



9478 Brethren Heights Rd. | Rodney, MI 49342
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www.campbrethrenheightsmi.org | **Autumn 2017 Newsletter**

Connect with Creation. Awaken your Soul. Ignite your Faith.

What's Inside

Nature Preschool

Fall Work Days

Song & Story Fest Recap

Summer Photos

Wishlist and more...

2017 Summer Stats

50 campers

29 staff

12 congregations

\$1,350 raised for Offering

"Perhaps the spirituality many of us experience outdoors is created by the simple fact that we are less distracted, so we are able to be deeply attentive to what is around us as well as what is inside us."

- Rabbi Jamie S. Korngold

"God allows Autumn to show us how beautiful it is to let things go." - Anonymous



Thoughts from the Director...

We've been dreaming about it for a couple of years... now it's becoming a reality! We are excited to announce!

Now Accepting Fall Enrollment **Cedar Ascent Nature School** A New Nature Preschool (Ages 3-6) At Camp Brethren Heights

Connecting with nature is more essential than ever for today's 'digital' generation. Cedar Ascent Nature School (CANS) is a faith and nature-based Preschool Program providing an ideal environment for those pivotal "first nature experiences". These firsthand nature experiences are crucial for the social, emotional, and academic development of children. Join us as we discover, play, and grow in nature!

Fall program on select Wednesdays
October 18 & 25; Nov. 1 & 8; Dec. 6 & 13, 2017

8:30 am - noon

Cost for each session: **\$12**

Appropriate clothing required for outdoor play.

Contact the camp for more info!

We're excited to experiment with programming this fall in hopes to begin offering more in 2018. We believe that God is calling us to expand our ministry outreach to our local community. Please share this with anyone you know who might be interested in this awesome opportunity. Please contact the camp if you have any further questions.

This past summer was a challenging one in that we didn't see the number of campers that we normally do. However, in the midst of a summer that was out of the norm, we experienced other opportunities for growth and outreach and we are now beginning to see the fruits of what we've been sowing. While we will look back at 2017 as a year of transitions and change, we are now poised to do greater things in 2018...

Randall Westfall,
CBH Director of Outdoor Ministry

Ideas for Fun at Camp?

CBH just received a significant donation for something “fun” at camp. What ideas do you have for something fun that we can add to camp? Please call or email your ideas!

Fall Camp Board Meeting

The Camp Brethren Heights Inc. board will be meeting Saturday November 11th from 10 am – 3 pm to plan for and welcome new board members for the 2018 year. Please plan to bring an item for the potluck noon meal.

2017 Fall Work Days

List of projects to be completed by December 1:

- Winterizing Bathhouses, Cabins & Chapel
- Split, stack and fill wood racks
- Install gate at first fork in road
- Build nature playscape for nature preschool
- Tear off roof and rebuild North Shop Bay
- Organize & clean shop
- Cut new trail behind director's house
- Cut new trail in ravine between house & road
- Put new drywall in director's living room ceiling
- Tear up downstairs carpet at director's house
- Clean back wall of furnace room, inspect for mold
- Replace drywall & insulation in garage

We are needing some extra help this fall to get some of these projects finished before the snow flies. Please contact the camp if you or your church can help.

Volunteers Needed

We've scheduled for Monday Oct. 30 and are in need of volunteers to help in tearing off the old roof of the north bay of the shop and reframing the walls and installing a new metal roof so that camp can use that bay for parking the camp truck etc.. Sherm Fassett and Beaverton folks are taking the lead but we need more helpers. Please contact the camp if you are interested.

Pictures below are the prep work that has gone into getting ready for this project. Sincere appreciation goes out to the Bowne Mennonite

Church youth group (pictured below) for the dirty job of cleaning out and organizing the shop during their youth retreat.



(Bowne Mennonite Youth posing after cleaning out camp's shop area.)



(North bay of the Camp Shop is now cleaned out and ready for a new roof and exterior.)



(We had a 10-yard dumpster filled with all the junk wood and materials that were just piled up in the north bay of the camp shop. Our plans are for the shop to be totally organized by winter time.)

Fiddle & Dance Camp coming to CBH!!

We are pleased to announce that CBH is the new host for Earful of Fiddle & Dance Camp next summer June 10-15, 2018.

Earful of Fiddle Music & Dance Camp, established in 2009, offers aspiring musicians and percussive dancers the opportunity to learn from experienced musicians and dancers who are passionate about passing it on. Earful of Fiddle provides four days of classes in all levels of percussive dance, traditional fiddle, guitar, banjo, and mandolin. New to camp are group singing classes.

Five evenings of jam sessions and dancing will expose participants to the idea of the “community session,” consisting of fiddle tunes accompanied by a host of rhythm instruments and dancing feet.

If you would like more information about this great opportunity please visit <http://www.earfuloffiddle.com/>

Donations for Lodge Upgrades

The board has identified our top priority for the coming year: to replace the roof on the lodge with a metal/steel roof as well as installing new windows. We have received an estimate for the roof and it is \$16,770.

We just completed our fundraising drive to pay for the camp tractor and would like to collaborate with congregations and individuals to help make improvements to the lodge. We’ve already begun seeing donations come in for the roof. If you would like to contribute a donation towards this project please contact the camp.

Song & Story Fest Returns to CBH

The Annual Song & Story Fest returned to CBH for its second time this summer. They had approximately 125 people for the week (8 of them from Nigeria) as it was another great week of songs, stories, workshops, jam sessions, and concerts focusing on reconciliation, peace, and justice in the Jesus way.



(Photo of musical group Friends with the Weather performing one of the songs off their new album under the big tent at CBH.)

Prayer Garden to be Added at Camp

The family of Linda Joseph will be creating a Peace Prayer Garden here at CBH in memory of her life and support of camp. At the moment, we are planning for what will be included in the memorial. Check back soon for more details.

New Camp Logo Design Underway

We have begun working on a new CBH logo that will be put on all of our signs and letterheads. A few options have been presented thus far and we’re looking to see some more ideas. We’ll be crowdsourcing this with folks in the coming months.

OMA Volunteers of the Year

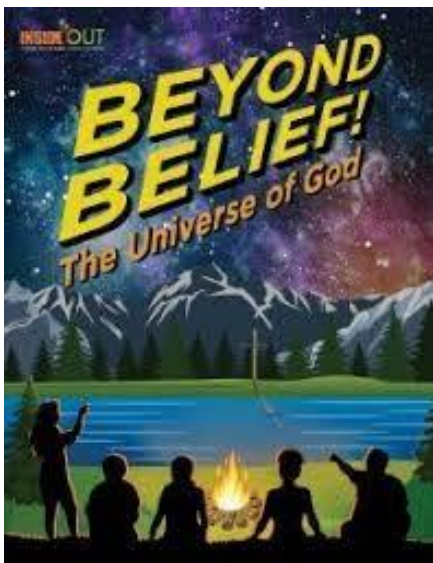


(Photo of Brenda King receiving her award at OMA Luncheon at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids.)

Congratulations to Brenda King and Becky Phillips who were awarded the Outdoor Ministries Association's Volunteer of the Year Award! Brenda was on hand to receive her award Friday June 30 at the OMA Luncheon during Annual Conference in Grand Rapids. Becky was awarded hers when she was volunteering at camp this summer.

Congratulations to both of these long-time volunteers and supporters of CBH!

2018 Summer Theme



Beyond Belief invites campers to ask the big questions about God and explore how God can be seen in the vastness of creation, the power of community and even in their own hearts. We'll be using this curriculum as part of our summer programming in 2018.

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!

Call for availability! (231) 867-3618



AED (Automated External Defibrillator)

Golf Cart or Gator

6 or 8 ft. White folding tables

Culverts

Gravel

Trailer for transporting tractor/golf cart

Bibles (preferably NIV)

Treated lumber 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.)

2018 Summer Camp Calendar

May 25-28	Family Survival Weekend (NEW!)
June 8-10	Family Fishing Weekend (NEW!)
June 17-23	Survivor Camp (Age 12-14)
June 24-29	Bobcat Camp (Gr. 7-9)
July 1-4	Creation Quest (Age 9-11) (NEW!)
July 6-8	Family Archery Weekend (NEW!)
July 8-13	Dadirri Camp (Age 15-18)
July 15-20	Beaver Camp (Gr. 4-6)
July 29-31	Otter Camp (Gr. 1-3)
July 29-Aug 1	Archer Camp (Age 10-13)
Aug. 1-3	Red Tail Hawk Camp (Gr. 10-12)
Aug. 5-7	Owl Camp (Intergen.)

Camp Photos



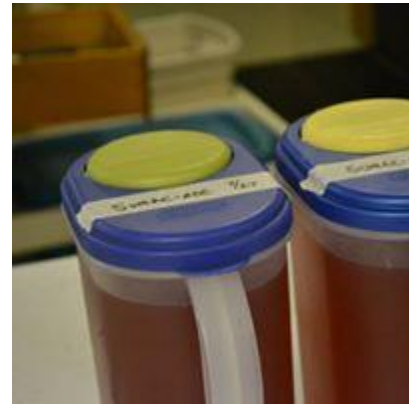
New Log Splitter being put to work



Campers enjoying the new splashpad!



Trails have been named and have new signs



Nothing like fresh Sumac-ade at Dadirri Camp



Campers trying out the new Corcls at the waterfront



Tony helping cut trails during Spring Work & Play Day



Mowed and opened new trails along the Back 40



*Items from the shop that will be upcycled to nature
playscape*