



November 27, 2017

Ready, Set, Grow!

What an amazing year 2017 has turned out to be!

We started this year dreaming about the new Youth Ministry Center at Wilderness Camp, and in the middle of this dream coming true we got the once-in-a-lifetime chance to buy Spruce Mountain. I am amazed by the support received this year. God has opened His floodgates through all of you and your generosity. First, the Mountain was purchased and paid for 100%. All the while, Spruce Lake received 1,724,000 dollars toward the Youth Ministry Center. The financial support Spruce Lake has received and praises for the renewed focus on youth is nothing less than a GOD THING! Praise be to our Lord, Savior and PROVIDER.

Your gifts toward the building campaign last fall created the surge we needed to begin the construction of the new gym. With the money received toward the needed 2,600,000 dollars, we started construction in September and expect to open for the summer season of 2018.

Our Vision and Core Purpose remain unchanged. Our passion for the youth of our community continues to grow. We are convinced, and the data supports our understanding, that **our greatest opportunity to impact persons for Christ is in our youth programming.** Statistics show that 83-85% of all decisions for Christ happen before age 14 and 10% more before age 30. These statistics are astounding but also reflect our experience at Spruce Lake. Our Wilderness Camp started in 1963, and has effectively shared Christ with hundreds of children ages 17 and younger every year since. Year by year, week after week, the Lord calls children to make significant steps in faith and first-time commitments to Christ.

The Youth Ministry Center under construction will house a gym with basketball and volleyball courts, indoor high ropes course, and a climbing/bouldering wall. It also includes meeting rooms for small group discussions or Bible studies, and a stage in the main gym so it can double as an auditorium. In the summer, **this will be the new hub for our youth ministries**, including Day Camp and overnight camp activities.

The project is already 60% funded. Now our focus is on two things: completing the building before next summer and prayerfully doing so without debt. **We need approximately 1,000,000 dollars to finish** the Ministry Center, depending on the final construction cost. To see this goal accomplished, a few significant donors have given us a challenge. **They have committed to match half of the remaining 1,000,000 dollars...that's correct!**

We have a 500,000 dollar challenge to complete this special building with no debt.

It has been a spectacular season at Spruce Lake, but I believe it is only the beginning of what God has in store for us. I believe this influential ministry is going to impact more and more people each year. The property and the buildings create the platform that will allow us to "Point People Toward Christ" long into the future. God is leading us forward and we are all his laborers.

Please join us on this journey with your prayers and gifts.

I thank you for all you have done and continue to do!
In Christ's love,

Mark S. Swartley
Executive Director



PS: Please help us meet the \$500,000 CHALLENGE! www.sprucelake.org/support