

Camp Freedom Courier

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The official newsletter of Camp Freedom of St Petersburg, FL

October 2022

Greetings once again in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord! I'm so glad we serve the Only God who is able to meet every need, hear and answer every prayer according to His will, and Who watches over His children more closely than any parent! God is so good...I love Him so...He's coming again!

It has been our privilege to continue the work of the Lord through Camp Freedom in this year. Time itself waits for no one, so we took advantage of the opportunity to meet as the Board of Directors for business, then to gather in worship with the broader camp community. All that took place again the first few days of September. A highlight of that time was the Camp Freedom mini-camp, held on September 03. We met again at the Clear Creek Brethren in Christ Church, at Everett, PA, a church that opened its doors to this ministry back in August of 2014. Our deep appreciation is once again extended to Pastor John Geyer and his church board and congregation for their willingness to host the board meetings and the mini-camp services and banquet.

The fall newsletter usually centers around those activities, so permit me to share about the day. This year we were blessed to have Bro Wesley McDonald come and share in the preaching of the Word. These ministers are not given a topic or subject, so it is interesting to see how God works with His servants as they prepare for the services. This year was no exception, as Bro Wes told how the Lord had re-directed his thinking for the afternoon service, even though he had already prepared a message along another line of thought! Both messages that day were good for our edification!

Bro Wesley is the Public Relations Director for Penn View Bible Institute, so he was asked to bring along a group from the college for the special singing. We were blessed to have the Praise Singers with us, and they also did a wonderful job at leading us in worship and praise, both in their singing, and in leading the congregational singing. These young men and their pianist shared what year they were in at college, and what their major was; three of them were in the ministerial program, the other two in the music program. Thank the Lord for their dedication to the work and will of the Lord, and trust the God of Heaven to continue using them as the Lord tarries His coming.

We appreciate the number of people who support the mini-camp with their presence. This year, there were 52 present in the afternoon, 38 in the evening, and 51 at the banquet. Others had reserved, but things happened that caused plans to be changed for them. Nevertheless, fellowship was great, we enjoyed each one who came, and the food was delicious! Thanks, Mindy Lehman, and Charles and Donna Seeley, and their helpers who prepared and served the food. We appreciate your dedication to this important part of camp life!



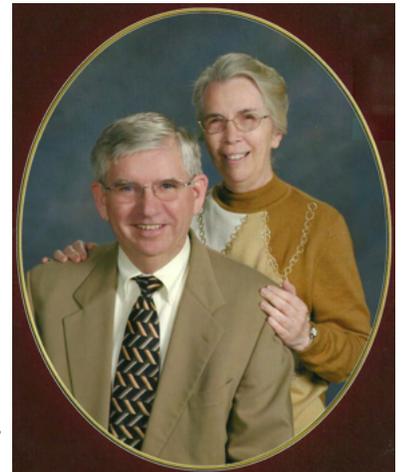
Mini-camp is an endeavor to give a glimpse of what takes place in the main camp each winter, so we have congregational singing, special singing, times of prayer, a time of anointing for healing, times of giving, times of testimony, along with the preaching of God's Word. When board members are present, we often ask them to participate in sharing some aspect of what goes on in main camp. John and Ruth Pawelski shared about the children's services, Brian Miller about the youth services. Dan Lehman, as Treasurer, shared about what the offerings would be used for, and Richard Lehman led in times of prayer and anointing. I am grateful for all the board members and for their commitment to the work of the camp, and its ongoing ministry. Our newest board member, Richard Yoder and wife Lois, were also present.



Permit me to tell you about the offering project and goal. For this past year we have been raising funds to replace the entire roof structure on one of our buildings. So far, we have not quite half of the estimated cost of that project, and want to see it completed as soon as possible. The estimated cost for that project is \$20,000-25,000, and you have given over \$9,000 toward that goal. However, the board has been appraised of the fact that our sound system in the tabernacle is in need of major replacement, due to the fact that the tabernacle is not air-conditioned, and the heat in the summer has caused deterioration to things like the cables that are installed permanently. We've received prices, and have authorized the ordering of a new system that will be totally wireless, giving much better quality, especially in any recording. The cost of that system is just a little less than \$5,000, so that became our project for the mini-camp offerings. We also have the expense of the mini-camp itself, so our total offering goal this year was \$7,000. Any amount over and above that goal would be automatically applied to the re-roofing project. We praise the Lord; the total offerings for the day came in at \$8,035.36, and I also know that more has come in since then. Praise the Lord!!



Consider this an invitation to come to Camp Freedom 2023, the Lord tarrying His coming. Our evangelists are Rev Blake Jones and Rev Harrold Taylor, who is also the speaker for the youth services. Our day speaker is Rev Aaron McCarty. From the brochure, you'll notice that Stephen & Nicole Cassady and Family were to be the song evangelists, but due to their battle with cancers, they've had to cancel their time with us. Keep them in your prayers. Rev John & Betty Case have consented to come and share as song evangelists in place of the Cassady's. The dates for campmeeting are January 27 - February 05. For lodging inquiry and reservation, please contact Joanna Ritchey by phone or text at 717-360-0280, by e-mail at "JoannaRitchey@outlook.com", or by snail mail at 641 E Church St, Lock Haven, PA 17745. Make plans now to come and share campmeeting with us!



In His Service,
Dennis L Ritchey, Director/Property Manager
Camp Freedom of St Petersburg, FL

