



Pavilion Press

Great Turnout at the Alumni Picnic!

Old friends and new family members gather for food and fun



by Meredith Llyod, Alumni Relations Committee

The 2014 Pecometh day picnic for Staff Alumni was a rousing success with perfect weather – 70-degree temperatures and sunny blue skies were a welcome change after a long winter and slow spring. Over 40 alumni and their friends and family gathered – reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

We started the day at the campfire pit just outside the Dining Hall, where Erin Browne led us in music –from ‘Oh, Oh, Oh, how good is the Lord’ to ‘Lord of the Dance’ to ‘Baby Shark’ and everything in between. Kevin Brown taught the young(er) alumni ‘Funky Alleluia.’ And it wouldn’t be camp if we didn’t end with ‘Sanctuary.’

Ken Laing and JR Burkhardt led a walk to Fellowship Hall, telling about all the projects needed to keep it up. After all that singing, dancing, and walking, it was time for a fried chicken dinner, and even more talking and laughing!

Upcoming Events:

5/14
Buffalo Wild Wings Night

6/20 - 21
Top Chef Retreat (Adults)

6/20 - 22
Single Parent Family Retreat

6/22
First Day of Summer Camp!

6/27 - 29
Friends & Family Camp

7/27
Farm to Table Dinner

8/1 -3
Friends & Family Camp

8/4 - 10
Summer Silent Retreat

9/9 - 11
River of Life Retreat

10/5
Pecometh Auction Dinner

For more information visit
www.pecometh.org

THE SEASON TO RECONNECT WITH PECOMETH *by JR Burkhardt, CPSAA Board President*

We never thought this day would come – spring has finally arrived! As the flowers begin to bloom and the grass begins to grow, we are reminded that summer is right around the corner.

I don't know about you, but I can't think of summer without thinking of camp. The summers spent at Camp Pecometh are memories that will always be fresh in my mind. As a former camper, I have vivid memories of dances in the Barn, singing our "return" song in the old Dining Hall after our whitewater rafting trip to Harper's Ferry, decorating our cabin on Boy's Hill for theme week, lighting my first candle and setting it adrift on the river for it to disappear into the world, and of course my first counselor – Melvin.

These experiences helped inspire me to become a summer staffer. These experiences inspired me to make similar memories for the campers that I interacted with on a daily basis. Years later, it is still great to return to Camp Pecometh and see first hand that many of the same memories are still being made.

Recently, my wife and I celebrated the birth of our first child - Adam. Those of you who know me would not be surprised to hear that he already has a "Future Camper" t-shirt in his closet. He will be joining us this summer at Friends and Family Camp and I cannot wait! I know that he won't remember much from this first experience at camp, but I know it won't be too many more years before he is old enough to spend a week at Camp Pecometh and create his own camp memories.

Working at Camp Pecometh may not have seemed that important to you at the time, but the memories you created for the children you met remain in the hearts and lives of those people still today. Generations of people have come to know God and experience his creation through Camp Pecometh and the summer staff. As a former summer staffer, I encourage you to think about those "Pecometh Memories" that you have and I challenge you to find a way to share those experiences with people around you.

If you haven't already, I invite you to bring your family and friends to experience Friends and Family Camp. I invite you to get involved with the Pecometh outreach work being done by the

Want to reconnect with Pecometh?
Visit www.pecometh.org/alumni to read about upcoming events, update your contact info, find our Facebook group, and even donate to the Fellowship Hall

Alumni Association in local churches. I invite you to support the fundraising efforts for Fellowship Hall. How can you pass on the God inspired, life-changing memories that you have of Camp Pecometh to the next generation? That is my challenge to myself and that is my challenge for all of you.

God bless you and your family!



Mark Your Calendars:

Friends & Family Camp 2014

June 27-29 and August 1-3

www.pecometh.org/friends-and-family-camp



ALUMNI PICNIC HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

A few fun memories from the Alumni Picnic:

Bev, the 1-year old daughter of Richard Acquah-Harrison, took off running across Dining Hall field (with JR following). That girl can move!

Boyfriends of two recent staffers were overheard saying “I had to come...I’ve heard so much about this place!”

The daughters of Kate Hopkins-Howe and Erin Browne blew bubbles and sang songs from ‘Frozen’ - I think the 2014 summer staff may hear those songs a lot this year...

Russell (or was it Alexander?) Laing ran around with a hot dog in each hand, taking bites from each. I don’t miss the days when we had cookout nights in the 100-degree heat!

Caitlin (Gibb) Egan and Sarah Reynolds led the charge for s’mores. We decided to let the adults go first, since the kids were happily playing! It’s a lot easier now with ready-made s’mores sticks.

The sons of Natalie Veeney Ford and Becky Honeycutt Gill (who never worked together) played lacrosse all afternoon – perhaps a new sports camp next year?

All good things end and soon the sun was fading over the Chester. We had great representation from the 90s, 00s and 10s – hopefully we’ll see even more familiar faces next year!

FELLOWSHIP HALL PROJECT UPDATE *by Ken Laing, Capital Projects Committee*

As you saw in the annual appeal letter, we shared that our main focus at this point is to do work on the decking of the porch of Fellowship Hall. Here is some more information as to what we are looking at.

- Overall there will be NO major changes to the look of the building.
- We have had a structural engineer and multiple contractors look at the job at hand.
- The porch is in ok shape for the age, but needs some work to help it last another 70 years!
- We will be replacing some of the block piers under the porch area.
- We will be replacing the band joist that goes the length of the building and reattaching the joists.
- We will be replacing the vertical supports that hold the screens up and creating a simpler version to help keep up with maintenance.



This may seem like it is a major project- and it is a significant one! Fellowship Hall is in need of this care and work. Estimates for this project are in the \$6,000- \$10,000 range. Your help is still needed to reach the financial goal and allow the work to be done. We hope to be able to have a contractor do the work this fall! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at ken.laing@centreville-umc.com or 443-262-6449.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: *Erica Lloyd*

There are plenty of mosquitoes and no air-conditioning. I'm feeling a little bit homesick for my mom's cooking, but I'm surrounded by a warm, fun-loving group of co-workers who have made me feel like part of the family from Day One.

While it may sound like I'm back at Pecometh, I'm actually 1,434 miles south of Rec Field, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I recently moved here to work with an organization called SOIL, and I've been surprised at how my summers at Pecometh prepared me for life in Haiti!

In fact, the craziest thing about moving to Haiti is how decidedly... uncrazy it's felt being here.

Which is even more surprising to people when they hear what I'm doing in Haiti: working for a sanitation program.

SOIL provides no-flush toilets in communities that don't have access to sewer/septic (which is currently about 90% of the country), then collects the waste for transformation into agriculture-grade compost. Most people hear this and nod politely, "Oh, how... interesting." But to me it's more than interesting - it's a fascinating and even beautiful process that turns wastes into resources. Obviously,



providing safe sanitation that stops the spread of cholera and other deadly diseases is a good and important thing. But to simultaneously tackle Haiti's ecological crisis (which is in turn related to both Haiti's lack of food security and vulnerability to extreme weather), all the while creating jobs (with benefits!) for 60 Haitians - well, I think it's downright genius.

So when a position opened up at their Port-au-Prince office, I jumped at the chance to join this brilliant and passionate team.

My first month has been filled with laughter and adventure, and as I'd hoped, I'm learning a ton. Now if I can just figure out how to get rid of those mosquitoes....

Erica Lloyd (Camper 1988-1996, Staff 1997-2001)
Go to www.oursoil.org to learn more.

Do you know of a former Camp Staffer who is up to something cool? Let us know - we might feature them in a future newsletter article or blog!

CPSAA TAKING OVER BUFFALO WILD WINGS! *by Clarice Ritchie, Fundraising Committee*

We are taking the opportunity to both promote Pecometh and all its programs and raise some funds for CPSAA. Please join us Wednesday, May 14th in Wilmington, Middletown or Salisbury. 20% of your entire bill will be donated back to Pecometh. Come for Lunch, Dinner, or a Snack. The offer is even good on takeout orders so please stop by and support Pecometh.

You do need a coupon, so we're including a few for you to share with others. For more information, links to the Facebook events, and to get an electronic version of the coupon, go to www.pecometh.org/cpsaa-bww

If you would like to volunteer on May 14th and staff our table and share the Pecometh Story, please contact one of our hosts: Wilmington, DE (Limestone Road) - Clarice Ritchie (302) 521-8713; Middletown, DE - Megan Shitama (443) 553-1501; Salisbury, MD - JR Burkhart (410)829-5832.

Thanks! We hope to see you there!