



Clearwater Forest eNotes

March, 2015

Greetings from Clearwater Forest! Signs of spring are all around us with the maple sap running, more birds and wildlife appearing, and trees are showing signs of life.

We're busy finalizing plans for an incredible, faith-filled experience for youth entering grades three through graduates; expanding our programs with three new camp experiences for elementary and junior high students; and expanding our Grand's Camp program to offer new and deeper relationship building opportunities between grandparents and their grandchildren.



Clearwater Forest is more than just a summer program! We hosted over 100 groups last year - 36 were church

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Clearwater Forest Mission Statement

Clearwater Forest is a ministry of Christ called to provide faith-building Christian programming, nurture active Christian community, and be a faithful steward of God's creation.

LOOKING FOR WORK GROUPS!

Consider Clearwater as your destination or even a training / warm up for

related, 37 were families that spent anywhere from a weekend to a full week at Clearwater. The remainder were clergy renewal, school groups, meetings, etc. Many of our family reunions have four and even five generations represented! There are still amazing weekends available this fall!

Additionally, our campgrounds are growing in popularity - where else can you get semi-private camping accommodations (both electric and non-electric sites are available), access to an incredible lake and recreation equipment and of course the amazing sounds of the lake. We also have campfire wood available near by so you don't have to worry about bringing your own!



Call us for more information and availability.
218-678-2325.



Registration for 2015 Summer Programming is going on NOW! We are busy planning to make this coming summer one that will be life-changing! Have you registered yet?

your next mission trip!

There are projects for ALL skill levels! Contact us as soon as you can to schedule your work day at 218-678-2325.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Clearwater Forest
Work Day
May 16, 2015

Clearwater Family Camp
June 12-14, 2015

Friends and Family Day
and annual 30/50 mile
Bike Ride
June 13, 2015

Registration now
available
at www.clearwaterforest.org

Helpful Links

[Clearwater Forest
Wish List](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

We are confident that several programs will fill, especially our new programs including Junior High Night Owl and our new week of programming for elementary and junior high campers in addition to the programs in week five and six that filled up last year: Sr. High Endless, Beach Camp, Discovery Camp 5/6, Pedal, Paddle Dive, and Jr. High Week 6.

New this year - we will be awarding \$25 gift certificates to the Clearwater Store for every 50th camper that registers! Be sure to sign up soon to ensure your place at Clearwater Forest this summer!

Check out our [website](#) for more information.



Clearwater Forest 2015 Video

Some camps are starting to FILL UP!
Be sure to register soon!

Staffing is shaping up... there are still a few available positions!



We are filling our staffing positions and have a few more slots left for the most amazing summer staff yet! Do you know of college-aged young adults who have a fantastic faith, love of kids, and want to share with others?

Please encourage them to apply for our counselor positions. We're also looking for one or two more leadership positions as well! Contact us today for more information!

Also, we are expanding our volunteer corps to include sailors, fisher-people, and nurses. If you are able to assist for a DAY, please contact us!

Liquid Gold! (Amber that is)



The trees are starting to wake up, which means that our "sappers" are out in force. A dedicated crew of volunteers from Crosslake Presbyterian, Brainerd Presbyterian and a few other great friends have been stomping around the woods collecting bucketfuls of maple sap.

We'll have plenty of PURE MAPLE SYRUP available this summer in the camp store!

If you are interested in helping collect over the next three-four weeks, please let us know and to confirm the "sappers" schedule!



As a family with three young children, winter was long and lacked the physical outlets our family needed. We found our solution: a February weekend retreat at Clearwater Forest with our church family. Throughout the 70's, we repeated that tradition every winter and were renewed in body and spirit by the snow shoeing, sledding, worship and fellowship we found there. When a tornado cleared a swath through the forest in 1978, we joined other families for a Memorial Day weekend work camp to replant hundreds of white pines. Now we feel a spiritual connection with the towering trees we helped re-establish.

Summer camping in the family camp on Clearwater Lake gave us more family memories as well as connections with nature and its Creator. Through the years we found additional opportunities to enjoy PCF by renting Osprey House for fall/winter outings with family and friends. We even welcomed the 21st century by a family reunion in Leaning Tree Lodge over January 1, 2000.

A special connection for Ernie was doing the legal work

for PCF. He was particularly pleased to assist in the acquisition of the land across the lake from the camp facilities, thus helping to ensure that the wilderness-like experience we treasured would not be diminished by housing developments on the lake.

In our retirement, we continue to enjoy PCF. We still attend winter retreats with our church, often bringing our children and grandchildren. Summer Grands Camps have been a cherished tradition and allow us to strengthen relationships with our grandkids. We feel God's presence in PCF-led worship by the lake and in the Pavilion. The addition of the labyrinth allows for walking meditation in a new way.

All these memories led us to remember Presbyterian Clearwater Forest when it was time for a required withdrawal from our IRAs. Our financial advisory explained that a qualified charitable distribution is made with pre-tax dollars and does not add the IRA withdrawal to our income. Thus, by making a contribution to PCF, we helped continue its ministry and benefited our retirement planning. We have been blessed by this special place and want to see others experience it, too.

-By Beth and Ernie Cutting

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to share some of the amazing things that are happening at Clearwater Forest!

In Christ,

Rich Swartwood
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