



CAMP PADDY RUN

# News

PADDY RUN OUTDOOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE

SUMMER 2013

WWW.CAMPPADDYRUN.ORG

## MOFFET GRANT SHINES BLESSINGS ON PARISH DAY CAMP

It was another bustling summer for the Parish of the Valleys— as once again they hosted their ever-popular Day Camp, June 24-28th. And as the trend continues, the attendance charts topped well over 100 each day— averaging 96 campers and dozens of adult helpers.

Numerous volunteers come together to make this week happen— doing everything from making and delivering lunches, driving vans, teaching classes and crafts, leading recreation and cleaning port-o-johns. But this year the Parish received additional help- by receiving much-needed funds from the Moffet Grant.



*Above: It's all smiles for the youth at Thursday night's vespers service. Overnight camping is a privilege reserved for 7-12th graders. This year, 28 teens enjoyed the overnight experience, welcoming 9 first-timers.*



*Above: Pastor Duckworth speaks to the youth at evening vespers as a beautiful sun begins to set.*

Despite all the volunteer labor, operational costs can be quite high— especially since almost every one of the 96 campers are bussed in to Camp Paddy Run from various pick-up points. It takes 6 vans and a lot of gas to make this happen! But David Duckworth, Director of the Parish Day Camp, feels the vans are an absolute necessity to the camp's mission— making attendance accessible to everyone. Duckworth cites that about half the children that attend Day Camp do not currently have a church home. The Parish continues to reach out to these campers and their parents— by inviting guests to attend Friday's closing ceremony, as well as inviting them to visit the participating churches on 'Camp Day.' The Parish will give a full report about Day Camp and their use of Moffet Grant funds at the November meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery.

This year's theme focused on the life of Paul. Daily activities included Bible study, swim time, crafts, lunch, recreation and songs. And although Day Camp has been a ministry of the Parish for over 25 years, there were still many 'firsts' this year: We had 2 campers baptized during Day Camp; we also had our first international exchange student attending- a young man from Valencia, Spain. And finally, a 12-year old camper sailed a toad down Paddy's Run in her hand-crafted boat! ( see page 4 for photo! )



## LOW-TECH GETS HIGH PRAISE FROM CAMPERS

### An eye-witness account into the lives of teenage campers

If you think all teenagers want to do is text on their phones or play video games— think again! It's been another incredible summer at Camp Paddy Run and I'm still in awe as to the things that go on here. God has certainly blessed this rustic retreat with magic and wonderment—and not just for me, but for all the kids that come here.

As someone in my 40's, I don't know if I yet qualify for talking about the 'good old days.' And yet I see time and time again that the older, simpler ways are still the better ways. This summer I was pleasantly surprised to see that these high schoolers truly embraced the 'old school' way of life. Alleluia to that!

Now, if you REALLY want to see the inner child come out in your high schooler- simply give them a haystack to play with. Yes, that's right, a hay stack! I watched in silent amazement as 12 kids played in the field in, on and around this haystack for 45 minutes. It just goes to show— kids get tired of acting cool— they really just want to play.

Shock number two— Teens still have their imaginations. And seemingly fully intact! One evening this summer, we were blessed to have Bill Painter come back to Camp Paddy Run and engage the kids in stories around the campfire. Bill has not only championed outdoor ministry in this Presbytery for years— but he's the person that hired me to come work here back in 1992!

I was thrilled to have Bill return and tell some classic stories around the campfire. Even more impressive, was watching the kids faces light up when their imaginations took hold of these tall tales. There was not a rustling among them— all feet were still, eyes locked, hanging on his every word. Now THIS, I thought, is the art of story telling! Thank you, Bill, for a super evening!

And lastly, when I asked several of the campers, "what was your favorite thing you did this week?" For so many, their answer was, " I loved it when we built those boats and raced them down the creek!" So there you have it folks. The moral here is that when given the chance, kids STILL just want to be kids!

-Amy Tubbs, PROM Committee



Above: Teens show off their hand-made boats before sailing them down Paddy's Run in this honored camp tradition.



## NEW INITIATIVE AIMS TO BRING IN MORE YOUTH GROUPS TO PADDY RUN

The Youth Retreat Program at Paddy Run designed to educate and entertain.

**What is it?** The Youth Retreat Program at Camp Paddy Run is an opportunity for youth leaders to bring their group out to Paddy Run for an exciting, fun-filled and educational experience. It's a time for your youth to leave their usual 'comfort zone' and bond in a truly unique way. Members of our Outdoor Ministry Team— and former camp counselors—Amy Tubbs and Lori Orndorff will be your hosts for the entire weekend- leading games, lessons, outdoor adventures, and meal preparation.

**Why?** It is our mission is to bring as many youth as possible in Shenandoah Presbytery out to Camp Paddy Run. And we realize not every great youth leader is a *great outdoors* leader! So we are here to help by leading the weekend's activities and showing adult leaders how fun and easy it can be to camp overnight.

**When?** That's the best part— whenever it's best for you! Before contacting us, have at least 2 weekends that work for you in case your first choice is already booked.

**How?** Simply choose your theme ( listed right ) and pick your dates, then contact Lori Orndorff to reserve your retreat!

Either 1) fill out the online reservation form at [www.camppaddyrun.org](http://www.camppaddyrun.org)

2) email us at [info@camppaddyrun.org](mailto:info@camppaddyrun.org) or

3) call Lori at 540-751-1304.

**We hope to see you soon!**



Above: Cold January weather didn't keep this group from enjoying the fun team challenges during the 'Jesus Christ, Reality Star'

### Choose from various fun themes:

#### Thanks Be to God: Nurturing an 'Attitude for Gratitude'

This weekend combines the excitement of a challenging scavenger hunt throughout the camp's vast acreage with a more reflective time as we explore the many things we are thankful for.

#### Going for the Gold: Victory in our Lives

Ideal for the groups that love a little friendly competition— this retreat hosts a long list of wacky Olympic games as well as studying God's word and turning our attention to the race we are running in our own lives.

#### Jesus Christ, Reality Star!

Don't change that channel!... this weekend will engage youth in exciting challenges inspired from some favorite reality TV shows: *Dancing with the Stars*, *Survivor*, *Cake Boss*, *Project Runway* or *Top Chef*- but ultimately how Jesus is the star of your very own REALITY.

#### EMOTION COMOTION: Biblical Foundations for Balancing Life's Ups and Downs.

We're diving deep into life's ups and downs and exploring what the Bible says about how we can handle some of our destructive emotions. Prayer journals, role playing and hilarious games are all part of exploring our many emotions.



## Just for Fun:

### 10 THINGS YOU MIGHT SEE WHEN YOU VISIT PADDY RUN

1. A lunar moth
2. A shooting star
3. Mushrooms the size of your head
4. A road with no cars going by
5. A crawfish in Paddy's run
6. A raccoon up in a tree
7. An amazing sunset
8. A field full of wild flowers
9. A fossil in the rocky ground
10. A dare-devil toad!

#1



#10

#3



#7



#5

### PADDY RUN OUTDOOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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#### FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

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Or visit [www.CampPaddyRun.org](http://www.CampPaddyRun.org)