

The Value of our Camps

Dave Auker, Executive Director of
Harbor Point Ministries

Since I've spent most of my career in Christian camping, I think I understand the value of what takes place at Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point. However, as I spent time at our camps this summer, a few new things stood out and they strengthened my belief that our camps are a vital tool for forming the lives of our youth and adults.

The first thing I noticed is the interaction. Children look outward when they come to camp. The children have great times with each other, but they also spend time with adults. They play, they talk, they listen, they watch, they mimic the models they see of young adults. Since these staff members are specifically chosen because of their desire to share their Christian lives with young people, this interaction has a strong, positive, Christian influence in young campers' lives.

Children are also inspired at camp. They look upward to see the wonderful God of creation and understand that He can live inside of them and be their guide throughout their life. Whether it is through singing, listening, doing, watching, interacting or anything else that takes place at camp, children are inspired by what God says to them during their time in this environment.

Children and adults as well, also become introspective at camp. They look inward to see what their life is really like, evaluate the changes to be made and make life changing decisions. We often

say that hundreds of children accepted Christ or made a decision to rededicate their life to Him, but we also see adults at our family camps who, following these same steps, make major changes in their lives.

As I observed the campers and guests at Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor youth and family camps this summer, I was thrilled that God continues to use our camps as a place where individuals and families are changed. Covenant youth and families are reaping the benefits of our programs, and we are providing places where hundreds of others are also finding what a relationship with Jesus really looks like. I am grateful to be a part of these ministries to thousands of people.



Covenant Point



Forming a Special Bond

For many youth, heading to summer camp is a natural step in the progression of life. But for others, finding the “right camp,” and completing the process to actually attend are hurdles that need the help of others.

this was provided by each teacher with a request for parents to give what they could. Later, others were invited to join in with private donations sent to Point for “Union Ridge Students.” Those who know the value and importance of the camping ministry in a person’s life are more than willing to give to an individual who is ready to go. “It’s quite amazing!” Stu explained. “What began as teachers paying for students to go to camp developed into a community of supporters and school families giving what they can afford to help kids get to camp. The result has been a steady increase in happy campers. For us, facilitating this connection is a labor of love and a testament to who we are together.”

Luckily, for students at Union Ridge School, two of their teachers are former Point staff members who do just that. Stuart Brown and Erik Tenglin love camp and understand the impact it can have on students and campers, so they began a supportive endeavor to encourage their students to participate in a week of camp. Stu recalled the process. “As we developed close relationships with our students we asked ourselves who might most benefit from a week at camp and have the family structure in place to support the idea. Then we talked with students to gauge their interest levels, or went directly to parents with the specifics. By working carefully to prevent parent surprises or student disappointments, we have found this to be a successful model for getting newcomers registered for camp.”

Several students found that going through the process once made it easier to return for a second, third, or fourth camp experience. Financial support was the last puzzle piece. Initially,

What do Union Ridge students think about their camp experience? One young man attended 5 weeks of camp over the years, brought a friend, and loves it. Another returned this summer after a great experience last year. A first time camper emailed Stu a typical summary: “Thank you so much for telling us about CPBC! We had a great time and made great new friends. Everybody was sooo nice there, too. Also, I loved the big games the whole camp played together. We got to go visit the island and swung on the Tarzan swing and play the Sasquatch game. I can’t wait to go next year!!!!!!!”

Any camp lovin’ person can set up this same project at a school, club, or church youth group. Helping kids we know get to camp is only a donation away. Investing in a life changing week for one camper is making a difference in the future. Just ask one of the many campers from Union Ridge.

two years she worked at a radio station in Rockford. Kim says she is “coming to camp to take on a new and exciting challenge, for a change of pace and to grow closer to God and serve him and his children.” The staff welcomes both with open arms and looks forward to a great year of community together.

Getting to the Point

- On September 1, Megan Moberly and Paul Nyberg were married at Covenant Point in an outdoor ceremony and reception. Megan recently completed her service at Covenant Point as head cook and administrative assistant. Paul has worked at camp in various positions for more than 10 years and continues to volunteer. The couple will make their home in the Iron River area this coming year.
- CPBC has two interns on their roster for this year. A creative, positive, and faith-filled person, Johanna Sparrman will be back for a second year of ministry with us. Joining the staff as a new intern, Kim Steiner worked at many jobs from grounds crew to assistant cook from 2003-2008. She is from Glenview, IL, and attends the Winnetka Covenant Church. The past



A group of family camp volunteers gather at the new director’s home after a week of service and a special time of praying for God’s blessing over the home.

Covenant Point’s Chuck Frasier Memorial Campaign Continues to Grow

Last August, Covenant Point embarked on its largest capital campaign in its 86-year history – a special effort to honor the legacy of former director, Chuck Frasier, who passed from death into life in November of 2010. The campaign’s title, Our Next Step of Faith, is emblematic of our desire to strengthen Covenant Point’s vital mission and ministry, through the faithful care of many hands.

The campaign has two goals: 1) to build an onsite director’s home, and 2) to invest in young leaders through the establishment of an internship program endowment. Overwhelmed by the support of more than 200 donors thus far, the campaign is well on its way

to meeting the \$600,000 goal. In less than one year of mobilizing, \$488,000 has been pledged. On June 8, Erik and Courtney Strom, along with their three young boys, moved into a completed, and completely paid-for, new director’s home. This September, Covenant Point welcomed its 27th intern – and the first official Chuck Frasier Memorial Intern, Kim Steiner.

If you’ve been touched by the life of Chuck Frasier or the ministry of Covenant Point, we invite you to join us, and consider today how your gift or participation could help to see God’s special work through Covenant Point continue to flourish for many years to come!

CPBC and The Central Conference Pilot Youth Leadership Experience

Adventures in Leadership (AIL), is a leadership development experience for high school students, that has been developed and utilized by the Northwest Conference of the ECC for more than twenty years. This July, because of a generous grant offered by the Central Conference and the partnership of Northwest Conference staff, a group of four Central Conference youth pastors, eight students, and two Covenant Point staff members, were given the opportunity to experience what AIL is all about.

The small group was assembled from a diverse set of churches in the Central Conference, and drew on students identified by their youth pastors as showing special gifts for leadership. After gathering at Covenant Point, the group made their way to Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for a week of studies in biblical leadership models, worship, team-building exercises, and the development of wilderness skills. The students and youth pastors forged new relationships, and grew in understanding of their unique gifts for leadership in the Kingdom of God. The experience culminated with a challenging multi-day canoe trip, in which each student was given the opportunity to serve as group leader and put into practice their new skills, self-understanding, and reliance on God and one another.

“AIL has great potential to help develop young leaders in our conference,” says Erik Strom, Covenant Point’s Executive Director. “I’m eager to work with conference youth pastors to adapt this model for our students, and create an experience that will truly serve the Kingdom by helping young people grow into their God-given identity and gifts.”

Watch for the official launch of AIL for the Central Conference in the summer of 2013.



AIL participants gather at Palisade Head on Lake Superior after their week of learning, community-building, and traveling through the wilderness. Participants left to right, back row to front: Carl Johnson, Jesus Urquiza, Brandt Miller, Tim Becker, Mirielle Nauman, Min Song, Meztli Gonzalez, Erik Strom, Ruthy Orelana, Joanne Choi, Megan Nyberg, Meghan Brueggeman, William Shin.

Covenant Harbor

Summer Reflections

Knowing that the Lord had used them in a mighty way to impact 2,500 campers with the Gospel, the summer staff of 2012 are either back on campus in classes or they have embarked on a new career path. As a result of their efforts and reviewing the evaluations that approximately 75% of the campers completed, 247 campers began a relationship with Christ and another 508 decided to become more intentional about living out their faith.

The evaluation forms used are the same that are used at all 24 Covenant Camps. They also revealed that 1,156 of the campers came to camp already following Jesus with 741 deciding to improve their relationship with Him by going to church, 400 deciding they needed to find a Christian friend and 701 determining that they need to tell others about Jesus.

Each Saturday morning during the parent receptions it was not uncommon for staff to witness the shock of a parent of a first time camper when they spot a co-worker or someone for their neighborhood in the room to pick up their own camper. When asked how she heard about Covenant Harbor, one first time mom responded, "Oh! Last year my neighbor found Covenant Harbor online and her daughter had such a great time, she invited my daughter to come with her daughter this year. We followed the kids on Facebook this week, and it looked like they were having a great time!"

In an emotional phone call to Executive Director Ray Warren, the father

of a boy who received Golf for Kids scholarship assistance for a week of day camp said, "I want to thank you for providing a life changing week at camp for my son. I'm not a church attender, but when I listened to the day camp staff introduce themselves at the Thursday night dinner for families, I was struck by the quality of the students you have working at your camp. Many had been campers and for some, this was their 2nd or 3rd year on staff. To me that speaks volumes of how special Covenant Harbor is."

The summer of 2012 was GREAT, but the transition into the fall retreat season with mid-week Road Scholar events and twelve weeks of outdoor education for public and private schools is in full swing. By the end of 2012, Covenant Harbor is on target to have served over 26,000 registered guests. Join the staff in praying for the safety of all campers and guests and for the many opportunities they will have to share their faith as they interact with them.

ministry, Jon was a CPA in private practice for eighteen years. He then served for six years as CFO at YouthWorks, a Minneapolis-based youth mission organization. Since their college days at Bethel University, his wife Barb had a dream of working in camp ministry. This dream came to fruition when they joined the staff of Hume Lake Christian Camps in California, where Jon was the Development Director.

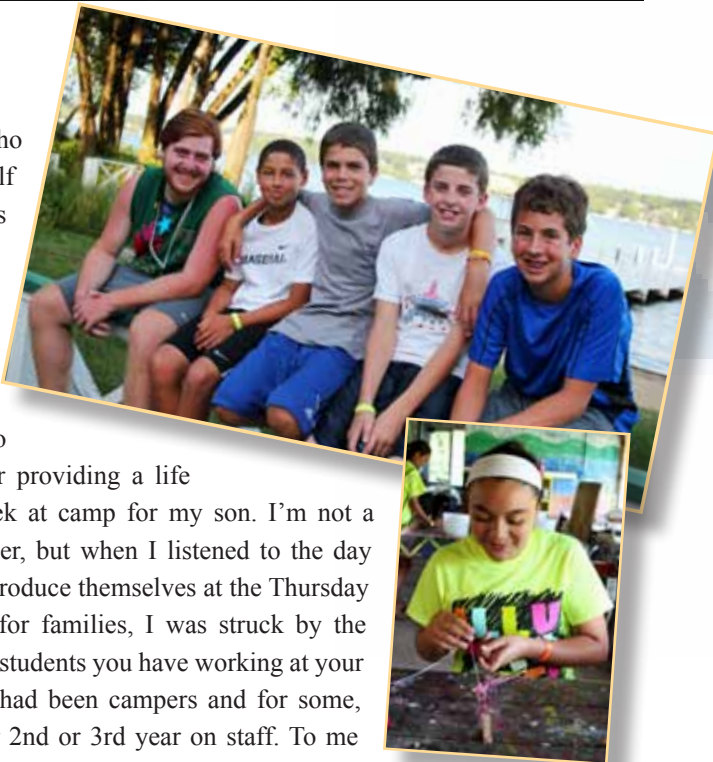
"I am excited to join the staff of Covenant Harbor, to be part of a ministry with such a long history of impacting lives for Christ," said Jon. "My passion is to develop meaningful partnerships with our donors. This involves connecting with and ministering to them on a personal level as they get involved in the ministry."



NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Jon Lokhorst joined the Covenant Harbor team as Development Director May 1. Jon is from Minneapolis and grew up attending Covenant Pines Bible Camp, where he served as Camp Director for the past two years before moving to Covenant Harbor.

Prior to entering full-time



The Lodge – Emergency Fix

With over 60 years of faithful service to our campers, the Lodge has been showing its age and character with its uneven floors and walls. During an early May rain storm, water from the deck began seeping through the dining room wall at the northeast vestibule entrance

measures could be taken. After all the alternatives were evaluated, Brad Auguston (Volunteer Coordinator and Projects Specialist) along with Nate Love (Maintenance Coordinator) crafted the plan to replace rotted beams, floor joists and the exterior wall.



and the carpet soaked it up like a dry sponge.

Upon investigation, staff learned that though the building has been settling; the deck was not. As a result, the log siding had begun compressing and peeling off the exterior wall. A few days later staff began asking experienced contractors for their opinions on correcting the settling problems. Knowing that the summer season was just weeks away, they suggested that a gutter system be installed immediately over the affected area to divert water away from the deck and building to prevent any further problems with water entering the dining room.

At the conclusion of summer camps, we found that the problem was more severe than anyone expected. The original un-treated wood beams had compressed over the years resulting in the floor settling and the exterior wall of the building tilting toward the lake.

A number of professionals were consulted to determine what corrective

measures could be taken. After all the alternatives were evaluated, Brad Auguston (Volunteer Coordinator and Projects Specialist) along with Nate Love (Maintenance Coordinator) crafted the plan to replace rotted beams, floor joists and the exterior wall. The goal was to keep the dining hall functional because of the heavy volume of mid-week school groups and weekend retreat groups already on the schedule.

The first step was to install temporary walls in the northeast third of the dining room to take the

construction of a new front wall by the end of the day. These volunteers saved the cost of having a professional house mover come in to jack up the building in order to install the new support structure. Another group of volunteers primed all the exterior siding before it was installed. Staff from Covenant Point even pitched in to help with the project!

Although the settling problem turned out to be more serious than anyone had envisioned, campers were never in danger. This unanticipated emergency repair project, estimated to cost as much as \$25,000 was completed in time for the larger groups scheduled to fill the entire dining room. Staff is praying that contributions will be received to help with this unbudgeted expense. Contributions may be mailed to Covenant Harbor or by donating on line at www.covenantharbor.org.

weight off the roof system. Once wrapped with Tyvek to keep construction dust out of the dining room, the major work began. The deck was demolished and campers there for a retreat from JPUSA volunteered to assist in moving the large pile of deck debris to a dumpster.

When the front wall of the dining room was removed, temporary posts were installed to support the roof structure. Then the concrete patio and the remaining footings against the front of the building were removed in preparation for jacking up the building in order to remove the compressed beams.

A group of volunteers came on a Saturday to help jack up the sagging wall, remove all the rotted beams and install new ones. The floor joists were repaired and structural support was in place for the

More Skate Park Ramps!

The City of Lake Geneva recently donated its old skate park elements to Covenant Harbor. Sheerer Construction assisted with the moving of the equipment at no charge, and enlisted other local contractors as well. We are seeking special gifts to cover the approximately \$35,000 it will cost to repair and resurface the elements, which will dramatically expand our skate park ministry in time for 2013 summer camps.



Memorial and Honor Gifts

Harbor Point Ministries honors and celebrates the lives of our friends and supporters, and wishes to thank the following donors for their support. Gifts recognized here have been received for the Harbor Point Ministries Scholarship Fund, Covenant Point Bible Camp or Covenant Harbor Bible Camp between Sept 1, 2011 to Sept 1, 2012. Gifts can be mailed to Harbor Point Ministries, Covenant Point or Covenant Harbor. To give online for Covenant Point visit www.cpsc.com/donate.html; to give online for Covenant Harbor visit www.covenantharbor.org/Donations.

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CAMPING NEWS

HARBOR POINT



The Harbor Point Ministries Camping News is published annually by Harbor Point Ministries, the governing body for Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point Bible Camps. Questions or comments may be directed to Dave Auker, 1724 W. Main Street, Lake Geneva, WI 53147



Harbor Point Ministries
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Upcoming Events At COVENANT HARBOR

Find retreat information at www.covenantharbor.org

Winter Camps

Deep Freeze Dates:

Junior & Senior High

January 11-13

Junior High

January 18-20 - Full - Wait list only

Junior High

January 25-27 - Almost Full

Senior High

February 17-19 - Almost Full

February 15-17

Winter Fest Date:

Grades 3rd to 6th

February 22-24

Maple Fest

April 7

Mom and Daughters Retreat

May 3-5

Upcoming Events At COVENANT POINT

Find retreat information at www.cpbcc.com

Christmas Camp

December 27- January 1

Senior High

One Life Retreat #1

January 18-21

Senior High

One Life Retreat #2

February 15-18

Junior High Retreat

February 22-24

Men's Retreat

March 1-3