

W.A.N.A.K.

Wanake Alumni News And Kamping Extra

Camp Wanake- 9463 Manchester Rd. SW- Beach City, OH 44608
Alumni Website- <http://pages.sssnet.com/snowdirt/wanake.htm>



Helping Us Stay In Touch

Praising God for 60 Years!

Spring 2007—Volume 5, Issue 1

July 2006 marked the celebration of Wanake's 60 year history as a ministry. 150 people from across the years and across the country gathered to remember, relive, renew, and reinvest in the Wanake experience. Highlights of the weekend celebration included:

- Opening night campfire on newly re-established Inspiration Point
- Buddy burner breakfast in the rain! (Yes, real campers still camp in the rain!)
- A walk through Wanake history in words and pictures with Peter Hahn, Wanake alumnus and historian.
- Singing, singing and more singing
- A Wanake action where the old saw maker, Amish quilts and handmade items brought in funds to support the ongoing ministry
- Worship included singing with Bing Crosby, Emily Currie, Sparks Tallentire, and Dave Mayes; scripture with Dean Roush; stories with Ken Ward and Fred Schmidt; prayer with Dee Hayes; and friendship circle with Bob and Libby Kuntz.
- A visioning of the future.
- Decade photos – You can view them on line at <http://pages.sssnet.com/snowdirt/wanake/60th.htm>.
- Campfire with many traditional acts and special sharings, including a telling of "The Mexican Bandits."
- Wagon tours of camp were popular with special stops at the new composting toilet and the log cabin building site to meet builder "Stumpy Boggs" and the baby buffalo
- Hikes on the new nature trail with developers Fred Schmidt, Bob Hawes and Dave Schar.
- Swims, night hikes and other traditional activities
- A Barn Riot square dance in the Inpost Barn
- Sunday morning worship with many sharing the power of God in story, song and verse
- Visiting and reminiscing and reminiscing and visiting all mixed in!

Some video footage was taken of the 60th anniversary event and the Moody Memorial. You can get a copy on DVD for \$6 by contacting the Wanake office.

Thank you Lenten Prayer Partners!
Your prayer support is vital to the ministry.

Get this publication on line- Register with the Wanake office and we will notify you by e-mail when it has been posted to the web site. To register go to www.campwanake.org, click the alumni tab, and look for the alumni newsletter section.

To Contribute to the W.A.N.A.K.E. please contact Kelly Brown, editor,
with your story, memory, news or comments using the information below.
Rev. Kelly Paul Brown – 224 Hummel Ave. SW, H: 330-339-3993 – W: 330-343-4131
Email: oumc@tusco.net or browneyk@yahoo.com



Smoke Signals



Help Wanake Serve More Campers in 2007

Wanake is prepared to serve many more campers than we served in 2006. You are one of Wanake's richest resources. As alumni you know and understand the power of the camp experience for children and teens. Your word to your friends, family, church, and community is vital to Wanake's ability to serve more campers. We need your help to spread the news about camping at Wanake.

Now is the time to start sharing with others the power and importance of the camp experience. Here are some ideas:

- Plan a "Camp Sunday" at your church. Contact your camp contact or pastor. Do this soon. The early bird discount is good through May 1st!
- If your congregation does not have a camp contact, you are an excellent candidate! Offer your enthusiasm for camping to this important task.
- If your church is not in the East Ohio Conference or a United Methodist Church, Wanake would still like to be your church's camp. Check with your pastor about your congregation's camp connections and if there is no other camp affiliation, let's start talking with families about summer camp.
- Many resources are available including DVDs, brochures, posters, etc. Also, a representative from one of the three sites can be your guest for a Sunday morning or other setting. Contact Julie with requests.
- Now is also the time to plan a "Camp Party" at your house. The "Party in a Box" is a new tool that helps you plan a party in your home or church for children and families who may be interested in summer camp. Returning campers can earn a \$10 discount for each new camper they recruit. You can order a "Party in a Box" by contacting Wanake or going to <http://www.eocumc.com/camps/summer07/images/partinabox.pdf>.

Start now!
Help Wanake have the biggest and best summer yet!

Summer 2007 is on the web and in mail-boxes! - Wanake is excited about the many opportunities for campers.

Here are some **late-breaking programs** that didn't make the brochure. Both One Day Adventure and Day Camp are excellent introductions to summer camp at Wanake.

- **One Day Adventure**—Tuesday, June 12 for grades 1-9 in fall 2007. Dive into summer camp for one day. Campers arrive at 9AM and end the day with a 4:00 PM parent program. Enjoy games, a cookout, Bible Study, swimming, & hiking. Older groups get to plan their day. Options for older groups include canoeing and rock climbing. Cost: \$5 Register by June 5th.
- **Day Camp - Back by Popular Demand**—July 9-13 for grades 1-3 in fall 2007. Wanake by day and home at night! We'll pack your days full of fun and you'll still get to sleep in your own bed. Catch this exclusive week for day camp. Hours are 9AM to 4:30 PM. Cost: \$149. Early Bird: \$129

Some of the **new programs** for 2007 include:

- "Good Neighbors" This mission camp for 4th-6th graders introduces the many opportunities to serve Christ by serving others. It includes mission work at Wanake & in the community.
- "To Be Continued" features opportunities to write, read and tell stories for 4th-6th graders. It has a brother program for 7th-9th graders called simply "Stories."
- "Build Stuff" for 1st-3rd graders and sister program "Build It" for grades 4-6 feature extra time in the Home-in-the-Woods for creating cool things.
- "Wing It Outpost" & "Wing It Inpost" for sr. high teens provide a flexible setting where groups plan their week as they go.
- "Charcoal," "Cast Iron Kitchen" and "Ultimate Survivor" are three programs that showcase Wanake's strong outdoor cooking tradition.

Listen! God Is Calling! is our theme for Summer Camp 2007

Please pray that campers will be open to hear God calling them as we explore the scriptures and living in community together at Wanake this summer. Daily Bible study themes for 2007 include: **Called to be Loved, Called to Gratitude, Called to Faith, Called to Love, and Called to Share.** Campers will also grow in their faith through exciting worship times, the summer mission project, faith builders, singing, Scripture memorization, and service projects!

Camp Wanake

60th

Anniversary

Wanake Alumni News And Kamp-

The 60th Anniversary Fund Tops \$11,000!

December 31, 2006 brought the 60th Anniversary Fund drive to its official conclusion. Over the course of the year alumni raised \$11,497.70.

With these funds (and those raised in 2005) the alumni were able to complete the following projects:

1. The composting toilet which has been in operation since May. This project, whose final price tag was \$9,400 was a pilot venture for both a fully alumni funded project and an alternative wastewater treatment option. It has taken us two years to fund raise and complete the construction. It has been a success in every way!
2. A new entrance door for Moody Retreat Center.
3. Highway signs announcing the 60th Anniversary year of Wanake
4. Additional new tables for the dining hall and painting the outside of the Inpost Barn
5. Purchase of a new, commercial washing machine (Yes, it will do sleeping bags!)
6. A new kitchen office computer
7. \$668 and 20 disaster health kits were donated through the United Methodist Church for hurricane relief efforts. This was the campers' summer mission project
8. 60th Anniversary Celebration preparation
9. Construction of the recycling area for Wanake's new recycling program.
10. More than \$1,000 raised for camperships

Alumni began:

1. A climbing wall for the pool, which should be completed this spring and ready for operation this summer.
2. Planning for and a fund to support the renovation and restoration of the Inpost Barn. Already many hours of planning and \$2,298 has been contributed.
3. Plans and material purchase to re-connect and upgrade the Orchard Shelter electricity and RV site outlets. This is a project that the East Ohio Camps funding will assist in completing this year.
4. Re-siding the Outpost Barn (2006 was the first year in this four year project. We completed one-fourth of the barn this year.)

In addition to the monies raised, Alumni and friends also gave innumerable gifts in kind, including an eight passenger mini van, fireplace tools, auction items, and volunteer labor for projects. Thank you everyone!

Alumni Dryer Challenge

A generous camper grandmother saw Wanake's need for a commercial washer in the newsletter and responded faithfully with the monies to purchase a new one that meets Wanake's needs. The gift was made in memorial of Dorothy Beard from 1st United Methodist Church in Akron. The Wanake alumni have now been challenged to raise funds to purchase the companion commercial dryer. \$935 is needed and so far \$180 has already been given towards the challenge. Send your gift marked, "dryer challenge," to Wanake. Let's rise to the challenge!

Foundation Report- Wanake received a grant from a local foundation for the summer of 2006 to provide camperships for those who cannot afford camp. A big thank you to the Hillier Family Foundation in Sharon Center, Ohio.

We need your help to find local foundations whose mission and goals line up with Wanake's. These foundations could help us fund camperships, specialized programs (like Special Persons Camp), and/or fund capital projects. If you know of such foundations and/or would be willing to assist in foundation research, please contact Julie Lautt at Wanake@verizon.net or alumnus Jim Tichenor at tichenjd@georgetown.edu.

Wanake Alumni News And Kamping Ex-



Alumni Projects 2007 – Reinvest in Wanake

Wanake receives funding each year from a number of sources, including our alumni, the return on invested endowment funds and funding by the people of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Since summer camp and retreat group fees only cover the basic operations of the site (a large subsidy to our operating budget covers a number of fixed costs), your support is vital to our continuing work to maintain, upgrade, and add to the site and facilities.

Here are some of the projects we would like alumni to partner with us in 2007.

- \$1,200 in Camperships– a 20% increase over last year's alumni campership giving!
- The Commercial Dryer Challenge - \$935 – Giving the ability to effectively dry laundered sleeping bags!
- A Commercial Salad Bar for the Dining Hall (existing Salad Bar to serve the Outpost Barn) - \$1,100
- Completion of the Rock Climbing Wall at the Pool - \$715
- Handwashing Station at the Composting Toilet - \$660
- Outpost Barn Siding (next ¼ of the building) and Basic Ventilation - \$2,900
- Additional Phone Set for the Office - \$125

To meet these goals we need to raise \$7,600 this year. You may send your gift or pledge to invest in the ministry at Wanake, directly to Camp Wanake (9463 Manchester Road SW, Beach City, Ohio 44608) or to Gary Jones (8800 Cleveland Ave NW, PO Box 2800, North Canton, OH 44720.) Pledges to the campership fund that will be paid by May 1, 2007, are especially sought. Wanake also warmly welcomes gifts of materials and labor.

The East Ohio Conference Invests in Ministry at Wanake

The East Ohio Conference and the return on funds invested on behalf of all the East Ohio Camps will help Wanake accomplish more than \$29,000 in capital projects in the coming year including:

- Mosquito Traps – a new technology to help Wanake combat an increasing mosquito concern
- Expansion of one Adirondack Shelter and upgrades to both of them for increased flexibility in their use.
- Upgrades to the kitchen and dining hall including new ceiling covering, sink facets, table coverings, and mats; and an awning over the walk-in freezer that sits outside.
- New deck for the mower.
- Replacement and upgrade of the pool shower house hot water system
- Roof replacement
- Re-connect and upgrade the Orchard Shelter electricity and RV site outlets in the Orchard.

You are also welcome to give towards any of these projects. Simply follow the directions above.

Wanake's Need List

Gift items that can help with Wanake's continued Ministry

Get a detailed list of items & projects on the web at <http://pages.sssnet.com/snowdirt/wanake/wish.htm>

Animal care supplies: brushes, saddles, horse helmets, etc.

Used Vehicles – Mini Van/Car/Pick-up

Candles – used & new

Yarn, Bailing Twine, & String

Quality Tools – hand and electric, home or commercial

Refrigerators

Paint Sprayer—Commercial Power Washer

Kitchen Cabinets-Stainless Steel Counters

Mirrors – all sizes

Medical Supplies

Volunteer Labor

Laptop and Desktop Computers

Ping Pong Tables, Air Hockey, Foosball Table

Large Projection Screens

Small lamp shades

Mattes for framing pictures

Lumber—Hardware for woodworking projects

Lifejackets – child and adult sizes

Canoes, kayaks, and rowboats

Folding, lightweight tables—Stacking chairs

CD, DVD, and LCD players/projectors

Monetary Donations to Complete Projects around the Site

Up-Coming Events at Wanake “Beautiful, Spiritual Place Among the Hills”

Fall, Winter, Spring & Summer

Friday-Sunday, February 9-11, 2007
Friday-Sunday, February 23-25, 2007
 Friday-Sunday, March 9-11, 2007
March 15-18 & 22-25, 2007
 March 16-18, 2007
Saturdays, April 21 and May 13, 2007
 Sunday, April, 22, 2007 from 2-6 PM
Friday-Monday, May 25-28, 2007
 May 31-June 3 & June 7-10, 2007
Tuesday-Saturday, June 12-16, 2007
 Saturday, June 16, 2007
June 17-August 10, 2007
 June 17-22, 2007
Sunday-Friday, June 24-29, 2007
 Sunday-Friday, July 8-13, 2007
Thursday-Friday, August 16-17, 2007
 Saturday-Sunday, August 25-26, 2007
Saturday-Sunday, August 25-26, 2007
 September 7-9, 2007
Friday-Monday, Aug 31-Sept 3, 2007
 Friday-Sunday, September 14-16, 2007
Friday-Sunday, September 14-16, 2007
 Friday-Sunday, October 5-7, 2007
October 11-14 & 18-21, 2007
 Saturdays in the Fall, 2007
Friday-Sunday, November 16-18, 2007
 Friday-Sunday, November 16-18, 2007
December 2007

Book a Date For Your Local Church's Retreat or Outing

Confirmation Retreat
Hunger Awareness Famine Retreat
 Send in the Clowns: A Clown Ministry Workshop
Spring Walk to Emmaus Weekends
 College Bound-Retreat for Ages 17-19
Wanake Work Days
 Wanake Open House
Memorial Day Family Weekend CAMP-O-RAMA
 Summer Walk to Emmaus Weekends
Alumni Work Week
 Alumni Gathering and Celebration
Summer Camp Programs
 Programs for Children of Annual Conference Attendees
Teen Leadership Training—LIT
 “Calling” – Ministry Exploration Week for Teens
Grandparent/Grandchild Overnight
 Mother-Daughter Overnight
Father-Son Overnight
 Amish Discovery Events for Adults
Labor Day Family Weekend
 Women's Spiritfire Retreat
Adult Backpacking Trip
 Grandparent/Grandchild Weekend
Fall Walk to Emmaus Weekends
 Conference Wide Work Days
Fall Family Outing
 Youth Connection Weekend
Wanake Celebrates Christmas

To register or for more information, contact:

Wanake Camp and Retreat Center

Meeting deep needs for revitalization and challenging guests to discipleship and community.

9463 Manchester Road SW, Beach City, Ohio 44608

Phone: 330-756-2333

Fax: 330-756-2300

Email: wanakeinfo@verizon.net Web Site: www.CampWanake.org

***East Ohio Camps...Experiencing the Grace of God in the Outdoors!
Camp For Life***

F. Y. F. (For Your Fridge) Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for the ministry at Wanake. Your prayers are powerful & effective & bless us daily.
(Please cut this out and place it on your fridge where you can be reminded to pray for Camp Wanake and staff daily.)

- Summer campers considering summer camp and their parents/families
- The summer staff (paid and volunteer) recruitment, hiring, and training
- The summer Bible Study: Listen! God is Calling. and the selection of memory verses.
- Preparation for the summer ministry
- The many spring groups Wanake hosts, including 6th graders for outdoor education.
- The year-round staff
- Wanake's witness to the community
- The many campers, families, guests and churches that will be impacted by Wanake in the coming days, months and years.

Summer 2006 - A Look at Results!

Our theme was “Pray” and that is what we did, all summer! Campers reported growth in many areas, especially prayer. Here are some of their comments from evaluation forms when asked what they had learned:

- I was not praying as much, but now I want to pray more.
- My relationship with God was rekindled through the focus on prayer and Bible studies
- I prayed a lot more than normal. I learned to talk to Him as I would a friend.
- I read the Bible more than ever
- I really started praying more and I learned so much more about Him
- I decided to rededicate myself during morning watch
- You can pray to God whenever, wherever.
- God loves us no matter what we do
- That there is always room for more forgiveness in God’s heart
- The most important thing I learned was what a Christian really is
- Not to judge people by their appearance How to pray without being shy
- That praying is your lifeline with God



It is very difficult to measure the effects of a week of camp. Measuring spiritual growth, community building, and leadership skills can be a challenge. The other difficulty lies in the fact that what we are attempting to build in children and the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in and among them is much like sowing seeds, we won't see the results for quite a while, sometimes a long while. And, with all of that said, it is still important to ask our campers, staff and parents to evaluate the camp experience.

The following are evaluation results that directly relate to spiritual growth in campers.

- Our younger campers were asked “Did you invite Christ into your heart, rededicate your life to Christ, or grow in your walk with Christ this week?” 200 of the 210 younger campers, who filled out evaluation forms this year, reported that they had grown in their faith with a “yes” answer. That is 95%. How exciting!
- Of the 354 older campers filling out evaluations 51 (14%) reported a first time commitment to Christ, 163 (46%) reported a rededication to Christ, and 329 (93%!) said that they grew in their faith. It is a privilege to see God at work!

We also asked the campers about their counselors as spiritual role models.

- When asked if their counselor had read the Bible with them personally, 71% of campers of all ages responded with a yes.
- When asked if their counselor talked with them personally about God, 82% answered in the affirmative.
- When asked if their counselor had prayed with them during the week, 81% of the campers answered that they had.

Parents reported spiritual development, too.

- “My son had a great time and I have never seen him so open in his faith. ...He was certainly blessed.”
- “The moment I saw him all he could talk about was coming again next year. He attended in August 2006 and now it’s January 2007... Last week he heard a song at church and he said, ‘Mommy, they taught us that at camp.’ It’s really great to have a place for children to grow and learn in God’s word.”
- My daughter just went to camp... for the second year..., had a blast! I wanted to let you know what a wonderful job her counselors did to make her week a great memory. ... they seem like very special people. There are never enough special people in the life of a child. She is STILL singing...Amen to that. Thank for a fun, spirit-filled experience.”

While Summer 2006 was a fabulous summer for growth, it was also a low attendance summer at Wanake. Wanake saw 140 fewer campers than in 2005, causing an operating budget shortfall. Your work to share about Wanake’s summer program and encourage campers to attend is most important to us as we head into summer 2007. The full schedule is on the web and brochures are available. If you would like materials to promote camp, please contact Wanake.

Announcements Announcements Announcements

Update from Mel and Dee Hayes!

Hi to all! We are doing well & Mel is doing great! I can't believe he was so sick. [Mel was very sick with gangrene of the gallbladder and peritonitis, had emergency surgery in late October, and was in ICU for 4 days. He was not able to care for Dee for a period of time.] Now, we are just keeping warm in the house. We are getting closer to getting a new house, I hope. [One that is more conducive to wheelchairs, etc.] We have so much to do. If you know someone who needs a house in Akron, we will be selling one. Have a single bedroom suite to sell and will have a spring yard sale. Please pray things go okay for the new house.

Love, Dee & Mel Hayes

Tom Myers' Updated Contact Information

Tom is now living in his own apartment in Dover. He enjoys hearing from friends.

Tom Myers
4094 Gibbs Lane NW
Dover, OH 44622
330 - 343 - 5205
temyers@wilkshire.net

Reflections of an Alumnus

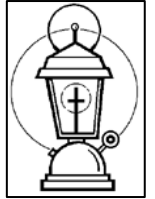
Thanks for the continuing update on Camp Wanake (Wanake's Alumni E-mail Network*). I especially was struck by the fact that other denominational churches and non-denominational families are surely welcomed for a Christian camping experience. Camp Wanake has long been a leadership training ground and a spiritually renewing experience. Many campers have gone on in their discipleship throughout the Christian community. So it was a light-bulb moment to realize that we alumni are vital to the Wanake connection for the generations following us, regardless of the name on the church where we are active.

With Prayers for strength and joy in the Lord,
Patsy Schar Ciampa

*You can join the Wanake alumni e-mail network on line at www.CampWanake.org.

The NOMADS are a Blessing

The NOMADS spent three weeks at Wanake this fall for the third year in a row. This team of retired people, who stay in their RVs while giving of their time and talents at Wanake for three weeks working Monday through Thursday each week, have been a blessing. In 2004 they replaced the electrical wiring in the Pines Cabins, paving the way for exhaust fans to be installed and making the cabins safer and more functional as our guests become more electricity dependant! In 2005, a team of six replaced the Orchard Shelter. If you haven't seen the new shelter yet, do come check it out.



This fall the 2006 project was residing the first quarter of the Outpost Barn. Recently we had been having a great deal of damage to the floor of the building because of the exposure to the elements on the end of the barn with the kitchen facilities. From the people door to the corner and around the side facing Knoll Pond, the new rough cut lumber was stained and then attached including new window shutters with new hardware. It really looks great and rustic like the old barn at the same time! We hope to host NOMADS again this fall and have them do a second quarter of the barn. If you would like to know more about the NOMADS, check them out at www.nomadsumc.org.

Alumni Gather for Fellowship and Song in Florida! By Sylvia & Don "Sparks" Tallentire-

Another Sing-A-Long has come and gone. Our group was 9 this time. Several had plans changed at the last minute but we enjoyed our meal and time together. The Harrolds, Tallentires, Schars and Betty Lou Savage and friend and Rich Parsons originally from Mansfield filled the chairs this year.

The article Sanctuary on page 5 is a copy of a wonderful letter sent to us from Don and Mary Myers from their granddaughter Anna Hahn [studying in Spain], via Peter and Cathy Hahn her parents. We loved receiving it and reading it in our gathering. We had trouble getting back to singing for a while. Thank you, Anna!

February 23, 2008 will be our next Wanake Sing-A-Long. So write it into the back of your calendar so you will remember to write it into its place when your 2008 calendar arrives.

Sincerely, Your Sing-A-Long Gang %Don Tallentire

Reconnect with Wanake friends!
Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Wanake Alumni Gathering June 16, 2007 from 1-4 PM at Wanake.
We'll save you some ice cream.

Upcoming Alumni and Adult Events at Wanake

Alumni Work Week for Adult Alumni-June 12-16

Step into the 61st year of Wanake with a work week. Stay in the retreat house (health center), your own tent or RV, or a cabin. Put your skills to work for God's Kingdom. Gardening, typing, filing get-acquainted forms, Trading Post set up, Home-in-the-Woods preparations, baking, mowing, trail maintenance, prayer trail development, and more await you. In the evenings enjoy campfires and more fellowship. Alumni plan their own schedule. Plan now to attend this mission oriented alumni gathering. Donations are accepted to cover costs and beyond. (Suggested donation to cover meals is \$59/person; \$99/couple)

Amish Discovery Weekend for Adults

September 7-9

Take a trip into the world's largest Amish community just minutes from Wanake! Enjoy sights and sounds of Amish country. Take in it's unique culture and cuisine. Visit a three-generation blacksmith shop, stop in for milking time at an Amish farm, and enjoy a meal in an Amish Home. The weekend will also include presentations and dialogue with Amish and English presenters. Stay in a Wanake retreat center. The \$109 fee includes overnights, six meals, transportation and activities.

Alumni Gathering and Celebration—June 16

Join us for a alumni gathering and sing-a-long. This afternoon at Wanake will feature fellowship, music, and old-fashioned homemade ice cream. All attendees are asked to bring a donation (monetary or in-kind) for the ministry at Wanake! Plan to join the celebration on Saturday, June 16, 2007 from 1-4 PM.



Camp Wanake is proud to have earned accreditation by the American Camp Association (ACA). ACA Accreditation means that Camp Wanake submitted to a thorough (over 300 standards) review of every facet of its operation by the ACA — from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. American Camp Association collaborates with experts and youth service agencies to assure that current practices in program, health and safety at the camp reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. Camp Wanake and ACA

form a partnership that promotes summers of growth and fun in an environment committed to safety.

Wanake is also a member of the Christian Camp and Conference Association, committed to promoting excellence in Christian camping and hospitality through leadership development.



Julie Lautt—Director

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Website—www.CampWanake.org



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Volunteers

It Only Takes a Spark



...to get a fire going. It only takes one volunteer to make a big difference in the ministry at Wanake!

Marshal Peterson knows how much firewood retreat groups use in a season and how much time it takes to cut, split, and haul firewood. He knows the time it takes away from the many other responsibilities of the site manager. "Marshalling" his troops, the couples of the Brewster & Wilmot UMCs Men's group, he pulls together two days each year when 20 folks come and do the work it take to literally keep the hearth fires burning for retreat groups all year!

Dave Collier's heart for the power of the camp experience led him to invite friends to look after the vista from Vesper Hill, lead work day crews, and assist with any job that needs to be done.

Al and Virginia Leidtke, drawn to Wanake having experienced the difference it has made in the lives of their children and grandchildren, volunteer at Wanake often. Virginia assists in the office one day each week and Al assists with tractor driving, errands, and maintenance work as needed.

This is just a taste of the many people who make a difference at Wanake daily with their sparks. Donations of expertise in graphic design, computers, culinary arts, web savvy, engineering, electric, plumbing, summer camp promotion, health care, fund raising, prayer, carpentry, gardening, writing, visioning, (and the list goes on), enrich the Wanake ministry day after day.

Listen! God is calling. What is God calling you to do today to reach lives through Wanake?

Sanctuary—Sanc-tu-ar-y

By Anna Hahn

1. A sacred or holy place
2. An especially holy place in a temple or church.
3. The part of a church around the altar.

This weekend as I sat in the cathedral in Ronda, I started thinking about all the different sanctuaries there are, and how different each one is. As I gazed at the gold statues, the deep mahogany of the intricately carved wood, the beautiful altars, and the ornate stone ceiling, I found myself thinking about Vesper Hill and comparing the two places. Both are sanctuaries, both constructed to give people a place to worship the same God, but the similarities really end there.

Ancient gold cross. Simple wooden beams. Silver plated altar. Moss-covered limestone block. Stone sculpture of Jesus in deep purple adorned with a crown. Weed-covered fire circle, adorned with half of a burnt log from last week's campfire. Intricately carved pews. Bark-covered logs. Marble floors. Grass. Arched stone ceiling lit by candles. Blue sky framed by trees and illuminated by sunlight.

The noises are different: the echo of an organ versus the sound of birds and guitars singing. The smells are different: incense versus mosquito spray. The people are different: a priest robed in silk and jewels versus a college student clad in jeans, a dirty t-shirt, and wet, muddy sneakers. The environ-

ment is different: the everlasting coolness of an ancient stone edifice versus the hot, muggy days of summer.

But the God? The God is the same. He's there in the stone building just as much as He is under the "God is Nigh" sign. Incense or campfire smoke makes no difference; "the sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken and contrite spirit." Latin hymns or "Pharaoh, Pharaoh"? "Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!" As long as they are acts of worship, both are equally acceptable. Tattered tennis shoes or a hand-stitched robe? "Only, put on the full armor of God and stand firm, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

It's amazing, isn't it? Wherever we go, we can praise God in His sanctuary -it matters not what it looks like, nor where it is, nor how or when it was constructed, because, as Hebrews reminded me, even at our best, we can only "offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one." No matter how high the arches reach or how much the gold shines, it can never be enough. No matter where we would rather be- and I must say, I prefer the sloping hills of Wanake to the towering cathedrals of Europe any day. It doesn't matter, because God is there no matter where we are,

**Make a visit today to the Wanake Alumni and 60th Anniversary Web Sites.
<http://pages.sssnet.com/snowdirt/wanake/wanake.htm> and**



Volunteer Opportunities at Wanake

227 People Share Time and Talent in 2006

Wanake volunteers brought life to camp this year. More than 146 folks served in a support role this year in food service, office, health care, and maintenance. An additional 81 volunteers planned and/or led program throughout the year. Some volunteers gave a few hours or a day; others came regularly to serve; still others gave a full week.

Consider what God is calling you to do in relationship with the Wanake Ministry. There are many opportunities. Read on to learn more and then contact Julie Lutt or Adam Leidtke at Wanake (Wanake@verizon.net or 330-756-2333). We look forward to speaking with you about putting what God has given you to work in the ministry at Wanake.*

Summer Volunteers are Sought

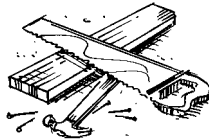
Already ten (10) volunteer deans are committed to directing programs and half a dozen others are committed to volunteering in some other aspect of the summer ministry, including counseling, leading activities, or serving in a support role. Make plans now to be a part of the summer ministry.

Be an MVP of the MVP

Wanake's Maintenance Volunteer Program (MVP) has many most valuable players assisting daily with the work of maintaining and enhancing the 250 acres of holy ground God has entrusted us with. There are always tasks to be done. Consider joining this team.

Spring Work Days Coming Up

Plan to attend April 21st and/or May 12th from 9AM-4PM. Invite others to join you! Call Wanake ahead with your numbers and skills.



Critical Needs for Summer 2007

- Health Care Professionals to help with medications and care for Special Persons Camp weeks. Can be a resident or commuting commitment. Weeks that help is needed are: June 25-29, July 2-6, July 16-20, and July 30-August 3.
- Special Persons Camp program leadership at the dates above.
- Office/Trading Post assistance the week of annual conference, June 17-22.
- Counselors for all age groups throughout the summer, June 17-August 10.
- Kitchen assistance and landscaping in May (for school groups) and throughout the summer.
- Cabin sitters. See next column.

*The American Camp Association has revised the standards for accredited camps! One of these changes requires that Wanake run background checks on all staff, paid and volunteer.

Want to volunteer? Only have a few hours?

Serve as a Tuesday or Wednesday night cabin/tent sitter during counselor meeting! Tuesday night counselor meeting is for counselors of older groups and Wednesday is for younger groups. Responsibilities include helping groups prepare for bed and reading evening stories.

Share a Devotional With Summer Staff

Is there a story or Biblical truth that summer support staff needs to hear? Write from your heart one day's devotion or a one week series! We need 40 devotionals for the summer (5 devotionals each week for 8 weeks). Each day's devotion includes a scripture, short devotional from the heart, written prayer, and thought for the day. 2007 will mark the third year of Wanake alumni providing a devotional guide for the summer support staff. Consider writing one or more! For details go to: <http://pages.sssnet.com/snowdirt/wanake/devotional.htm>.

Sanctuary continued:

and, in the end, worship isn't about us. It is the out-pouring of our souls, not the place or style in which it is done, through which God is glorified and in which heaven rejoices. That, when all is said and done, is what truly matters.

That said, I can only think of one way to end this . . .

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true.
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

Lord, please teach me to be a servant
Kind and gentle, humble and true to you.
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Reflection of You.

A Word From Our Sponsor

2 Timothy 1:9

God saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to God's own purpose and grace. This grace as given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

Check out the NEW Alumni Work Week
June 12-16, 2007