

2020 2021 2022 Reflections

Spring & Summer

Abide in ME
and I in you.
As the branch cannot
bear fruit by itself
unless it abides
in the vine, neither
can you, unless you
abide in ME.

John 15:4



Restoration



OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS we have learned (or tried to learn!) how to **Abide In Christ** in the turbulent world of COVID. This took on a whole new feel as we waited on the Lord through isolation, fear, changing government directives and economic difficulties. It meant waiting on Him through closures, layoffs, financial concerns, and personal dark days.

I am so happy to say that God found us right where we were during all of this, and carried us through. Our staff, board and community have stood steadfast, abiding with Him through the crisis.

A NEW DAY:

As we turn the page into 2022, we look forward to abiding in Christ in a new season. This new day brings much hope!

- **Guest Groups** are returning to our properties!
- **Spruce Lake Outdoor School** is running a full spring program!
- Kids are signing up for **Wilderness Camp & Day Camp!**
- Summer **Retreat Program** guests are returning!

God has **sustained** us for a new day of ministry, and He has **stabilized** our financials through it all. We are so grateful and ready to move forward.

A NEW CHALLENGE:

With opportunity comes challenge, however.

We now have **staffing challenges** as we've not seen before. While God is bringing our guests back, we could easily become fearful that He will not provide the staffing levels necessary to serve our guests well.

However, if we have learned anything recently, it is that God is our Provider – as long as we remain in Him. So we will continue seeking Him, **abiding in Him for all that we need.**

A NEW OPPORTUNITY:

As you can see, abiding is not situational. It is the state of being with Christ. All days, good or bad, offer the amazing opportunity to be with Him, and He is with us even when we forget to remain in Him. As 2022 unfolds, no matter the situation, we trust you will strive with us to **ABIDE in CHRIST**, looking to Him to effect restoration.

Please keep Spruce Lake & Pinebrook in your prayers, as staffing and rising costs are now our top concerns. We will set our minds to trust God to get us over these hurdles, as we know He will see us through all that will come.



Blessings!

Mark Swartley
Executive Director
Spruce Lake Ministries

P.S. All of you who long to hear about the restart of the Wilderness Camp Cabin Project – **stay tuned!** GOD is moving on this front as well!



Faces of Restoration

We praise God for the team He has given us, who helped get us through a trying year (2021), and will help restore ministry to full strength. We can't mention everyone here, but these persons represent all of our staff who serve so well!



L-R, Back:
Natalie Loos, Tate Stone (Pinebrook), Jeffrey Kessler, Dylan Grimm, Melea Shaeffer (Pinebrook), Jonny Tice, Staff Advisor.

Front:
Moraya Tellado, J.J. Franke, Kimberly Rice, Dave Magnin (Pinebrook)



BETHANY Brown
Marketing / Fr. Desk
• Bethany's expertise in social media has already boosted our presence. Look for creative posts on our social platforms.



DEBRA Fisher
Housekeeping Manager
• Debra, along with our Laundry Technician + 3 full-time Housekeepers steadfastly did the work of normally 7 staff this past fall & winter.



DAWN & HERB Lantz
Sales
• The Lantz's have counseled hundreds and hundreds of groups about their bookings — an amazing feat.



MARTHA Detweiler
Pinebrook Day Camp
• Even with a lean team, Martha helped our first summer of Day Camp at Pinebrook to exceed expectations.



CONNIE Wismer
Outdoor Education
• Schools canceled; we lost 3 qualified teachers. But Connie trained the AGAPE team & coached 16 schools into returning the fall of 2021.



JARED Brawley
Food Service
• Jared cheerfully led Pinebrook's young Food Service team, managing procedures and recipes with expertise.

The AGAPE team has made work lighter and days brighter!

Our new **AGAPE Internship Program** continues to be a wonderful asset for Spruce Lake and Pinebrook — and in the life of each participant. They have provided enthusiastic, capable help in all departments, and met weekly for activities and learning sessions. **In March and April, each of the nine persons** met with executive and youth ministry leaders to present a potential need or problem and suggest ways to improve it.



Volunteers - can't do it without you!

We look to our volunteers and work groups to help us keep the grounds looking lovely. **Right now we have some holes to fill in our line-up.** If you can serve for a few hours, a whole day, or entire weekend, **please call Dave Trout at 570-236-1489.**

Pictured above is part of the group from **Brick Lane Community Church, Elverson, PA**, who volunteered April 2. **THANKS for coming!**

Why farm it out when Steve can do it?

Steve Landes is installing four **ADA accessible bathrooms** in Pinebrook lodges, as in the above photo.

He also created and installed **Pinebrook's 18-hole disc golf course.** It has become one of the highest rated courses in PA, attracting players almost daily from near and far.



Three of our 2021 Leaders in Training, L-R: Dax Hughes, Eve Ramsey and Vincent Sturdevant.

NEW! Junior Leaders in Training

Our new **Junior Leaders in Training** program is a **one-week introduction** to serving at Spruce Lake, a great first step to being on our future ministry team!

Participants will see all that happens to make summer camp run smoothly. The program includes service around camp, fun group activities, and discipleship formation led by staff. This summer we will dive into the concept of identity and who we are in Christ.

2022 JUNIOR LIT - minimum age, 15

• July 31-August 5: \$99 lodging, meals & activities

Restoration Goals

1. Restore **Wilderness Camp** attendance to 750+ campers; we're well on the way!
2. Continue to grow **Pinebrook Day Camp** to 70+ campers a week; we're off to a good start!
3. Regrow **Spruce Lake Day Camp** to at least 100 campers a week. Parents are already signing up!
4. In **Outdoor Education**, we're aiming for 1,400 participants in 2022! **NEW this fall**—two Outdoor Skills classes, Archery & Slingshot.

Our **Senior LIT Program** is still **two weeks per session**, providing expanded work experience, leadership opportunities, and discipleship training to become Christlike, fun-loving role models.

2022 SENIOR LIT - minimum age, 16

• June 18-July 1 *and* July 2-15: \$199 lodging, meals & activities



Upgrades!

Work has begun at **Wilderness Camp** to **spruce up the Pavilion**. We are replacing the current wooden doors with new glass garage doors to bring the outdoors in all year round. A new metal roof and paint to match Mountain View activity center are next on the list.



Golf



June 13, 2022



Golf, dinner & auction to support campers ages 7-18!

Register your foursome! Space is limited
www.sprucelake.org/events/golf

Restoration Goals

1. Make the continued effort to find retreat speakers who:

- are excellent communicators
- have a high view of scripture
- will help us point people toward Christ at a reasonable rate.

2. Communicate with guests through enhanced social media outreach, as data shows this is highly effective.

3. Continue the wave of Guest Group reservations which are increasing nicely for April, May and June.

4. Find qualified people to serve in these **still-open POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND:

- Guest Group Coordinator
- Chef & Cook

SUMMER:

- Day Camp Counselors
- Wilderness Camp Counselors
- Dishwashers - Retreat Center
- Dining Room Hosts - Retreat Ctr.
- Housekeepers - Retreat Center



Some of our Food Service team representing all who work hard to serve satisfying meals, L-R: Rudy Bolling, Kitchen Manager/Chef; Jamie Williams, Host; John Cress, Dishwasher.

Great speakers, worship & fun @ upcoming retreats!



Frances / Jim



Memorial Day Weekend: MAY 27-30

- Speaker-Jim Rolon
- Worship & Concert-Frances Drost



Eran / Gordy



Family Weekend: JULY 1-3

- Speaker-Eran Holt
- Worship-Gordy Martin



Truth & I / Tony



Family Week: JULY 10-15

- Speaker-Dr. Tony Beckett
- Worship & Concert-Truth & I



Walking Roots

Labor Day Weekend: SEPT. 2-5

- Sunday Speaker-Mark Swartley
- Worship & Concert ^{Sunday}
- The Walking Roots Band**



Joanna / Jessie



Women's Retreat: SEPT. 16-18

- Speaker-Joanna Arp
- Sunday Speaker-Jessie Seneca
- Worship-Amanda Grace Wetzel

Randy



Walking in Wisdom: OCT. 3-5 ^{For 55+}

- Speaker-Randy Gaumer
- Spruce Lake Worship Team

Fun-filled Family Weeks @ Pinebrook

July 10-15

- Speaker-Dr. Todd Mangum

July 17-22

- Speaker-Bryan Nevin

July 24-29

- Speaker-Dr. Peter Teague