



"Right Future" Special Campaign Issue

The Virtual boardroom Chris Nunley, Convener of the Camp Ministry Board 1
Blessed to be a Blessing Jean Brindel, Development Staff 1
Doing everything it take Rev. John Elliott 2
Where Do They all come from: Nick Yarde Executive Director 2
Cookies and Crumbs Roger & Judy Summer ... 3
Fire Destroys Redwing 3
News Briefs 4

www.rightfuture.org

The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church

News Briefs

Collaboration Is A Gift

North Indiana Conference Foundation is partnering with the Capital Fund Campaign for Epworth Forest Project.

Manet Shettle, CEO of the Foundation, along with its board of directors has agreed to assist the project in fund management, endowments, as well as the liquidation of gifts of stock, bonds, or real property. The foundation will also make financial service available to donors such as charitable remainder trust.

To learn more about gifting possibilities through the foundation, just link to the Foundation web site @nicmf.org or call the Foundation office at 866-669-2327. The collaboration of these two vital ministries of the conference

underlines the strength of the connectional system at its best.

Tooling up for the 21st Century

Gifts to the Epworth Forest project can now be made on line. To make a gift or to learn more about the on line giving process, just go to www.rightfuture.org and click on Donations.

Ground Breaking Celebration

Sunday, September 20, 2009
3:30 p.m. eastern daylight time
Join Bishop Coyner and The Board of Directors in this historical moment. Wear your walking shoes as; we join together in "doing everything it takes to reach The next generation for Jesus Christ."

(VIRTUAL : continued from p.1)

We have begun naming a new Building Committee for the Epworth Forest Project. They have much work to do and will be organizing very soon to oversee the first cottage construction and the planning of the rest of the project.

One of the last, greatest tasks of the OMRT and Executive Committee was to offer a new conference camping board structure to the Transition Team. This process is not completed and will continue throughout the year with the newly elected Camp Board, which has a long list of tasks on its agenda. We will be holding our first Initial Camp Ministry Board Training Meeting later in the summer. We will share on our activities and decisions in the months to come.

(VIRTUAL : continued on p.4)



Right Future Update

A Special Campaign Edition Newsletter

The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church

Spring, 2009

The Virtual Boardroom

Chris Nunley, Convener of the Camp Ministry Board

Recently we held the last meetings of the Outdoor Ministry Resource Team (OMRT) and Executive Committee in the old North Indiana Conference. I am grateful, as I am sure you are, for their hard work and passion. Not all of those who have served on both the North and South Indiana camp boards will continue with us on the new board, but I want to thank them all for their passion for camping ministry and their continued partnership with us. The accomplishments of these faithful people are apparent in this very newsletter and have paved the way for an even better Indiana United Methodist Camping Ministry and a near-future, new Epworth Forest. They foresaw a new thing in Camping Ministry...and it's beginning to happen!

As you may have heard, this past winter we lost a cabin, Red Wing, to fire. The board and the Conference Trustees have sought and completed a settlement with the Insurance company and along with the first income from the Capital Campaign, we will begin building our first new lakefront cottage very soon. Engineering has begun and we hope to have construction completed by next summer. In this process, we also discovered that we are underinsured at all of our camps and we are seeking to remedy this quickly.

(VIRTUAL : continued on p.4)

Blessed to Be A Blessing Because of Epworth Forest CC

According to Genesis Chapter 22, God blessed Abraham that he might be a blessing. Abraham believed God, so he lived out his life serving God that he might receive blessing and then serving God that he might be a blessing - Blessed to be a Blessing.

Alex Wulpi is a 19-year-old member of Leo United Methodist Church. In his junior year of high school, he began to explore the military. The U.S. Marine Corps made the most sense to him, so after much prayer and discussion with his parents and youth pastor, Alex and his parents signed on the dotted line. He would go into the Marines the summer after graduation.

Faith is an important part of Alex's life. He comes from a bedrock church family. I wasn't really all that surprised when his mother told me that Alex had made his decision out of faith and a call to service. But it took my breath when she told me that he had set his induction and basic training date for the Marines in July so he could attend church camp at Epworth Forest, our United Methodist center in North Webster, Ind., - just one more time.

Alex told me "You know how it is at camp; you are exposed to all this love and being part of that great

community. The atmosphere of being in a place where the spirit of God is flowing is so freeing, you do not have to worry about anything, and you can just love and be loved. I needed to have that with me before I went to boot camp."

While we talked, I asked him how boot camp had gone. He said after he figured out the system, it was kind of fun. "At first the mental part was hard, then, that got easier and then the physical stuff got harder."

Then I asked him if being at Epworth Forest before induction had helped. He responded, "You know how it is, when you get back from church camp, that feeling

of being loved and having the spirit stays with you. I kept that feeling with me all the time I was in boot camp, and it made all the difference." He continued, "Epworth Forest changes your life; one week will turn your life around."

To all those folks who have invested their time, money and love into the camping ministry of The United Methodist Church, and on behalf of Alex and all those other Wulpi young men and women, who have been blessed by God, Thank you for being a blessing.

Alex is the son of Jim and Marsha Wulpi of Leo, Ind. He is in security in the infantry of the U.S. Marine Corps.



Rev. John Elliot
Doing Everything It Takes To Reach
The Next Generation For Jesus Christ

THEN AND NOW!
 Boyville was my first taste of Epworth Forest: Jr. High camp, Lakeside worship, and rides on the Dixie paddlewheel boat. Softball games and noisy dorm are also vivid memories. I will never understand the tug at my heart that repeated every time I returned.

Finally came Sr. High Institute, small group sharing, and auditorium events. One excitement after another; my whole world strangely focused on Commitment Night. How my imagination was captured is a mystery, but it happened every year. I remember my senior year, my last Commitment Night, being transported to the front as I had seen so many others before me. Knowing my life had a new direction and a holy purpose. Scared, and elated, not yet knowing it was step one!

There is no way to put a dollar value on the opportunity set before us in the Capital Funds program. The essence of church is never dollars, though we often forget that. The essence of Church is disciples, and disciples are what Epworth Forest helps foster – youthful disciples (as well as disciples of all other ages).

Though young disciples are what Epworth Forest is noted for, they may not be the most significant fruit. When young adults and adult counselors observe young lives being changed in ways John



and Charles Wesley taught us, expect two things happen. First, the entire Wesleyan foundation of our Church is authenticated, as well as demonstrated. Second, the teams of workers' lives are often changed as deeply as those of the youth; even though they were unaware any change was needed.

The workers who accompanied them are seldom polled for their experiences, but if they were, and if they were honest, we would learn just where some of the church's saints are cultivated.

These outcomes of Epworth Forest cannot be counted in dollars, for the transformed lives are of infinite value. Many pastors admit that one week at camp makes more spiritual growth than 52 weeks of youth group!

Fact: there simply is no place like Epworth Forest, not anywhere. The lives transformed, of all ages, both women and men, bear faithful testimony to the very best of Wesleyan Christianity.

Though a bit stretched, an analogy may be helpful. Matthew 6:13: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?"

The question of verse 13 might best be answered, "Send it to Epworth Forest!" Salt itself cannot be made salty again, but we can. Jesus calls us to regain our saltiness for the sake of the world he loves so much. Epworth Forest is a bountiful salty place."

Nick Yarde (Executive Director)
Where Do They All Come From

"Where do all of these people come from?" Local United Methodist Churches.

"No, I mean the staff, I run a restaurant and have a terrible time finding and keeping good staff. Where do you get all of these people to work?"

This is a typical exchange as I meet parents and students coming to Impact Camps. The explanation always startles them: These are volunteers. They come from local churches to volunteer a week out of their busy schedules to Impact the life of students. While we maintain a year round staff, and hire a seasonal staff for safety (lifeguards, food service, etc.) the vast majority of the "staff" at camp are volunteers.

Running the Impact summer program requires about 900 committed Christians to give a week of time to the students. In addition, Program Directors are volunteer pastors and other ministers who give weeks - hundreds of hours - of time to recruit, organize & train the volunteer counselors, develop worship sessions, and otherwise create a camp experience targeted to the students they are expecting.

Anyone who has been to camp knows that it is not just the saints sleeping in the cabins with the kids that keeps camp running. Thousands of additional volunteer hours are needed to keep the dining halls clean, paint the buildings, repair screens, mow grass, and do the hundreds of jobs that most students won't even notice as they sing the praise music. These are in addition to the 900 or so working on the program!

But where do they all come from? Many volunteers are contacted directly by those volunteer Program Directors listed in the camp brochure. Some come with organized ministry groups who partner with Impact 2818 for service – NOMADS (www.nomadsumc.org) are typical of these groups. Still more come on work teams sponsored by a local church. These churches normally have a coordinator who works with camp staff (1-888-MAT-2818 or 1-888-628-2818) to match group skills with needed camp projects. Some come for a weekend others, like First Wayne Street UMC (www.fwsumc.org/outreach.asp), come every month.

Many curious servants start exploring the idea of volunteering on the Impact web page: www.impact2818.com. They watch a couple of videos, see the Impact on the face of students, and realize the difference being made. When they are hooked, they notice the tab "Volunteers" and they start exploring.

No matter how all of these staff find their way to camp one thing is sure: Camp has an Impact on their lives while they Impact the lives of thousands of students all to the Glory of God!

Judy and Roger Summer
Cookies and Crumbs

Judy and Roger Summer would like to share their excitement about the Epworth Forest Project. The Summer's are members at Good Shepherd UMC in Fort Wayne, participating in the Open Arms Ministries campus. Their excitement and commitment to youth and young adult evangelism through the camping ministry is contagious.

When we heard about the "Right Here Right Now Right Future" capital funds campaign that was going on to raise money to update our church camps, we felt called to help. After reading a book called, "Three Cups of Tea", by Greg Mortenson, we realized that even the smallest contribution could make a big difference. Mr. Mortenson wandered into a small village while trekking in Pakistan. He made a promise to the village elders

to build them a school when he saw the children trying to study and learn without a school. A campaign called "Pennies for Peace" was started that year and now Mr. Mortenson has built 78+ schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He is making a difference in many children's lives.

Believing that Greg Mortenson had a great idea, we came up with what we are calling "Coins for Camp". A can is passed around on the first and third Sundays of the month at our church, Open Arms Ministries, an outreach ministry of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. People are asked to put the change from their pockets or purses into the can. Our small church of less than 100 members is very excited about being able to help. On the two Sundays that we have collected money so far, we have raised \$90.47. One church member on a limited income told us how excited she was to be able to put all the change in her pocket into the can. She told us with

a laugh, that it also included the cookie crumbs that were there!

We believe that updating our camps to include new technology, state of the art housing, meeting rooms, and an auditorium is one of the most important ways to invest in our youth. Church camp does make a difference in lives. We know that because it has made a difference in our lives, all of our children's lives. In addition, many of our pastor friends and leaders of the UM church who made commitments to Christ at church camp.

Besides starting "Coins for Camp", we have personally invested \$10,000 in the Right Here Right Now Right Future capital campaign. Join others in "Doing everything it takes to reach the next generation for Jesus Christ."

(Roger and Judy Summer are members of Fort Wayne Good Shepherd UMC, Open Arms Ministry campus. Roger is also the Fort Wayne District Lay Leader)

Fire Destroys Redwing Cabin At Epworth Forest



Wednesday, January 14, 2009, a fire destroyed Redwing, one of the cabins at Epworth Forest Conference Center (EFCC) in

North Webster, IN. EFCC is a Christian camp operated by Impact 2818 and the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. During the summer, the grounds are home to weeklong senior high ministry events, a special needs camp for over 100 unique adults, and a camp for at-risk children in partnership with Royal Family Kids' Camp. For the other 9 months of the year the building is rented to groups wishing to build community through retreats.

Shortly after lunch one of the facilities crew at EFCC saw flames inside the window and began emergency processes. Fire crews from North Webster, Syracuse and Turkey Creek Twp. came to battle the blaze. Unfortunately, the building

was lost. The building was not occupied by guests and no one was injured during the fire. EFCC maintenance crews had been working in the building over the last 24 hours due to some frozen pipes and were thawing them using safe and approved standards. Heat damage to nearby cabin Northstar was superficial, the building is being resided and will be ready this spring.

Redwing, a deep red two-story cabin, located in the horseshoe was often the home to 25 students of each week at summer camp. It was used by a number of groups for retreats as well. Plans are in place to move forward in providing housing for groups that would be displaced by this fire.



GROUND BREAKING SEPT. 20

You are invited to join Bishop Coyner and the Camping Board for the ground breaking celebration for the first new cottage at Epworth Forest CC on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 3:30 pm.