



Rhodes Grove

Camp & Conference Center Est 1917

RHODES GROVE – News in a Nutshell

Fall/Winter 2010

From the Director's Desk

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ "Make level paths for your feet," [b] so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. *Hebrews 12: 1-3;12-13*



I am so thankful that Rhodes Grove is surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses as you, our Rhodes Grove friends and supporters. I am thankful for your prayers, your faithfulness, your commitment and your physical and financial support. I want to be sure that we, the Rhodes Grove staff and governing members, are committed to throwing off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. I want to be intentional about searching myself, about the Rhodes Grove staff searching themselves, about the governing board searching themselves, to identify anything that is attempting to ensnare us and remove us from producing the Lord's perfect will for the ministry that is Rhodes Grove. I am committed to running this race with perseverance. The race marked out for the ministry that is Rhodes Grove. I am committed to producing experiential camping programs, and Biblically enriching educational opportunities and full service retreats, as is proclaimed in the Rhodes Grove mission statement. But most of all I am committed to planting knowledge of Christ, encouraging learning of our Savior's love, and creating an environment for his people to retreat to and seek his face. Rhodes Grove is running a race. Will you commit to running with us? Will you choose to help Rhodes Grove persevere in sharing the good news? Will you fix your eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith and help to position Rhodes Grove to do the same for all who enter our gates?

Rhodes Grove experienced 100 new to Rhodes Grove campers this year...

Will you remain committed to the race that is the ministry of Rhodes Grove?

Rhodes Grove had 78 of our campers this year make life changing commitments to Christ...

Will you consider stepping out and giving financially to ensure that we are able to continue to reach kids for Christ or consider raising your current level of financial commitment?

Rhodes Grove experienced 43 campers needing campership assistance...

Would you sponsor a camper in addition to your regular giving?

Rhodes Grove was made better this year by the tremendous increase in volunteer service...Speakers, Nurses, Cabin Restoration, Housekeeping, Counseling, Grounds keeping, Maintenance...

Would you think about entering into a volunteer relationship with Rhodes Grove?

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, and help us to not grow weary and lose heart. Will you consider your role in making level paths for the feet that enter Rhodes Grove, so that together we can ensure that the lame not be disabled, but rather healed?!!

Committed to the race...
Keeping my eye on THE prize!!!!,
Angie

Trusting God: The Faithful Service of Dean Hoffman

They asked me to park in the grass. And when I entered the church, I discovered that the receiving line extended out of the sanctuary, into the foyer, and nearly down the basement stairs! Every seat in the sanctuary was full, and a substantial crowd of late-comers was being seated in another building to watch the funeral on close-circuit TV. Special music at the service was brought by the three men who have constituted the Couriers, Central Pennsylvania's most famous gospel singing group, for the past fifty years. The deceased was a friend of theirs, it turned out. But, as I could see, he was a friend of very many people.

Dean Hoffman, a long-time board member and friend of Rhodes Grove, passed away rather unexpectedly in July, and I had the opportunity to attend his funeral at the Idaville United Brethren Church a few days later. I was not entirely surprised by either the size of the crowd I encountered or the kind of tributes given about Dean that day. Dean's style was low-key; he was not charismatic, not an up-front kind of guy. But he had very broad shoulders, a very big heart, an incredible amount of knowledge, an enormous capacity for service, and a tremendous faith. It's the combination that makes people sit up and take notice, and show up to say thanks.

It's the faith that will remain his legacy, I suspect. I served on several boards with Dean over the past several decades (is there a ministry board on which Dean did *not* serve?)



He was often originally placed there because of his banking experience; Dean knew finances, and that's a skill that boards are eager to have. But Dean stayed on those boards because he knew God. Simply put, Dean trusted God...with his heart and his life, with his family and his friends, with his church and his charities, with his money and his mouth. And whenever any of the rest of us would hit the panic button, Dean was there, in his quiet and confident manner, to remind us that this was God's ministry, and that we should trust God to take care of things. And, of course, Dean was always proved right.

Dean is gone now...how shall we ever replace him? What will we ever do without him? Oh, yes, that's right...we will do what Dean suggested all along: We'll trust God.

Anthony Blair
Friend
Rhodes Grove Board Member

Remembrance Gifts

In Memory of:

Frank Germeroth
Mary E (Ridley) Rosier

Given by:

Frances Haines
Anna M Bamburg

In Honor of:

Melvin & Margaret
Burkholder
Angela M. Monn

Given by:

Marshall & Susan
Stuff
Anna M Bamburg

2011 - Save the Date

Family Camp 2011 – May 27-30

Summer Camp 2011 – Get Ready to Refuel!!
– 9 Programs! – 4 weeks! - June 26-July 23

Camp Meeting 2011 – August 21-25

*Greater detail available soon!!
Check your mailbox or the
Rhodes Grove Website!*

www.rhodesgrove.com

Cabin Renovations and Stinkbugs vs. Ladybugs

This summer, I have been encouraged by the focus of the camping programs for 2010, “The Pursuit.”

“Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” 2 Tim. 2:22

I know that the campers were challenged with turning away from the things that we constantly face, that should we choose, would not be pleasing to God. Pursuing God-pleasing activities is what Rhodes Grove Camp is all about.

The Rhodes Grove Board of Directors has also been in pursuit of initiatives that would be pleasing to God. To name a few, would be the formulation of a Master Campus Plan, a Risk Management Plan, and a plan that would secure the financial future of the Camp. The Directors and Staff are always looking for ways to develop resources for the Camp, in terms of human resources, the physical plant of the camp, and of course financial resources; all for the Glory and Honor of God.

One initiative that is already underway is the renovation of the “C-Row” and “D-Row” Cabins. Two of the duplex cabins have been completed and one duplex cabin is partially finished. There are many more to be done, at a cost of about \$7,000 per duplex. The renovations include new roofing, new exterior siding, and new interior pine-wood wall surfacing. The cabins will be outfitted



with a microwave oven and a newer refrigerator. The Camp has been blessed with construction-skilled volunteers to perform the work that has been completed. The Board of Directors is encouraging everyone to join us in this endeavor by contributing funds for the purchase of materials, or by assembling a team of skilled volunteers. Most of all, we ask that you include this project in your prayers, for the safety of the volunteers and that God will utilize the renovated cabins to further his Kingdom.

On a personal note, as time allows, I will be pursuing the answer to a couple of questions that have been on my mind. One, are there more stinkbugs than ladybugs? Second, do ladybugs stink worse than stinkbugs? And lastly, which is more delectable, stinkbug pâté or ladybug pâté? I might see if the Rhodes Grove Food Service Division can help me out on the last one.

Glenn D. Watson, President
Rhodes Grove Board of Directors



Employee Spotlight

Marlane Martin – Food Service Director



10 years is a long time. A decade... A milestone in some respects... The first 10 that one may celebrate is being 10 days old or 10 months old; although, the celebration typically is

experienced by others more than us. The next big 10 would be the 10th birthday. WOW... double digits and possibly more independence. The next big 10 to be celebrated could very well be your 10th wedding anniversary. Spouses, 10 years together, experiencing much learning and celebrating and laughing and crying. Well, at Rhodes Grove we are celebrating a 10 this year. Our Food Service Director, Marlane Martin has been on staff with Rhodes Grove since October 1, 2000. Some time was taken recently to ask Marlane about her tenure at "The Grove".

How did you find your way to Rhodes Grove?

I lived for 18 years just 5 miles away from camp and never had heard of Rhodes Grove until I answered an advertisement in the Public Opinion for a part-time cook.

What were your expectations in October of 2000?

I did have some knowledge of camping ministry from several years of service at Camp Hebron, but at the time my expectations were more self-centered. I was looking for a 'job' closer to home that was flexible to allow time with our, then, 3 teenage children. I was also looking forward to using my talents to serve the Lord.

How has service at Rhodes Grove met or exceeded your expectations?

Where do I begin?? HA!! I have grown so much over the past 10 years!! I have developed leadership skills I did not know I had. I learned to manage people and organize my time. I have dubbed myself Queen of Multi-tasking. Rhodes Grove has allowed me to experiment and try new things. When I first started, I often heard, "but that is not the way we used to do it!" I have also had the joy and privilege of working with all 3 of our children at one time or other in the kitchen. My husband often stops by for breakfast and enjoys interacting with the kitchen staff and helping out from time to time. I have enjoyed getting to know the many RGC staff that I have worked with over the years,

as well as volunteers and guests. Some of our guests have been coming ever since I have been here and it is like greeting family when they return for a weekend.

What is your favorite Rhodes Grove food/meal?

Chipped Beef Gravy, Fried Potatoes, Eggs... Really any breakfast! I really enjoy our (my) homemade Beef Vegetable Soup and Mushroom Barley Soup!! YUM!!

What is the Funniest Memory that you have from working at Rhodes Grove?

Well, anyone that knows me knows that I am not such a great fan of raw chicken. Just this year for family camp, I ordered chicken halves as always for our Saturday Chicken BBQ. Much to my dismay as boxes were being opened, it was realized that the poultry supplier delivered whole chickens as opposed to half chickens. So there we are, volunteers jumping in (thanks Ron Cook, Bob and Vonnie Zeger and Jim Haney) to cut chickens in half so we can get them on the charcoal to have them cooked in time for dinner. There was chicken skin and juice in places that I don't care to mention... Let's just say that I am laughing now... I am also remembering about 15 gallons of macaroni salad spilling onto the floor of the walk in refrigerator... and staff sure does get a kick out of my reaction every time I don't hear them coming... They sure are lucky that I have a sense of humor... Isn't it time to start requiring our staff to be wearing bells on all of our shoes???

Oh - and there was the time when I got to witness the man who took out his teeth to lick them off!!!!

How have you been impacted by employment at Rhodes Grove?

I have been impacted by the people, our campers and guests by meeting them and hearing their stories. I truly enjoy hearing how their experiences at Rhodes Grove affect their lives. I have also enjoyed getting to experience a reunion of sorts, people with whom I have been associated in the past. I have served in Voluntary Service in Florida with the Mennonite Central Committee and also worked at camp Hebron. People who I had relationships with at both of those places have made their way to Rhodes Grove for conferencing or camping and it has been a blessing to see those folks again and have a role in ministering to them.

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Employee Spotlight (continued)

What is your favorite ministry moment or memory? Being able to invest in and minister to our kitchen staff. We have many young people begin their work experience at Rhodes Grove. It is meaningful to see them develop and mature and witness them move on to the next phase of their lives and feel that I may have played a role in molding them.

One of the memories that probably has affected me most was working in the dining room, cleaning up after a meal. I was talking to one of the children in the guest group and he was so astounded that he was going to get to come back and do this again at dinner. Having 3 meals a day was a foreign concept to him.

What causes you to continue to work in ministry? I thoroughly love what I do and the ability to see guests come through and truly have learning and growth experiences. In 10 years I have witness a lot of growth and change within Rhodes Grove and I am excited to see what the future holds.

How many chocolate chip cookies do you think you have baked? Are you serious?? Too many for me and probably not enough for you...

What are you looking forward to in the next 10 years (a new Food Service Director is not an option)? Looking back, Rhodes Grove has grown tremendously!! When I first started the motel wing was just started. At that time if we had 2 weekends a month booked we were really busy. It is hard to imagine what growth we will experience in the next 10 years. Whatever path it takes, I trust the Lord will remain the center and lives will continue to be touched.

Well Marlane, Rhodes Grove certainly has enjoyed and benefited greatly from your time of service. Our campers love mealtimes. They know they are always in for a treat when they enter the dining room. Our conference guests always return anticipating what will be on the menu. "Will we be having ice cream cake this year?" Thank you for choosing to spend the last 10 years in ministry service. Thank you for receiving every camper and guest with a smile and heart ready and willing to serve whatever need is presented. You are a gift to this ministry and to the campers and guests that pass through. Rhodes Grove joins you in anxiously anticipating what the Lord has in store for the next 10 years! If you would like to share your thanks with Marlane for her dedicated to service, please send a note to Rhodes Grove, Attention: Marlane Martin.

CAKE

Moist Chocolate Cake

2 Cups Flour	3/4 Cup Milk
2 Cups Sugar	3/4 Cup Vegetable Oil
3/4 Cup Cocoa	2 Eggs
2 tsp. Baking Soda	1 Cup Brewed Coffee
1 tsp. Baking Powder	1 tsp. Vanilla
1/2 tsp. Salt	

Combine dry ingredients in mixing bowl. Add milk, oil, eggs and vanilla all at once. Beat well. Add coffee. Mixture will be very runny! Pour into greased 9x13 cake pan.

Bake 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes or till middle springs back.

Great with peanut butter icing! Serves 15



DIP

Pumpkin Dip

4 Cups 10X Sugar
 2 8 oz. Packages Cream Cheese
 1 30 oz. Can Pumpkin
 2 tsp. Ground Cinnamon
 1 tsp. Ground Ginger

In a large mixing bowl combine sugar and cream cheese, beating until well blended. Beat in remaining ingredients. Store in airtight container in fridge. Serve with apple slices, pear slices, grapes, pretzels sticks and gingersnaps. Yield: 7 Cups

The Pursuit Continues ...

Summer has come and gone but we had a great time pursuing Christ with over 350 campers. There were 25 first-time decisions and 53 recommitments in 2010 – Praise the Lord! Thank you to summer staff, volunteers and the summer ministry team, RiSE, from Baptist Bible College for all the hard work and energy put into this summer.

Winter Blast is coming quickly in November and December. We have three different camps for campers in second through eighth grade. The activities are similar to summer camp but with a cold twist. We worship, have fun and renew our relationships from the summer and build on them. Registration forms have already been mailed out and they are available on our website at www.rhodesgrove.com. Also, remember to check our facebook page at www.facebook.com/rhodesgrove for updates about camp and contests.

It is hard to believe but we are already preparing for summer 2011! Our camp theme will be

REFUEL and the brochure is currently being pieced together. They will be mailed out by January 1 so be on the lookout for more information. We will again be providing some early bird discounts for those who register early. A new program we will be providing in 2011 is a Camp Leadership Program for 15-17 year olds. This program is designed for campers interested in transitioning to counselors and learning about the demands and responsibilities of a counselor as well as developing leadership and communication skills. More information will be available in Spring 2011.

As always, I ask for your continued prayers for the camping ministry at Rhodes Grove. To God be the glory!

Phil Regetta – Program Director



Can't wait to come back to camp next summer at the Grove?



Now you don't have to!

Introducing Rhodes Grove Winter Blast! Three weekends of camp fun and fellowship bursting out in the middle of winter.

Sign up early because space is limited.



Activities, worship, games, fun food and more!

November 29

December 4&5

December 11&12

Grades 2-3

Grades 4-5

Grades 6-8

Registration 9AM-Pickup 7PM

Registration Sat. 9AM-Pickup Sun. 1PM

Registration Sat. 9AM-Pickup Sun. 3PM

Cost: \$45

Cost: \$60

Cost: \$65

For more info: 717.375.4162 or info@rhodesgrove.com

www.rhodesgrove.com

All the Time

The air is turning cooler and the leaves are beginning to show their harvest color. Fall has arrived! The busyness of summer is behind us...and the fall conference schedule is fully underway! May I just say...God is good all the time ... All the time...God is good!

Summer of 2010 provided some eye opening experiences for the Director of the Conference Ministry Department. In June, Rhodes Grove served as the training ground for the CEF ministry. For nine days...CEF utilized the grounds of Rhodes Grove to develop and train youth to serve Christ. Following the four weeks of summer camp, Rhodes Grove served 6 large youth conferences.

Tuscarora Catholic traversed the grounds with a total of 75 youth trumpeting the theme "Spreading the Good News." Following Tuscarora Catholic was Capital Vietnamese Christian Fellowship with 73 youth...trumpeting the theme "Transformed". Beginning August, Rhodes Grove served the Mid-Atlantic District Youth Conference, with 175 youth and 34 leaders and every square inch of the Rhodes Grove facility was bustling with activity. Mid Atlantic promoted their week as full of moments focusing on and growing in God, full of laughter with friends, and full of good old fashioned merriment. Guidelines included the expectation for God to do something, to look for ways to encourage people around them, and avoid tearing others down. Do nothing that makes people feel left out or picked on. Each day was packed with daily devotional time, praise

and worship, stations at the cross, and afternoon sports tournaments. Souls were saved and lives were changed!

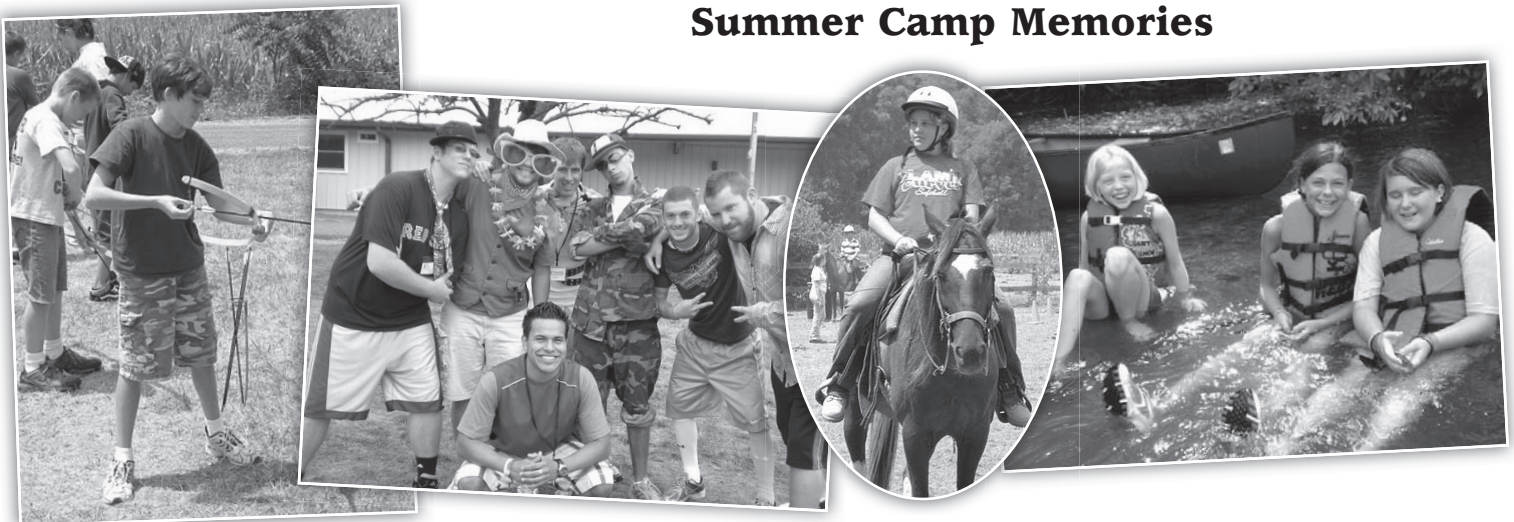


Calvary Presbyterian and Korean Presbyterian followed the Mid-Atlantic District for a combined total of 115 youth and leaders. Their themes included "United" ... giving God all the glory...love your neighbor, Christ, the source of it all, We are family, and God brings change. And, last but not least, was Grace Community Church with 147 youth and leaders combined for a "Behold Regional Youth Retreat."

Again....I say...God is good all the time...All the time, God is good. If you have any doubt about your support of Rhodes Grove and how it is being used to further God's kingdom...let me say...we are building foundations for Christ...one youth member at a time. Please continue to pray for our youth...they live in a troubled world...but, they serve a risen Savior. Praise the Lord! With the fall conference schedule fully underway...I say THANK YOU again for your ongoing support of the Rhodes Grove Camp and Conference Center. We look forward to celebrating with you in the coming months. *God of precious gifts ... bless each constituent reading this newsletter... encourage them, lift them up, inspire them, and reward them with the intimate assurance of your incredible presence.*

Chris Rotz, Conference Ministry Director

Summer Camp Memories



RHODES GROVE

Camp & Conference Center

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Change Service Requested



Rhodes Grove seeks to advance our Christian Community through personal renewal by offering experiential camping programs, Biblically enriching educational opportunities and full service retreats all in a naturally pleasing environment.

Most Wanted

- **Rhodes Grove Prayer Partners** – Please call our office to join the RG Prayer Team
- **Rhodes Grove advocates at YOUR home church** – Please call our office and choose to promote Rhodes Grove events at your church. We will equip you with all the tools you will need to be successful!
- **Staff and Camper Alumni Contact Information** – We want to keep you in the “know”!
- Cabin Refurbishment Sponsors - \$7,000 per building/\$3500 per cabin (materials cost)
- **\$14,000 donated/or and pledged; 2½ cabins completed; 4 Cabins Pledged! THANK YOU!!!**
- Furniture for cabins: Sofas, Loveseats, Chairs, Dinettes, Refrigerators, Double Mattresses, Curtains, Microwave Ovens, Air Conditioners, Toasters, Coffee Makers
- Power Tools; Table Saw; Combination Chop Saw; Roller Stands (2)
- Wall Mount Heater (7) Shop; Girls Bathhouse; Guys Bathhouse, 4 Youth Cabins - \$250 each
- Building Materials to winterize Youth cabins
- Replacement Windows for Youth Cabins
- Sports Equipment – Basketballs, Footballs, Hockey Sticks
- New matching blankets for the hotel (75) \$12 each
- New Vacuum Cleaner (2)
- Outdoor Walk-In Freezer \$9,323
- Gas Powered Golf Cart or ATV \$2,500 +
- Meeting Room Chairs (200) \$50 each – **2 donated – Thank you! 100 pledged – Thank you!** Still need 98 more
- Dining Room Chairs (250) \$50 each
- Commercial Grade Emersion Blender for the Kitchen
- KitchenAid Food Processor
- Kitchen Warmer \$2200
- Lightweight 8ft Tables (40) \$100 each
- New Tea Towels for the dining room
- First Class Stamps