



Rhodes Grove

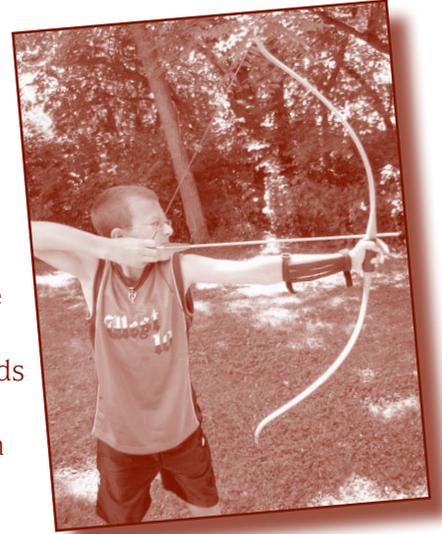
Camp & Conference Center Est 1917

RHODES GROVE – News in a Nutshell

Fall 2007

Facing North

People often ask, “How’d your summer go?” It was great, exhausting, successful, challenging, fun and spiritually significant as any of our summer staff would tell you. Like shaving for the first time, or mowing the lush grass of early spring the summer’s beginning chores are exciting: prepping the cabins, setting up the archery range and building campfires. Towards the end we struggle to find the strength to open the pool for another late-night swim, or to referee campers again, or to find the appetite for another chicken meal no matter how good it tasted in June. Don’t mistake our hearts though. It’s all worth it and it’s not drudgery. Seeing kids connect with their counselors, enjoying their activities, making new friends and life-changing decisions is wonderful. That’s why we keep doing it again and again. A particular bright spot of our summer camp program are our



chapel services, called “Facing North”. As many of you know, we remodeled the old C.E. building, in 2004, now known as Kauffman Lodge. As we began to bring kids in for Bible teaching and worship times we observed that as the campers focused their attention toward the stage up front they were all facing north. Not only were physical their bodies facing north but so were their hearts and minds and souls as Christ was lifted up. Is Facing North effective? It sure is...we know of 18 first time salvation decisions and 38 rededication

decisions as a result of our summer program just this year. Here’s a sampling from this year’s participants: “Evening sessions (Facing North) were great, so was worship!” “Awesome speaker.” “Music was wonderful.” “I thought the unity of the staff was really good.” “I loved the speaker, songs and the games!” Now that autumn is upon us and the campers are gone we have started making plans for Summer ’08 that will most likely include our favorite activities again like Facing North, archery and lots more chicken. It’s exciting to experience this “crazy” thing of Christian Camping and know that our great God is pleased.



2008 Summer Camp Dates

We’re actively planning an exciting youth camp program for next summer. Tentative dates for Day/Swim Camp, Adventure Camp, Journey Camp and Quest Camp (Senior High) can be found on our website www.rhodesgrove.com. Due to the popularity of and demand for our horsemanship camps we are studying a slightly different format to accommodate more participants. All 2008 camp dates will be confirmed in late December with the release of the registration form!

Minutes of 1916

Trista Watson, one of our veteran summer staffers, recently discovered a bound book of old Rhodes Grove minutes while cleaning out a supply closet. The book details the activities of the United Brethren as they met here on the grounds from 1898-1916. Of particular interest is the day they elected to look to the future by authorizing the purchase of the land we now occupy.

Minutes of 1916: "The United Brethren Campmeeting Association met in its regular annual session in the tabernacle at Rhodes Grove August 8, 1916 at 4 o'clock pm. Rev. D. A. Powell, president, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous year was read and approved. B.F. Blubaugh was elected secretary. The committee that was appointed to see Miss. Rhodes made there [sic] report, and it was approved. It was then suggested that we buy the Grove for \$4,000 and that this be divided up in \$26.00 shares and no one allowed to buy over ten shares. Passed. It was then moved and supported that the old committee be reelected. Rev. I. Lawrence Hoover was reelected treasurer. Adjournment. B.F. Blubaugh

We praise God for giving that group of leaders the wisdom, vision and courage to set in motion what we have today. May the Lord continue to grant us that same foundational spirit as we make plans for the future success and vitality of this mission.

Help Fill The Swimming Pool



After many years of enjoyment our swimming pool is in need of major repairs to be available for use in 2008. This year, we came within 6 days of not having the pool readied for our Family Camp program in May due to broken pipes and a tremendous

underground leak. Band-Aids on top of Band-Aids have been applied to keep us swimming this season (Thanks Larry!). We are in the process of contracting with a professional pool engineer to make the necessary repairs next spring. Even at a discounted price, the total bill to get the work done will come close to \$50,000. The good news is that the end result will be a safer, more aesthetically pleasing pool that will require less maintenance, less chemicals and be without leaks. In addition, as any summer camper can tell you, the rough concrete texture on the bottom of the pool will be replaced a smooth fiberglass finish that is sure to keep happy feet out of our nurse's office. Here's where you come in...please consider your family making an investment into Rhodes Grove by making a financial contribution to our ministry earmarked for the swimming pool. Many of you know that we do not charge a profit margin on our summer camp programs. We need your help to fill the pool with the funds necessary to ensure another summer of fun in the sun. As a 501(c) 3 ministry, all gifts given to Rhodes Grove are tax deductible and greatly appreciated!

CCCA Event @ Rhodes Grove

Rhodes Grove is an active member of the Allegheny Section of the Christian Camp and Conference Association (CCCA). Since 1970 our organization has participated in conferences and committees throughout Western PA to help advance the knowledge and success of Christian camping ministries. This winter we are pleased to host, for the very first time, the Allegheny Sectional Conference of CCCA for a three day retreat. Taking place from February 25-27, 2008 this event marks a significant milestone for Rhodes Grove. Originally envisioned in 2002, we have taken steps to prepare for hosting this educational conference by improving the quality of our lodging options, renovating several meeting rooms and purchasing a professional foodservice buffet line. Typical topics covered at these retreats include Risk Management / Insurance Coverage, Development / Fundraising, Human Resources, Modern Culture, Technology / Maintenance and Program Initiatives all within a Christian camping mindset. Anyone interested in Christian camp and conference ministry is welcome to attend to grow and learn. Visit our website for a downloadable registration form or contact us for pricing and availability.



Family Camp - May 23-26, 2008



After a five year wait we are pleased for the return of Tom Harmon as our main speaker for Family Camp. Tom and his wife Joyce are no strangers to Rhodes Grove! Those who have heard Tom in the past know that he is one of the most spiritually dynamic and Scripturally powerful speakers today. Tom studied science and played football at Northern Michigan University. In 1973 he began an 11 year career with the Michigan State Police. Since 1984 Tom has been speaking, teaching and preaching itinerantly all over the United States. Family Camp takes place over Memorial Day weekend from Friday evening until Monday morning. (We let you leave in time for the parades.) We offer a full meal package, kid's activities, horse rides, a variety of lodging accommodations (including air-conditioned motel rooms), world-famous chicken BBQ and a safe place to enjoy time with your family while growing closer to God. You won't want to miss it! Contact us for pricing, reservations, or for more information download the Family Camp PDF on our website: www.rhodesgrove.com

Campmeeting - August 17-21, 2008



Rhodes Grove is pleased to announce that our speaker for Campmeeting will be Dr. Kirby Keller. Kirby is a self-described “son of the King Street United Brethren Church” coming to know Christ there at a young age. As a native of Chambersburg, PA, Kirby enjoyed growing up on a farm where he developed a strong love for the

outdoors which continues to this day.

Studying at Huntington College and Seminary in Huntington, Indiana, Dr. Keller earned graduate degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary and Fuller Theological Seminary. He has done additional graduate work in education at Lehigh University. He is an ordained Elder in the Evangelical Congregational Church and has served pastorates in Indiana and Pennsylvania prior to moving to Myerstown in 1976.

In 1987, Dr. Keller was appointed as Academic Dean of the Evangelical Theological Seminary where he served as the fourth president. He has also been the Dr. Clyde W. Meadows Professor of Christian ministry at the seminary since 1988. Kirby was originally ordained in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ denomination in the historic tabernacle at Rhodes Grove in 1968 where he also served as summer youth camp director. Over the years, he has become well known throughout central and eastern Pennsylvania as a preacher and teacher, speaking at conferences, seminars and campmeetings. On numerous occasions, he has served as a guest Chaplain of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He has been an active Rotarian for over twenty years. As a hobby, he and his wife Carol enjoy traveling on their Honda motorcycle. Make plans to join us for our Campmeeting services each evening at 7:00 pm.

The Ecclesiastes Institute ~ Lancaster Bible College

“I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is under Heaven.” Ecclesiastes 1:13

Recognizing a need in our community, Rhodes Grove initiated *The Ecclesiastes Institute* at our facility at the beginning of this year to offer a variety of continuing education options for the purpose of Biblical enrichment, community outreach, and ministerial advancement. In partnership with Lancaster Bible College and Graduate School (LBC) our program uses CEU (continuing education unit) credits to measure academic progress. Typical classes are one-day events meeting at Rhodes Grove for 4-5 hours with a buffet style lunch included. Upon completion of coursework each participant receives CEU credit and a Certificate of Participation from LBC. Courses are open to anyone in the Cumberland Valley community interested in personal growth and leadership. Ministers and lay leaders alike are encouraged to attend. This year’s classes included the topics: Christian counseling, managing conflict in ministry, a study of Psalms, family ministry and Christian leadership essentials. For information on future classes watch our website postings under *The Ecclesiastes Institute* or contact us to be placed on our continuing education mailing list.

Most Wanted

- New Washer & Dryer \$750
- 27 inch TVs (2) \$250 each
- 360 feet of Split Rail Fence \$1,900
- Remaining funds for Horse Corral \$3,000
- Digital Camera \$500
- Video Camera \$1,000
- Electronic Keyboard / Digital Piano \$3,000
- Video Projector \$900
- Mini-Van

Keep the ZIP in our Code

The USPS has changed Rhodes Grove’s zip code from 17201 to 17202. Please change our listing in your records. In an effort to be good stewards of our supply of letterhead and envelopes we will continue to use our old (most of which was new ☺) stuff until it’s gone. We have been guaranteed delivery on the old zip code until May of 2008. If your zip code or address has changed please make us aware. Thanks!

New Beds ~ New Bathrooms!

Last year we reported plans to renovate our Retreat Center. We’re off to a good start! Early this spring the bathrooms were improved with new facilities including an easy to clean epoxy floor, new sinks, toilets and showers, brighter lighting and a fresh coat of paint. The race was on as we put some finishing touches on the project just two hours before the next scheduled group arrived to make use of the RC! Guests, campers (and especially our summer staff) have expressed gratitude for the bathroom upgrades. In addition, new bunk beds and mattresses are set up and already in use in the lodging quarters. Several bunks were donated to us by Penn State Mont Alto over a two-year period. We were able to match what was donated by purchasing brand

new beds to make up the difference. A local church has indicated a desire to contribute the majority of funds needed to make this purchase possible. To the thousands of campers who endured the “old” beds you have our respect – Today’s campers are sleeping on comfortable six-inch, pillow topped, coil spring luxury! Anyone interested in the old beds can contact our office for pickup information. They are of unknown origin, brown in color, metal framed, dismantled and in “good” condition. All 34 sets are available on a first-come first served donation basis. Many thanks to the several volunteers who have helped with the RC renovations. We appreciate you!

**RHODES GROVE
Camp & Conference Center**

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From the Director's Desk



I don't own a watch. There are two reasons why.

Reason Number 1: I don't like the way they pinch and pull at my arm hair.

Reason Number 2: Because you own a watch. I can go anywhere in the world and know what time it is just by making use of someone else's timepiece. Why should I buy and carry around another one? Sharing. In the same silly way that I view wearing a watch I believe the Christian Community should view each other. What unique element are you (or your church) gifted with that could be of benefit to your Christian neighbor (or their church)? I'm awestruck by the duplication of programs, facilities and pleas for money that come from Christian ministries within a two-hour drive. Think I'm dreaming? Consider the account we read in Acts 4:32, "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." I challenge you - I challenge us to look for ways to benefit those around with the uniqueness that God has given you. You'll be blessed in return. Thank you for sharing your "time." My arm-hairs are grateful!

Mark Story – Executive Director

Remembrance Gifts

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>In memory of:</i>
Janet Wingert	Ralph & Mildred Stumbaugh
Jean M. Stouffer	Henry F. Stouffer
Mark & Jill Story	Rev. Timothy P. Story
Mark & Jill Story	Mrs. Avis Story
Leslie E. Mohler	Jake Stover
William E. Beard	Jim & Clara Beard
Gloria J. Beaston	Peggy Frost
Donald F. Bowers	Peggy Frost
Ruth P. Rotz	Don Rotz

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>In honor of:</i>
Mary B. Ray	Dave Thrush
Rich Rotz	The Rhodes Grove Staff
Carol Blair	Edna and Warren Haupin