

MM

Fall 2016

Perspective:
From Camper
to Counselor

by Ben Soffel

A Word From
the Director

by Bryan Muecke

**DID THE SPIRIT
AWAKEN?**

by Julie Anderson &
Corey Errett

Summer 2016
Highlights

Memorial Gifts &
Honor Gifts





A Word from the Director

Are we there yet?! How many times have we heard that on a family trip across town or across the country? Little voices from the depths of the back seat crying out for relief from road weary legs. We have all felt that way or heard that voice at one time or another.



The same sentiment is often felt in other journeys. I must admit, I have felt that way a lot over the past year as we worked to complete the current steps in phase one of our long range plan. The pool is long overdue. This little trip took longer than planned. But, the reward was worth the wait.

On September 3, Great Lakes Conference chairman, Pastor J.T. Madison, dedicated the pool and pavilion facilities and the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce organized a ribbon cutting ceremony to

celebrate the gift God has given to Mission Meadows, our campers and guests, and our surrounding communities. Nearly 50 people from the Dewittville, Maple Springs, and Bemus Point communities joined the 90 who were in attendance at the Labor Day All Ages Camp to celebrate the projects' completion.

The pool facility has been embraced by our community. The aquatics programs have brought in 30 children participating in swim lessons with another 60 people that have come for open swim and lap swim sessions in the first three weeks the pool has been open.



We are also excited to announce that we are being honored by the Chautauqua and Mayville Community Chamber with a "Business Improvement" award for the new facilities and service to our community. The award will be presented at the Chamber's monthly dinner in November.

This facility is for all to enjoy! We hope to see you at an upcoming event. If you are staying over night for a retreat or camp, use of the pool facility is included in your fee. Have a great fall!!!

Bryan Muecke
Executive Director, Mission Meadows

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM SUMMER 2016



Find more awesome pictures from this summer on our Facebook page!

PERSPECTIVE FROM CAMPER TO COUNSELOR

by
Ben Soffel
Mission Meadows Summer Staff 2016



Hello fellow Mission Meadow-ers!

My name is Ben Soffel, but some of you may know me better as “Benji.” My love for Mission Meadows began at a young age when I was a camper and for the past three summers I have served on camp’s summer staff. Currently, I am studying Music Arts Administration in my sophomore year at North Park University in Chicago, Illinois. I grew up in Bemus Point, New York, but for as long as I can remember, Camp Mission Meadows has been my second home. A place where I have grown spiritually, made life-long friends, and found the confidence to be myself. Over the past 12 years, I have spent at least one week of my summer at camp. I became a camper as soon as I could and eventually started spending as many weeks at camp as I was allowed. Yes, I was that camper who showed up to camp every week. From a young age, I could tell that Mission Meadows was a special place. Even though my home in Bemus Point was so close by, I wanted to spend as much time at camp as possible because it felt like a whole different world. Mission Meadows is a very “thin” place where the barrier between us and God seems to become especially thin and we sense His presence greatly. (Continued on next page)

I think one of the reasons Mission Meadows feels like this is because of the people. The Bible says that where two or more are gathered, there God is among us, and I think that is so evident at camp. As a camper, I noticed that truth being lived out

“ My love for Mission Meadows began at a young age. ”

through the impact the staff had on me each summer. To this day, I remember the name of every single one of my counselors. I dreamt about being on staff one day so I could have the same opportunity to impact the lives of campers like each staff member had done for me. And for the past three summers that dream has come true. In the summer of 2014, I decided to apply to work at camp for the first time after a good friend of mine mentioned the need for staff that summer. Even though I could have been a camper for one more summer, I decided to work instead. The transition from camper to staff was not necessarily easy. Of course I was familiar with how camp was run and all the fun that goes along with it, but it felt different to be on “the other side” of things. I

felt like I was too young or too inexperienced to make an impact on anyone who came to camp. But boy, was I wrong. That summer I learned what it really looks like to serve God and His people. As I realized my different gifts and what I had to offer at camp, I became more comfortable on staff. I began to sense God’s calling for me as someone who enjoys making others happy and enables others to have a space of freedom to be themselves without judgment. As I reflect on my time spent at Mission Meadows, I can’t imagine what my life would look like without the camp experience. Camp provided a space where I could be goofy, full of energy, and unexplainably on fire for God. It has been amazing to share that camp experience with campers for the past few summers and to walk alongside them so they can experience God in their own way in the same place that shaped me. I know that God will continue to use Mission Meadows to further His kingdom in days to come, and I am thankful to have been a part of His work there so far.

“ I can’t imagine what life would have been like without the camp experience. ”



DID THE SPIRIT AWAKEN?

Mission Meadows is a camp where people get to see and experience the Spirit of God moving and acting in a very real way. I am lucky enough to have been a part of the ministry of Mission Meadows for almost all my life, either as a camper, a retreat-er, a staff member, a board member or a speaker. This summer, as the chaplain to the female staff, I got to witness the Spirit working in new ways, in and through the awesome summer staff. This is a community of people who love and support each other and serve as a beautiful reflection of the Kingdom of God.

I was blessed enough to walk with the female staff through their discernment of the gifts God has given them, which are given to us all. When we discover that God has given us these gifts we can use them without fear. I witnessed the staff move from a place of worry or fear at the start of the summer to being confident in the gifts God has given them for ministry and for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even through exhaustion, sickness, hot cabins, loud campers and bug bites the Spirit worked through this staff and it was a joy to witness. They remained faithful to their call and they knew when to ask for prayer or a word of encouragement. It served as a reminder to me, and hopefully to you too, of the importance of not trying to do life alone. We are all gifted and called by the Spirit. We need community. And when we use our gifts and live together in love, we are bonded together in the Holy Spirit.

**JULIE
ANDERSON**





**COREY
ERRETT**

What I have seen I will never forget. This past summer I had the privilege of serving as one of the Staff Chaplains for the summer staff. I showed up to be an encouragement and I was incredibly encouraged by the staff.

I remember coming the first night of staff training and thinking “these guys are amazing.” There was such unity, and I was expecting that to fade once fatigue and irritability settled in, but it did not.

I specifically had the opportunity to walk with some of these guys through the craziness of ministry. My challenge to them was that in the midst of ministry, don’t neglect to fill back up. Ephesians 3:19 says, “and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” I told the Staff, “Ministry is messy. Kids will need more than you can give, people will crave more time from you than you have to give, and you will walk away with defeat in that most of your ministry with people will be unfinished. We play a small but absolutely significant part, and it’s important to fill back up. Just like the Eucharist exemplifies, Jesus was broken and poured out as you will be this summer. But following that, He arose from the dead. The Spirit Awakens first in us. We are filled back up with the Spirit of Christ, then we are poured out once again. Live in the mess, give all you got, and walk away with the victory knowing that it is the Holy Spirit’s work in those you serve that will guide them and radically fill them.”

I feel as though this was accomplished and this is why: my wife and I were out to dinner with some friends one summer night. I was unaware that their son was at Jr. High Camp the previous week. This father went on and on about the impact for Christ that his counselor had on his son.

Across the board, in more than one instance the work in ministry of the summer staff was awakened by His Spirit. I saw weary staff near the end, but completely filled, completely unified and completely willing to do what it takes for those campers and staff to know that Jesus is alive and His Spirit has been awakened.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of H. Duane Applequist
From: Tom & Britt Johnson

In Memory of May Axelson
From: Roy & Louise Gustafson

In Memory of Bill Black
From: F. Palmer Lindblom

In Memory of Ruby Anderson Cheney
From: John & Kathleen Pearson

In Memory of Dean Drobny
From: David & Kathleen Drobny

In Memory of Joseph and Ruth Drobny
From: David & Kathleen Drobny

In Memory of Albin & Martha Erickson
From: Richard Erickson

In Memory of Jeff Erlandson
From: Gordon & Marleen Nelson

In Memory of David A. Follette
From: Melissa & Dan Fenton

In Memory of Gerald Fox
From: Alan & Nancy Anderson

In Memory of Paul and Rosalie George
From: Robert & Barbara Boehler

In Memory of Karl and Ulrick Hedin
From: John & D.D. Hendrickson

In Memory of Phyllis & Chuck Hendrickson
From: Laurie & Brian Bessey
Roger & Kay Edborg
Mary Ferland
Jeanne Gillespie
Robert & Camille Guinnane
Allan D. Hendrickson
Donald Hendrickson
Norma & Ernest Hendrickson
Karen Holcomb
Al & Phyllis Johnson
Audrey Johnson
Carol Johnson
Rebecca & David Jollow
Janet G. Kates
Gordon & Marleen Nelson
Karen Olson
Bob & Linda Walrod
Friends in the WCA Hospital

In Memory of Lawrence and Margaret
Hendrickson
From: John & D.D. Hendrickson

In Memory of Austa and Bruce Howren
From: Philip Howren

In Memory of Lonnie Huckabone
From: Robert & Camille Guinnane
Karen L. Johnson
Tom & Marge Kibbie
Sandra Kindberg
Jean Landin
Kent & Lisa Landin
Gordon & Marleen Nelson
Carolyn Thomas

In Memory of Donald Johnson
From: Donna E. Larson

In Memory of Harry Johnson
From: Cindy & Paul Bagocius
Carl & Arlene Johnson

In Memory of Jerry Johnson
"One of the first lifeguards"
From: Marilyn Johnson

In Memory of Mabel & Emil Johnson
From: Johanna & Bill Wooldredge

In Memory of Paul and Betty Johnson
From: Dianne & Dave Locascio

In Memory of Walter H. Johnson
From: Tom & Britt Johnson

In Memory of Wayne Johnson
From: F. Palmer Lindblom

In Memory of Greg R. Kennedy
"4 year staff member"
From: Gary & Billie Kennedy

In Memory of Marilyn LaPaze
From: Allen & Phyllis Johnson

In Memory of Emily Lindblom
From: F. Palmer Lindblom

In Memory of JoAnne Manelick
From: Gordon & Marleen Nelson

In Memory of Viola Maus
From: David E. Maus

In Memory of Jill Mattice
From: Marge Accardi

In Memory of Jim and Holger Nelson
From: Richard & Amy Nelson

In Memory of Emelyn and Paul Olson
From: Lydia & Ralph Olson

In Memory of Emory Olson
From: Gordon & Marleen Nelson

In Memory of Dave Palmer
From: Tom & Britt Johnson

In Memory of Warner Palmer
From: Tom & Britt Johnson

In Memory of Carl and Elizabeth Pearson
From: Betsy Pearson
John & Kathleen Pearson
Peter & Lynn Pearson

In Memory of Jean Rinaldo
From: Gordon & Marleen Nelson

In Memory of Isabella Sandquist
From: Paul & Barbara Aley

In Memory of Harold Spink
From: Christine Spink

In Memory of Betty Esther Olson Summerville
From: Rev. Harold and Edith Nelson

In Memory of Christian Ward
From: Douglas & Elizabeth Triezenberg

Honor Gifts

In Honor of 15 Grandchildren & 4 Great Grandchildren
From: Gary & Billie Kennedy

In Honor of Jeff & Karen Farrar
From: Caryn Corriere

In Honor of Shirley Glatz's 90th Birthday
From: Mildred & Robert Roach

In Honor of Robert Guinnane
From: Kathleen Guinnane & Brad Burkman

In Honor of Wayne & Cheryl Gustafson
From: Steve and Lisa Carlson

In Honor of Helen Peterson
From: Nancy Stein

In Honor of Helen Peterson's Birthday
From: Mary Ann Ahlgren

In Honor of Barclay Potts' Retirement
From: Mike & Sharon Caruso

In Honor of Audrey Johnson's 90th Birthday
From: Barb, Ray & RJ Souter; Brittney Lull

In Honor of Elaine Johnson
From: Cindy & Paul Bagocius

In Honor of Ruth Johnson's 90th Birthday
From: Cheryl Baldwin

In Honor of Dr. Kent and Lisa Landin
From: All your girls at the office

In Honor of Toni Palmer
From: Joyce Ranade

In Honor of Barclay and Lucille Potts' 65th Wedding Anniversary
From: Edward & Joanne Freeman
Mildred & Robert Roach

In Honor of Zion Covenant Church Staff
From: Audrey M. Johnson



Future Newsletters

We have not published a full color newsletter since 2015. With the addition of Tera Anderson as our Marketing and Communications Director, we now have someone who is focusing on our publications. Our plan is to make a switch and provide smaller, quarterly publications in both print and email form, along with monthly video updates from the camp staff. Additionally, we will distribute an annual full color newsletter which will also serve as our annual report. Please be patient with us and we establish this new routine. Feel free to email us with suggestions on what you would like to read or hear about from camp. You may contact Tera Anderson at program@missionmeadows.org or Bryan Muecke at bryan@missionmeadows.org.

Summer 2017

Please check our website for info on next summer's calendar. If you have any questions, feel free to call our office at 716-386-5932 or email camping@missionmeadows.org.