. Would I really be able to encourage and help campers to live in the Zone?

Drawing deeply from God's Word and the peace and encouragement it brings, I was reminded of two things. First, the scripture in Proverbs 25:11: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." And secondly, the power of one. We all have insecurities, and at times all it takes is a precious word of encouragement from just one person to lift us up—hence, the power of one.

Countless times throughout camp I saw and experienced the power of one in practice. One person saying, "Come on, you can do it!" or "Way to go, great job!" One person stopping to help another learn a skill or hold a hand during the Amazing Race. Not only were individuals lifted up and encouraged, but the example in work and deed inspired others to join in. As a result, the power of one became the power of many.

Imagine what this world would be like if we all took it upon ourselves to be a power of one!



"How Good and How Pleasant": Reflections on Hymn Singing

Laura Little

I hear young voices sing to their Creator, voices that dance in the hearts of all, moving through the highs and lows as one, individually nourished by God's Spirit, His promises, His divine nature.

We encourage each other to sing another hymn, and another, and another. While our throats become dry and our backs strain to keep standing, our hearts still fly, yearning for God's Spirit to sustain us: in getting the arrow on target, in paddling against the current, each voice lifting their friend's voice, despite the snakes seeking us as prey.

How good and how pleasant it is to stand together in praise to God.



Great Work, Everyone!

Tom Robinson

For the second time, I've enjoyed my break from regular editorial work to help young people of God's Church to focus thoughtfully on their camp experience and relate something worthwhile to readers. All campers and staff contributors have succeeded admirably. Thanks so much—also to other staff who've helped inspire the writers. Special thanks to the journalism staff and photographers. Though putting the paper together takes effort, all of you make it a joy.





GOD'S WAY WORKS!