



Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.
Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand
against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:10-11

11/29/2021

Dear Spruce Lake & Pinebrook Family,

AS 2021 comes to a close, Franconia Mennonite Camp Association (Pinebrook & Spruce Lake), finds ourselves so grateful and unbelievably blessed. Through the generosity of ALL OF YOU, God has sustained us through a very difficult time. These traumatic experiences can positively or negatively affect an organization. We can yearn for the good old days, or we can take what we've learned and look forward to what yet could be. The Leadership Team of FMCA has assessed our situation, recognized the losses, and licked our wounds. Collectively, we are resolved and ready to move forward.

We are facing all the challenges you hear about out there – our staffing levels are low; guest numbers are still down; our raw food supply is inconsistent; Covid still rears its ugly head among staff and guests; fuel and utilities costs are rising; government regulations continue to loom.

However, God did not sustain this ministry throughout Covid so that we could languish in fear. He sustained us to live out our **Core Purpose** – always finding ways to **Point People Toward Christ**.

So, we move forward with a new mindset that recognizes it is harder to do what God has called us to do, but it is still worth the struggle! Our world is broken, and **we still know that Jesus is the answer to this world's problems.**

Let's move forward!

OUR Leadership Team sat together this past month and prayerfully laid out our plans for 2022.

We're praying hard for, and therefore planning for, the following:

- How we anticipate **86% of guest groups to return** to both properties;
- How we want to **double the size** of the new Pinebrook Day Camp;
- How we are prayerfully seeking **staffing in new ways** and at higher pay levels than ever;
- We are seeking **multiple sources** for raw foods so that when one source fails to deliver, we will have options.

We have built a budget and set the goals. We have determined the capital items that need repair and/or replacement. We have identified the needs and issues, planning to address each one as it comes.

At this time of year, many of you choose to financially support one of our projects. I would love to tell you that we are ready to go with the Youth Campus & Cabins – but we are not. The cabin project is very much still in the works, but after these two years of financial concerns, the board and leadership are taking this time to plan and carefully reset this major project. All the dollars already received toward the cabins are being held in reserve so that when God opens the doors, we will be ready to move forward on the youth campus.



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FOR now, and after such a long season of deferring necessary repairs because of dollars, we need to **restabilize** our current buildings and the systematic maintenance we were not able to do over the past two years. This may not sound fun and exciting, but it is necessary to steward the properties already in our care.

The projects of 2022 are these:

Spruce Lake

- **Complete** Hemlock room renovations that were stopped in March, 2020
- **Repair** the leaking roof on Sassafras (staff housing)
- **Replace** the roof of Log Cabin (staff housing)
- **Seal** the floor of Mountain View gym
- **Replace** one maintenance truck with plow

Pinebrook

- **Restart** sewer plant renovations that were stopped in March, 2020
- **Fix** gutters and eaves around the entire property, starting with Overbrook
- **Adapt** four bathrooms for accessibility (already fully funded)
- **Finish** the oil tank removal project around campus that was stopped in March, 2020
- **Install** new kitchen warmer (has been failing for the past two years)
- **Replace** the roof on Shale House (staff home)
- **Put down** a new roof on Lakeside Lodge
- **Repair** or replace the sound and AV systems in Fellowship Hall
- **Buy** one new maintenance truck with plow

The list could go on, but we plan to **INVEST \$200,000** in the properties to try to catch up a bit.

If you are willing, please support this restoration of what God has already entrusted to us.

WE look forward to what God has in store for 2022. He has protected and sustained us so that we can continue shining His light in northeast Pennsylvania. Please keep us in your prayers – and come see us real soon.

Blessings!



Mark S. Swartley
Executive Director
Pinebrook & Spruce Lake

Help us restore what God has entrusted to us

