

2022 - A Year of Restoration

Grateful for a new day!

God has sustained us for a new day of ministry and stabilized our financials through it all. **It is by His grace and mercy that we were able to move forward**, and many guests returned!

New challenges - costs and staffing:

On the heels of these pleasant opportunities came new rising costs and staffing challenges. Critical staffing issues arose in housekeeping so that we had to call for volunteers on several high turnover days in July and August. **To everyone who gave us a hand, a huge THANK YOU!** We look for ways to make this aspect of our operations sustainable again.

Spruce Lake Outdoor School opened again:

- During the Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 school year, 39 schools came with a total 1,300 participants for our Outdoor Education program - a wonderful comeback!
- A fifth grade teacher said, "This program supports our school by helping to instill a biblical worldview, a love for God and His Creation, also how to work through conflict—while having lots of fun!"

Spruce Lake Wilderness Camp connected with kids:

- The Word of God came alive for over 800 young people ages 8-17 in overnight camps, trips, parent-child camps, and Leaders in Training.
- Pastor Charlie Ness, though retired, so enjoys his interactions with the kids that he once again served as Fireside speaker for ages 10-12 (Trekks). He has been one of our Fireside speakers 46 summers.

Day Camps served local children:

- Day Camps are welcomed and supported by our local communities!
- From both locations (Spruce Lake and Pinebrook), we served a total 232 families and 328 individual campers in 2022.
- We just finished Year Two at Pinebrook and served 40-77 children every day, averaging 66 campers daily!

Retreat Center @ Spruce Lake hosted lots of guests

- Guest groups have come back in such numbers that we, sadly, had to turn a few away because we didn't have enough housekeeping and food service staff to host everyone.
- We served 430+ groups in 2022! A number of large groups on hold by Covid-19 were able to return as well.
- Our programmed retreats were well attended and appreciated.

Retreat Center @ Pinebrook gained attendance:

- We partnered with the Bible Fellowship Church to host three family events in July, which were filled with people enjoying good teaching and lots of family fun.
- More guest groups are discovering Pinebrook; we served over 190 groups in 2022!
- Four ADA accessible baths were installed in guest lodges.
- **Chad Strausbaugh**, Pinebrook Director, followed a call into pastoral ministry and joined the team at First Baptist Church Allentown.
- **Richard Brewer**, former executive director at Camp Men-O-Lan (and former Spruce Lake Wilderness Camp and Outdoor School leader), was named Pinebrook's new director.

Youth Ministry Center project underway @ Spruce Lake:

- Our dream for a **Youth Ministry Center at Wilderness Camp** that can be open year-round is once again coming alive, after the coronavirus derailed plans in 2020.
- Plans are in process for building **16 cabins** to replace the long-used canvas tents.
- The need for youth to have a place to gather and grow is very real, and a year-round center will enable us to minister among them every day, not just a few weeks in the summer.
- We are working with the DEP to get the permits required to start this Spring, 2023.
- Lord willing, the startup funds will be in place by the end of December, 2022. The board has set a goal of having **70% of the funds** in hand to start.

**Abide in ME
and I in you.**

**As the branch cannot
bear fruit by itself
unless it abides
in the vine, neither
can you, unless you
abide in ME.**

John 15:4



Outdoor School students met our resident snake in Reptiles & Amphibians class.



Softball games were a big hit at the three family conferences at Pinebrook this summer.



Multiple generations are making Spruce Lake (and Pinebrook) their special place.



Plans for 16 cabins similar to this one are in process now for a multi-use, year-round YOUTH MINISTRY CENTER at Spruce Lake.