

Greetings from Doris Bilitz, President

Greetings, Bethel Park Family,

Here we are again at the end of another season.asking "where has the time gone?" What a wonderful camp season it was. What a Blessing it is to be a part of Bethel Park and enjoy the rich teaching, and the fellowship of friends and family. We are grateful for all of our service providers and volunteers that help make camp what it is. Unfortunately we have two service providers that will not be renewing contracts for next year.

KITCHEN: We have all appreciated the excellent meal service that we have received from Helga Hintz and her team. Helga has decided to take a break from her contract to be able to spend more quality time with her family. We all know, she richly deserves this. Thank you Helga for all the years you have provided this service. May God Bless you and reward you for your dedication.

We are looking for a qualified individual that would provide either the complete Kitchen Contract for the season OR would consider doing part of the contract ie. family camp. At this point we are open to considering various options. If you are interested and would like more information, or know of someone I should contact, please e-mail me at president@bethelpark.ca

MAINTENANCE: After many years of service, Bill Harper has decided to retire. Thank you Bill for your dedication to the job and always lending a helping hand when needed. May God Bless you for your dedication and may you enjoy a well deserved retirement.

We are looking for a qualified individual that would provide the grounds and maintenance service for six months of the year. If you are interested and would like more information, or know of someone I should contact, please e-mail me at president@bethelpark.ca

Finance Report by Harald Drewitz, Treasurer

We thank God for a blessed and successful 2015 camp season. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone who donated this year. Your generous giving is essential to the continued success of Bethel Park Camp for the present and generations to come.

As you know, Bethel Park's expenses are not covered by cabin tax and fee revenue. The cost of Ministry programs, administration and infrastructure projects come primarily from offerings above and beyond the cabin tax and fee base.

Much time, effort, and funds went into building the new washrooms. The generous donations of time and skill by various camp members helped to keep these building costs

down. We also spent money to upgrade street lights around camp with the goal of reducing future electrical expenses. This coming year, we will look to complete the washrooms, including the wheelchair accessible room and laundry facilities.

Unfortunately, donations made during 2014 and 2015 are not enough to fully cover these necessary costs.

Revenues from donations were down in 2015 compared to 2014. We very much ran our Ministry events and normal operational costs at a “bare-bones” level. This will be a challenge in future years as this level of belt-tightening is not sustainable for the long-term financial and spiritual health of Bethel Park.

We encourage everyone to prayerfully consider the ongoing financial needs of Bethel Park as you plan for 2016.

Spiritual Care Report by Paul Mittelstaedt

We are still in the process of confirming some of our speakers for next season, however, we are anticipating a season of excellent ministry in the word, prayer and worship. Our schedule will include the following events:

Victoria Day Long Weekend:

As this is a weekend when many come out to camp and look to get their cottage ready for summer, we are planning services for Sunday morning and evening, leaving Saturday evening as an opportunity to connect with one another informally.

German Heritage Camp:

We continue to be blessed by the senior ministers in our camp family and they will give leadership to the ministry in the German language during this half-week of ministry.

Family Camp:

We are looking to launch into our week of ministry with a barbecue and concert on Saturday, July 23 – followed by our opening Sunday with a guest from our Head Office (to be confirmed). Our evening speaker will be Rev. Kevin Shephard from Glad Tidings in Burlington, with our morning guest yet to be confirmed.

Labour Day Weekend:

Our summer will wrap up with a full weekend of ministry with worship team and a guest speaker invited and waiting to be confirmed as of printing date.

Ground, Building & Maintenance Report, John Kehl

This year was a very busy one for our dedicated staff and volunteers providing building and grounds maintenance. The **Washroom Renovation** was started in the Spring and was functional by July. Work will continue in 2016 on the Laundry Facilities, Accessible Washroom and interior finishes. John Kehl, Willi Demant, Don

MacLeod and David Schuetzkowski were recognized at the Thanksgiving Day service for their exceptional donation of time to this project. Twenty LED street lights were installed this year. We are hoping to complete the remaining lights in 2016.

Water and Sewage: A report from BOS Engineering was received showing the Tasks completed and also a Current Work Plan. A completed Topo Survey and the Conceptual Sanitary Sewer System by BOS Engineering was also provided and reviewed by the Board of Directors. A quote to obtain a legal survey drawing for the Bethel Park property is being pursued as there is not one on record.

Cabin Owners, if you are having outside contractors come to do work on your cabin, please be there to meet them, or make arrangements with someone else to be there. If you are **Selling a Cabin** - please leave a key with Maintenance or Hospitality so that when people ask to view the cabin we can provide access.

Membership Report by Walter Nerling, Secretary

Once again another year is quickly drawing to a close and Bethel Park is settled in for the winter. We thank the Lord for his provision and protection during the 2015 camp season. We truly would like to welcome the new Camp Society Members listed below as well as the new Cabin Owners. Please continue to keep Bethel Park and the 2016 season in your prayers. We look forward to greeting you all at the scheduled camp opening work day on Saturday May 7th, 2016.

New 2015 Bethel Park Society Members

Greg and Kristina Beifuss	Elsbeth Kimmerle
Arthur and Heidi Matos	Fred and Renate Mielke
Eric Revie	Rein and Norma Scherer
Philipp and Trudy Sohl	Ernie and Evelyn Spadzinski

2015 Cabin Transfers

Joe Brogan - #10 Emmaus St.
Eliel DaSilva and Sarah Bernard - #12 Emmaus St.
Conny Hermelink – #1 Nazareth St.
Helga Hintz – 18 Bethlehem St.
Reinhard and Tabea Milbrandt - #13 Emmaus St.
Glenn and Beverly Peon – 33 Philadelphia St.
Eric Revie - #9 Samaria St.
Rein and Norma Scherer - #13 Nazareth St.
Stephen and Dale Schleihau - #1 Emmaus St.
Carolyn Scott - #11 Nazareth St.
Horst and Jean Wiesner - #5 Damascus St.

Youth Camp Report by Simon Weresch

Our theme this year was “Connect”; with each other and God. Our theme was a stepping stone from our previous years and we really wanted to be intentional in connecting the students with a deeper understanding of the nature of God the Father’s heart. Rachele Mainse, our speaker was an exceptional communicator of God’s love for the students. This year, our numbers were slightly down from last years, at 118 Youth and 52 staff. It was incredible to see God move in the hearts and lives of the youth that attended and it was clear that the teams hard work and planning was much appreciated. Planning is well underway for the 2016 Youth Camp week and we are eagerly anticipating what God has in store.

Devotional by Ken Powell, Camp Pastor

A Promise

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 KJV

Do all things really work together for good? *This verse promises something we have trouble believing.* How can things like sickness, losing a job, divorce and death be good?

This verse is sometimes misused by well-meaning Christians who throw it in the face of those who are suffering as if it could answer every question of life.

For most of us, “good” equals things like health, happiness, solid relationships, long life, money, food on the table, meaningful work, and a nice place to live. However Paul defines the word “good” for us in the very next verse when he says that God wants to conform us into the likeness of His Son. That certain end is the “good” of Romans 8:28.

God is not committed to making you happy and successful. Not everything in this life will turn out for good but God is working in ways that we do not always understand and He is committed to making you & me more like His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, anything that makes you more like Jesus Christ is good.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas with family and friends,

Board of Directors,

Doris Bilitz (President), Walter Nerling (Secretary), Harald Drewitz (Treasurer), John Kehl, David Kimmerle, Guenter Rittmeyer ,Karl Medel, Paul Mittelstaedt, Arden Nerling, Frank Weresch, Jim Wright, Ron Baker,

Camp Pastor: Ken Powell,

Administration: Norma Scherer

Office: 310 Fairway Road South, PO Box 45070, Kitchener ON N2C 1X0

Phone: 519 748-5125 Email: administration@bethelpark.ca