



CAMP PADDY RUN

News

PADDY RUN OUTDOOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE

FALL 2009

WWW.CAMPPADDYRUN.ORG

BUILDING BRIDGES— LITERALLY!

Paddy Run receives a special gift from churches in the National Capital Presbytery

Submitted by Susi Ennis of First Presbyterian Church Annandale

“For God So Loved The World”
Our Mission Trip to Camp Paddy Run

On August 9, 2009 there was a large group of family and friends present to see the Mission Team from First Presbyterian Church of Annandale/ First Korean Presbyterian Church of Virginia off on their Fourth Annual Mission Trip. For the 7 Adults and 13 students, our destination this year was Camp Paddy Run, the outdoor camp and retreat ministry center for Shenandoah Presbytery. This trip would challenge us also because we would be undertaking our largest project over the four years; we would be replacing a 32 foot bridge over Paddy Run as well as replacing seating at two outdoor areas and fixing a roof.

Beginning on Monday morning the group started work on the bridge. That morning was spent clearing out debris, taking down what was left of a previous bridge, and planning what to do. Tuesday work on the bridge continued and we were also able to get a crew together to work on the seating at the Vespers area. A group of students and adults were able to remove the old seats and build new ones using logs from some downed trees found in the woods. Also on Tuesday work began on the equipment shed roof. Rotted wood was removed and replaced and then new shingles put into place

On Wednesday morning the concrete was dry on the footers and bridge foundations and so we prepared to put the first side of the bridge across the creek. Everyone went down to Paddy Run and got to work. However, when this first side was put across the creek, there were problems making it necessary to take it back down and rethink how it should be done. It was a disappointing morning, but the adults all kept at it and figured out a better way to do it. By evening, the side was reconstructed and put up over the creek with success. Thursday saw us working on the other side of the bridge as well as gathering rocks to begin the landscaping in front of the lodge.



Above: finishing the main span of the 32-foot bridge. Below: adults and youth alike begin repair on the garage roof. This structure is the oldest on the camp's property.

While work on the bridge continued Friday, by afternoon it was determined that we would not be able to complete the bridge on this trip. On September 12, a group from both FPCA and returned to Camp Paddy Run to finish the project. Everyone who went worked hard all day and at the end of the day, THE BRIDGE WAS FINISHED. See page 3 for final photo!

The Mission Trip also included several other projects including roofing the garage, and building new benches at the campfire circles.





PARISH OF THE VALLEYS DAY CAMP REACHES ALL TIME HIGH THIS SUMMER

For the fourth straight summer in a row, the volunteers for the Parish Day Camp continue to see their attendance increase. This year there were over 120 campers and volunteers in attendance each day of this Monday-through-Friday event. Quite an impressive amount of people when you consider this program is completely volunteer staffed and donation funded. Churches take turns providing lunches and snacks to the children, and several teachers donate their craft and teaching supplies rather than being reimbursed for them. More expensive costs— such as renting 15 passenger vans to bring children to Paddy Run— are paid for by the Parish treasury.

Bob Lowell of Mt. Hope has been heading up this effort for many years. “Uncle Bob” as the campers call him, is responsible for all the logistics involved in putting on this week-long production— from renting the vans and port-o-johns to deciding on the curriculum and holding teachers meetings.

Perhaps one reasons for the increase in campers each year is several campers have outgrown the Kindergarten—12th grade cut-off, but continually want to return to camp even after they have graduated and entered the ‘real world.’

“ I will never turn a kid away,” says Uncle Bob. “These kids are hungry for spiritual nurture and hearing the Lord’s word. It costs a lot to put on this camp, but you can’t put a price tag on a child’s soul,” he says.

Amen, Uncle Bob, AMEN!....



FALL RETREAT FOCUSES ON GIVING THANKS

Seventeen youth and 3 adult volunteers turned out for the November 6-8 fall youth retreat with the theme, "Thanks Be to God!"

Being blessed with perfect almost summery temperatures, the youth were able to navigate the property during Saturday afternoon's GPS course— where they searched the forest for their targets and at each success found a challenge that focused on quiet reflection and being thankful for a number of things.

Youth also worked together to write their own Psalm of Thanksgiving that was read in unison at Saturday night's vespers service. Youth also helped lead the Sunday service— which we were blessed to be able to hold outside.

Saturday night was a karaoke dance party held in the lodge— where campers and adults alike sang and danced to hits that , apparently, have spanned the generations such as "Build me up,



Above: The early November morning was warm enough to hold Sunday worship service outside.

Buttercup," "Sweet Caroline," and "Ring of Fire." Everyone participated in the 'dance-offs' including "YMCA" and the "Hokey Pokey."

Among the things youth were most thankful for were family, friends, and being able to come to camp.



Above: the finished bridge. Now campers have year-round access to the over 200 acres located on the other side of Paddy's Run, a tributary to Cedar Creek.



CAMP PADDY RUN CHRISTMAS LIST

Here are some things that we could really use:

Folding Utility Tables: those great lightweight plastic ones that you can find at Costco, 3x 6 feet in size: \$50- \$70

Paint: \$25 per gallon (for painting cabins, pool area, lodge deck) Quantity needed: 10 gallons.

Furniture Cushions: \$43 each for new covers. Currently the lodge has 2 chairs, a love seat and a sofa totaling 14 total cushions.

Plastic Tarps: \$10 each. (9x12) Quantity needed: 4

Mattresses: \$50 each. Quantity needed: 8

Cash donations are always appreciated.

Donated items can be picked up. Checks can be made payable to 'Camp Paddy Run' and sent to:

Lori Orndorff
35749 Roundleaf Court
Round Hill, VA 20141

PADDY RUN OUTDOOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE

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Above: The crowd gathers around for songs at Parish Day Camp.

A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

Since 2006, the Paddy Run Outdoor Ministry Committee— or PROM Committee for short- has been managing the day-to-day operations of Camp Paddy Run in addition to helping out with other churches programs and hosting a few of their own including the fall and spring work days, the spring Kickball Tournament and Fall Youth Retreat.

We can always use more help!... if you are enthusiastic about working with youth, are an outdoor enthusiast, or just looking for a way to outwardly practice what you've been preached— join the PROM Committee.... No ugly tuxedos or strapless gowns required— we promise!

Find out more by visiting our website:
www.camppaddyrun.org

Thanks for reading!

- Paddy Run Outdoor Ministry Committee