



9478 Brethren Heights Rd. | Rodney, MI 49342
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www.campbrethrenheightsmi.org | **Spring 2016 Newsletter**

Connect with Creation. Cultivate Community. Develop Disciples.

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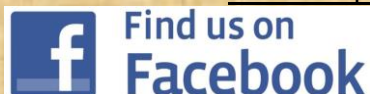
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Photos and more...

"In the most rudimentary terms, (Jesus') tempo was a pattern of retreating to the wilderness to be with God and then engaging civilization with the message and ministry of the gospel."

-Ashley Denton
Christian Outdoor
Leadership



Thoughts from the Director...

Back in the spring of 2004, just a few months after my mother passed away, the congregation I was serving as pastor, pretty much told me it was time for me to take some Sabbath time, as I had been spending so much time going back and forth between my apartment in Indiana and my mom's home in Ohio.

I was ready for a time to just breathe, to notice the sunrise and the sunset, to be in tune with the Creator again as I honestly could admit that I was starting to lose sight of what my ministry was at the time. So I was able to spend a few days at Camp Mack for time that they called Pastors' Sabbath time. It was exactly what I needed. There was no agenda, except for mealtimes and a morning devotion. I was able to spend lots of time in the woods walking and meditating. I also got to meet other pastors in the district that I had not met before and learn from their wisdom and experience. At the time, truly valuable for a young 23 year old in ministry. I also got to play guitar with a few other pastors which established relationships that to this day remain strong. Here was a reflection that I wrote for the congregation's newsletter when I returned:

"Why does sitting quietly, doing nothing, help to renew the spirit? Perhaps it's because with nothing else to think about, breathing becomes interesting. You realize you'd forgotten this simple, life-sustaining act. You begin to notice how the air comes in and goes out. And after a while you realize that everything comes and goes, life itself and all that happens in it, good or bad comes and goes. This awareness can make you feel as if you've been sleepwalking through your days, missing so much of what's going on around you and within you. But now you're awake. You're breathing. You're alive. God has given us the gift of nothing (Sabbath). May we find ways in that gift to recreate, refresh, regenerate our worn out souls."

My experience at the pastors Sabbath time, left an indelible impression on me. I made it a goal to get to their spring and fall Sabbath times from there on out. Since coming to CBH five years ago, I felt it equally important that camp provide a setting where pastors (and all licensed and ordained ministers) could come for a 48 hour period and just recharge their souls for the important work they do. We consistently have it on our camp calendar every spring and fall and though attendance is usually low or no one shows up, I continue to see its value and importance for our district's leadership to take some personal Sabbath time. Our next one is coming up **April 11-12 (see info below)**, I hope you'll set aside some time to come to camp and refresh, recreate and renew!

Randall Westfall
CBH Director of Outdoor Ministry

CBH Now Hiring Summer Staff

We are in need of energetic, responsible, committed and faith-driven young adults to help provide leadership and continuity from one week to the next. We are planning to hire 1 Male and 1 Female Counselor (19+) as well as a Waterfront Director/Lifeguard (18+). Applications are due May 15th! If you or someone you know may be a good fit to work in outdoor ministry, please don't hesitate to fill out an application and 3 references and return it to the camp.

Please see the website for more information.

CBH Now Officially 501 (c) 3 Status

At the end of December we received a letter from the IRS stating that CBH Inc. is now officially our own tax exempt organization! Praise God for this answer to prayer. The camp is now eligible to apply for grants as well as having tax status for tax donations. If you or your congregation gave to CBH in 2015, please let us know if you still need a tax donation letter from camp. Starting next year, you'll receive your donation letter by the end of January.

Youth Peace Travel Team @ CBH

The Youth Peace Travel Team (YPTT) will be at CBH this summer for Beaver Camp and Dadirri Camp. The last time they were with us was the summer of 2008. The members of the YPTT are a group of college-age young adults that spends each summer traveling to camps across the denomination, teaching about peace, justice, and reconciliation. The group also gives peace programs at a variety of camps and conferences over the summer. The goal of the team's work is to talk with other young people about the Christian message and the Brethren tradition of peacemaking. This year's team members are: Phoebe Hart of Roanoke, Va., Kiana Simonson of Modesto, Calif., Jenna Walmer of Mount Joy, Pa., and Sara White of Huntingdon, Pa.

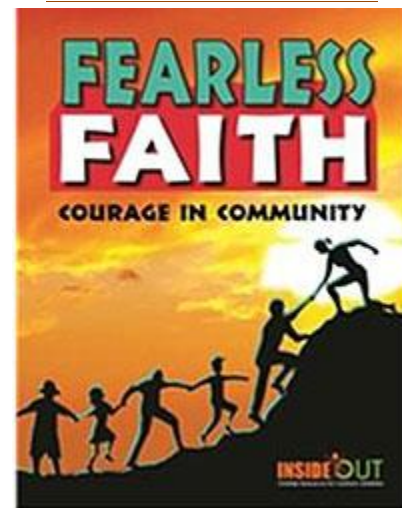
Pastor's Sabbath

All pastors (and Ordained & Licensed ministers) in the Michigan District are invited to camp **April 11-12** for a time of personal renewal and chance to refresh the spirit. You can read, go for a hike, go fishing, canoe or kayak, bring an instrument, be in fellowship with other pastors or whatever you need to refresh your spirit and ministry. ***There is no cost to attend and no schedule to follow. Four meals will be provided beginning with Monday lunch. If you have any questions please feel free to contact CBH or the District Ministry Commission.***

Spring Open House

CBH's Spring Open House will be on **Saturday May 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Lunch will be served at Noon: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children. Bake Sale and Craft sale will go on all day. We planning an open ended work and play day during our time together. This is a free camp weekend or work weekend if you want to come and help get camp ready for the 2016 summer season. You can also enjoy all your favorite camp activities like kayaking, hiking and just enjoying fellowship with other camp enthusiasts. If all goes well, you also get a bonus of meeting the Westfall's new addition to their family!

2016 Summer Theme



What does it mean to be a part of a Christian community? How can the church be a resource that gives campers confidence and courage? Campers will explore how they themselves are a part of the Church and what that means about how we relate to one another and the world. Watch how the strength of Christian community casts out fear and replaces it with hope!

2016 Summer Camp Calendar

May 27-30	Wolf Camp (Family)
June 16-18	Owl Camp (Intergenerational)
June 22-26	Red Tail Hawk Camp (Gr. 10-12)
June 26-July 2	Survivor Camp (Ages 12-14)
July 10-12	Otter Camp (Gr. 1-3)
July 10-13	Archer Camp (Ages 10-14)
July 17-23	Beaver Camp (Gr. 4-6)
July 24-30	Bobcat Camp (Gr. 7-9)
July 31-Aug. 6	Dadirri Camp (Ages 15-18)

2016 Camp Deans

We are in need of persons to fill two spots in our summer camp programs. Owl Camp (Grandparents & young grandkids) and Archer I Camp (Ages 10-14) are all shorter (2 ½ - 3 day) camps that still need Deans and will require someone who can organize and recruit volunteers as well as working with the camp director to make sure program needs are being met. If you or someone you know may be interested please contact the camp.

Here are the Deans we currently have for 2016:

Otter – Jennie Betts

Beaver – Wendy Russell

Bobcat – Michele Kennedy

Red-Tail Hawk – Amanda Thomas

Survivor – Randall Westfall

Dadirri – Randall Westfall

Summer Camp Booklets

The 2016 Summer Camp Booklet was a week late to press but should have arrived in your mailboxes and your email inboxes by now. If you normally get a camp booklet but haven't received one yet please contact the camp and we'll get one sent to you right away. Please be sure to read over the entire booklet as there have been a few changes mostly regarding early bird discount and deposits.

Let Camp Host your next Event

Need a space for your upcoming event or retreat?

Check out what CBH has to offer for:

Church Retreats

Youth Gatherings

Spiritual Direction Retreats

Outdoor Education Classes

Community Events

Business Meetings

Conferences

Educational Classes/Events

Banquets

Weddings

Family Reunions

Picnics

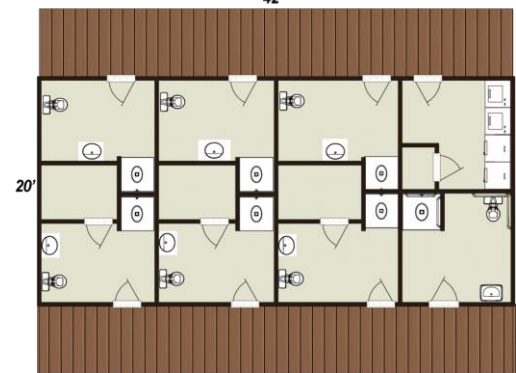
Plus many more possibilities!

We have new rates that went into effect last year:

Call for availability! (231) 867-3618

Next Project: New Bath Houses

The Board has identified the next major project that needs to be made in order to meet the needs of our growing summer camp programs. It was agreed upon that we need to invest in building new infrastructure to preplace our current bath houses. Below are two pictures to consider for what our bath houses could resemble, one being the outside look and the other the floorplan. These have not been decided upon rather they are models for us to consider according to our summer camp needs and our rental groups too. Fundraising efforts have begun so please be in prayer for how as in individual or congregation you can give towards this project.



Renewing Camp Tractor Pledges for 2016

If your congregation has pledged for 2016 and haven't given yet (or if you're unsure if you have) please send in your pledge or contact the camp if you have any questions.

A letter was sent out at the beginning of March to congregations and individuals who have pledged to help with the tractor payments for the final year. Our remaining balance can be paid off if we have those remaining pledges for 2016.

It has been a huge blessing for the camp to have the tractor as it has taken on many tasks and projects (i.e.

moving firewood, grading the camp lane, mowing, etc.) and will continue to be in high demand.

CBH Inc. Board Reorganizes for 2016

Camp Board Chair – Paul “Fitz” Fitzpatrick

Camp Board Vice-Chair – Tim Joseph

Camp Secretary – Dan Woodruff

Camp Treasurer – Dan McRoberts

Program & Promotions Ministry Group

Gail Anderson

Jennie Betts

Zeb Hammond-Stone

Tiffany Herrold

Stewardship & Caretaking Ministry Group

Becky Phillips

Tim Joseph

Mark Ward

Dan Woodruff

Finance & Records Ministry Group

Paul Fitzpatrick

Michele Kennedy

Dan McRoberts

Mark Poll

Ex- Officio Members

Nate Polzin – District Exe.

Randall Westfall – CBH Director

Randy Marlette – CBH Maintenance Director

How Might you Give in 2016?

All we want at camp is to continue the ministry of connecting people of all ages to God’s creation and a deeper relationship with Jesus. We can’t do that without the financial support of our District, congregations and individuals who are passionate about the objectives of outdoor ministry.

We give thanks daily for your support. If you are a regular giver to camp and haven’t made your donation this year there is still plenty of time to do so. As the camp transitions into its own nonprofit entity it becomes even more important that we seek to find ways to help grow the camp not only spiritually but financially as well. Please consider a gift from the options listed below:

Operating Fund: *Day to day expenses of running the camp*

Development Fund: *Ongoing improvements and growth of the camp*

Capital Campaign Fund: *Specific development projects for the camp*

Endowment Fund: *Provides a constant source of revenue to sustain camp’s future*

Scholarship Fund: *Provides financial assistance for campers to attend camp*

Prayer Partner: Anyone can support the camp through prayer, but this group of persons is committed to praying for camp needs on a daily basis. Prayer partners receive a quarterly update of what is happening at camp and how their prayers can best be directed.

Labor of Love: To donate your time for maintenance, programs, business support, or your special talent. Contact the Camp Director or Facilities Manager to find out how you can help.

If you would like to give towards a specific camp need, listed below are a few of the items:



AED (Automated External Defibrillator)

6 or 8 ft. White folding tables

Culverts

Gravel

Trailer for transporting tractor/golf cart

Bibles (preferably NIV)

Treated 2x for new stage

Poly Pong Table

Binoculars

Set of private eye loupes

Dining Room chairs

Hammocks

Couches

Animal puppets

Field guides, Christian books

Musical instruments: (djembe drums, guitars etc.)

Spring Work Day Projects

Dates TBA

We’ll be designating work days for those who want to come and help with work projects this spring. More info to come. Here’s our priorities for our work days:

Cleaning Chapel
 Organizing waterfront & beach house
 Organizing the shop
 Cutting down dead trees
 Picking up all downed limbs etc.. from storms
 Splitting wood
 Stacking wood racks
 Getting camp ready for spring user groups
 Load scrap metal to be taken to scrap yard
 Making New Signs for lane & intersections

Outdoor School



Ancient Paths Outdoor School will again be offering workshops from Feb. through May. This spring's classes will be:

Feb. 27	Tracking Club @ CBH
Mar. 12	Primitive Fire @ CBH
Apr. 2	Flint knapping at Camp Mack, IN
May 28	Bird Language CBH

Classes are \$20 for ages 12 and up.
 We start at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. and wrap up around 12 p.m. or 4 p.m. (see schedule)

For more information check out:

www.ancientpathsoutdoorschool.org

Or email us: ancientpaths.os@gmail.com

Want to Serve at Camp?

It takes many hands to make the ministry of Camp Brethren Heights possible. If you are a responsible adult age 18 and older, please consider volunteering for a week or more.

We need volunteers each week in the following positions:

Nurses/Health Officers (w/ current license)
 Cabin Counselors
 Kitchen Assistants
 Maintenance

Spiritual Directors
 Worship/Bible Study Leaders
 Nature Leaders
 Craft Leaders

If you are at least 15 years old, please consider volunteering as a CIT for Otter, Beaver or Archer I Camp. If you have been to Survivor Camp and are at least 15 years old and have practiced your skills, you can be an apprentice/CIT for Survivor Camp this summer.

Stay Informed

Please add campbrethrenheightsmi.org to your browser favorites and feel free to use it as often as needed. It's also imperative that you "Like" our camp page on Facebook as well. We'll always do our best to get emails out to you.

If you want to be added to our mailing list for updates, newsletters etc.. please email the camp with your current and correct email address.

CBH Spring Calendar

April

2	Outdoor School at Camp Mack, IN
3	Randall speaking @ Skyridge CoB
10	Randall speaking @ Lansing CoB
11-12	Pastor's Sabbath at CBH
15-17	Youth Rally at Beaverton CoB
24	Randall speaking @ Lost & Found
30	CBH Display at Mecosta Co. Family Expo

May

4-6	Randall Re-certing for WFR
7	CBH Inc. Board Meeting @ 10 a.m.
13	Westfall Baby Boy Due
13-15	Rental/Retreat Group
21	Spring Open House
22	Randall speaking @ Lakeview CoB
25-28	Trail Work Days
28	Outdoor School
28-30	Wolf Camp

June

9-12	Rental Group
16-18	Owl Camp
22-25	Red Tail Hawk Camp
26-July 2	Survivor Camp (in IN)

Photos from Last Fall to this Spring

From top to bottom: enjoying a canoe trip into the fall foliage; winter beauty at camp; Youth enjoying time on the lake; Church of the Brethren Outdoor Ministry Association Steering Committee strategic planning in Maryland (Randall is Chair of the SC); scrapbooking retreat weekend; all smiles at the rally at camp!

