

Greetings Bethel Park Family,

I would like to begin this Newsletter by remembering many of our Bethel Park Family members that went Home to be with the Lord this past year and beginning of 2017. We remember the families of Dorothy Weresch, Philip Green, Johann Klein, Albert Martz and Konrad Scherer. Also, to our Bethel Park family members that have lost loved ones, we pray that God comfort and provide strength each day anew as only He can.

Ken Powell, our Camp Pastor wrote the following devotional:

In the midst of our busy lives and ministries, we need to come apart from the many temptations and distractions of this world to get our spiritual batteries recharged and focus on our relationship with God. In Mark 6:31 we read how Jesus called his disciples to "Come apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat." The pressure of ministry was great, and there was a need for a time out. Attending a Christian camp like Bethel Park can meet this need.

A Christian camp provides a unique setting for spiritual growth and physical refreshment that will prepare individuals for service in their local church when they return. The cooperation between camp and the local church is so very important because while camp is a temporary community, the church becomes a permanent family. Jesus did not say: I will build my camp, but His Church.

The Mission of Bethel Park is to *nurture and encourage*:

- *Spiritual Growth & Renewal* by providing Bible centred teaching rooted in Pentecostal theology.
- *Physical Refreshing* by providing a safe, family friendly environment with well-appointed grounds and facilities.

The camp Vision is a vibrant, growing, Christian Camp and Retreat Centre providing experiences and programs for persons of all ages, encouraging and empowering them to discover and grow in Christ.

As you make plans to be with us this summer may your focus be to connect with God and connect with people and then return home renewed, refreshed and prepared to strengthen your local church.

Get ready! It's going to be a great camp season.

UPDATES

Victoria Day Weekend With the Camp Clean Up behind us in early May, we officially open the spiritual ministries of Bethel Park Camp on the Victoria Day Long Weekend. The new season begins with a sense of enthusiasm as we dedicate to God afresh the grounds, facilities and people who make up Bethel Park Camp. This year we are delighted that Pastor Jim Wright, a faithful member of our Spiritual Care Committee and currently also on the Board of Directors will minister the word on the two Sunday services. We are also shaking the dust off some favourites from Youth Camps of the past with Mick Curtiss and his team, which will hopefully include Dave Austin, who will lead us in worship. Let's just hope there are enough Drumsticks in the Camp Store to keep them energized. For

those of you on the grounds on Saturday we encourage you to use your time to share hospitality with one another - get to know a new cabin owner, reacquaint yourselves with one another after a long winter or take time to renew longstanding friendships...this is the community we have been called to become at Bethel Park Camp. Lunch will be offered on Sunday at the camp cafeteria, but we do encourage everyone to bring a salad and/or a dessert to share with others in the spirit of fellowship. We are looking forward to this 'Bethel Park Family' gathering laying the ground for a blessed season this summer. *Paul Mittelstaedt*

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

We are looking forward to another great season at Bethel Park that will start with our Camp Cleanup Day on Saturday May 6th. Bethel Park did not receive much snow this winter but there were some severe wind storms. The high winds did bring down a number of trees, but we thank God for His protection as there was only minor damage to a few cabins. Fred and Don got an early start and have been able to remove the downed trees and begin some of the spring clean up before Don's scheduled surgery at the end of March. We continue to pray for Don's speedy recovery and want to thank both Don and Fred for the work completed so that we can all have safe access to our cabins.

The Tabernacle benches were reconfigured last fall by the Weresch brothers, and the plan for this year is to construct a new rear wall and install a new sound system in the Tabernacle.

Planning and details for our much needed Waste Management system have been ongoing through the winter months and we will be presenting some viable options at our scheduled Town Hall Meeting in July.

Looking forward to seeing you all on May 6th. Come to help clean up the main grounds and around your own cabin. This will be a great day of hard work and then enjoying a BBQ lunch together. *David Schuetzkowski*

FINANCE: PTL – Praise The Lord! Reflected on Bethel Park's 2016 Financial

Statements, it shows 2016 has been the **Best Year Ever!** We thank you for your financial support during 2016! When you receive the 2016 Financial Statement package, included with the 2016 Annual General Meeting information, you will see we have done a lot to keep our normal yearly camp operating expenses as low as possible. Due to circumstantial and other items, our operating expenses have been the **lowest since 2012!** Collectively, you have also donated the funds to support our operating expenses.

As you know, we have asked for donations toward the Washroom/Laundry room project since 2014. Most of this project has been completed during 2015, some during 2016 and we intend to complete the accessible or Family Washroom portion of this building during 2017. Unfortunately, our capital donations received during 2014, 2015 and 2016 are short of our capital expenses incurred by approximately \$30,000.00 as at December 31, 2016. We need your continued donations to help offset this shortfall, complete this project in 2017, along with additional capital projects for 2017.

Ah yes, and then we have the Waste Management Project. As of the end of December 2016, there is approximately \$250,000.00 set aside for this project. We will appreciate you

giving prayerful consideration to donating even more than before, in order that we can get this project started and behind us.

Further, Treasury has moved into the 21st century – you can now donate to Bethel Park via Canada Helps. All you need to do is - go to the Bethel Park website, click on the word *donate or donate button* on the Home page. The Canada Helps Bethel Park page will be displayed on your screen. You can make your donation via *credit/debit card* and *Paypal*. Canada Helps will issue you a receipt for your donation. Harald Drewitz

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Please notify the office of any address, name, telephone or email address changes as soon as possible. If you have an email address and are not receiving the emails from the head office, it means that the office either doesn't have your current email address or we don't have an email address at all.
 2. If you are purchasing or selling a cabin – please be sure to complete the proper form and send it to the head office. All documents must be completed and approved by the office before a sale is finalized. No monies should be exchanged until final approval is made by the Office. A reminder of the Cabin Transfer Fee of \$ 100.00 to sellers of cabins to cover the cost of the necessary Government documents, etc.
 3. Membership – if you are not a Society Member at Bethel Park Camp and have owned your cabin for more than one year, please consider becoming a Member.
 4. The 2017 brochures will be mailed to you as soon as they are finished printing.
- For more information on any of the above items or any other Bethel Park administrative items, please email administration@bethelpark.ca

Bethel Park Volunteer Opportunities As we begin a new Camp Season, we are reminded of the work that needs to be done. Bethel Park has always depended on Volunteers and we are so grateful to many of you that consistently stand in the gap, and we encourage you to continue to do so. We have many Volunteer opportunities and we would request that you prayerfully consider Volunteering in one of the following ways:

KITCHEN: Kitchen volunteers that are willing to help with setting up tables for meals and cleaning up the dining hall after a meal services, or helping with dishes are always welcome. If you can help in this way, please e-mail Norma at administration@bethelpark.ca or call the office at 519 748-5125 and speak to Norma

SOUND & AUDIO VISUAL: From time to time we require extra help for Sound and Audio Visual. If you have an interest in this area of ministry, please contact the office at administration@bethelpark.ca. Training will be provided.

MUSIC: Our summer Sunday Services for 2017 are July 2, 9, 16 and August 13, 20 & 27th. We require a pianist on these Sundays to help with the Worship Service. It would be greatly appreciated if you could commit on one or several of these dates ahead of time. If

you play another instrument and would be willing to participate in the service please let us know. For more information or to volunteer please contact our Camp Pastor, Ken Powell at kbpowell@sympatico.ca

Children's Ministries: For our Children's programs, we are required to provide a mandated ratio of adults to children to provide adequate supervision. We are grateful that Trudy Rittmeyer has organized these services for many years. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information please contact Trudy at grittmeyer@sympatico.ca

Family Fun Day Volunteers Needed Sat. Aug. 5th This summer as we celebrate Canada's 150th birthday we have invited the Canadian Cowgirls precision drill team to be our special guests on this day. This event will provide us the opportunity to build community with local churches & our neighbours in the West Elgin community and throughout Elgin County. This will be a day for us to demonstrate our faith in love.

As a result we will need Volunteers for the following activities:

- Welcoming People as they arrive on the grounds
- Safety and Security patrol
- Serving as parking attendants
- Decorating the grounds for Canada's 150th birthday
- Serving as host and hostesses
- Grounds Clean-up crew

For more information or to volunteer please contact our Camp Pastor, Ken Powell at kbpowell@sympatico.ca

CAMP IS NOT OPEN UNTIL MAY 1, 2017

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT CAMP ON
CLEAN-UP DAY, SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY
MAY 6. WE NEED YOU!**

GOD BLESS, Doris Bilitz