

Summer 2016

Pine Valley Camp

A LEGACY OF LIFE CHANGE



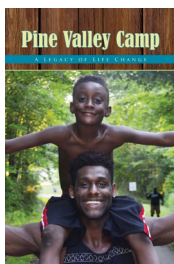
Pine Valley Camp

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On Our Cover:

Abel is a Geneva College student who has served at Pine Valley for the past 6 years. This year Abel is leading as a head counselor for kids camp and doing an outstanding job.

3 Great ways to give!



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Thank you for investing in the ministry of Pine Valley. Please consider continuing to support Pine Valley towards our summer expenses and our on going year round ministry.

For over 20 summers now we have seen incredible life-change and growth in our campers and staff who serve them!



504 Chapel Drive
Ellwood City, PA 16117
724-752-1661
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www.pinevalleycamp.org



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PineValleyCamp

Summer 2016



The Few... The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. This year we have an abundant harvest of children who need to hear the good news of Jesus' love. We are grateful the Lord sent us some amazing men and women to work the harvest at camp. We are so proud of our summer staff who sacrificed their summer to serve kids for the sake of the gospel. A lot of people like the idea of the harvest but few enlist to work it; we have the pleasure of serving with some of those precious few.



A few of our former campers are now on staff serving the next generation of Pine Valley campers. These are the few that came through kids camp, crossroads camp, CIT and who received contracts to come on staff. They are an inspiration to our staff and a great example to the kids.

This summer our theme is called “Walk by the Spirit”

it is grounded in Galatians 5 and it is inspired by the Disney Pixar movie “Inside Out”. We are learning that our emotions by themselves are not good or bad but depends on who is in control of them. The flesh? Or the Holy Spirit?

We are telling the kids to W.A.L.K by the spirit.

Wait and walk wisely

Ask the Lord what to do

Look into Gods Word

Know Gods will for you

Our desire is for the kids to believe in the completed work of Christ and to live in freedom from the flesh and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for our campers as they leave camp, pray that they W.A.L.K. by the spirit and not fall victim to the desires of the flesh.





What did you learn this Summer?

To treat others the way I want to be treated.

That Jesus helps you control what you do to others.

How to be quiet lol!

How to forgive other people.

That Jesus is coming back.

How to control my emotions.

That God is everywhere you go!



Favorite Fun Activity:

Ski boat riding • Bikes

Ga ga ball • Basketball

Swimming at the pool • The waterslide

Rock climbing • Horseback riding

Dunking counselors in the pool and

eating delicious food • **EVERYTHING!**



What the Campers Say About the Staff:

They make every moment count.

They were very nice and kind, I wish they can be my mom.

The kitchen ladies cook very good here.

They love and understand you, one of the counselors had like the same testimony as me!

I like how the crew are like sisters to me. Also my counselors are really very awesome.

My counselors are the best, they take care me.

They help me face my fears and get through hard times.

I like that we are all part of a family.







Do you want to come back to Pine Valley?

Yes, because I can make friends who are not a bad influence on me.

Yes, this is so much fun because we get to ride horses and go down a giant waterslide!

Yes, this was the best time of my life!

Yes, because it is fun and one day I want to work here.

Yes, because it's fun and my mom needs a break.

Yes, because they make you laugh and feel good about yourself.

Yes, because I get bored over the summer and we do really fun things that I don't get to do at home.



Dear God,

Thank you for letting me come to camp. It was so much fun. I made new friends in my cabin, the food was soooooo good, almost better then my moms. I hope I stay safe on the drive home.
Amen

Dear God,

Help me be the girl I used to be who was joyful and always smiled. Let me laugh again and feel real happiness. I pray that you'll help me at my dad's and that you'll guide me though this rough part in life. Help me gather more faith in you as I am doubting. I will push all of my worries on you and trust you will guide me God. Help protect my mother please make sure she'll be safe while I am gone. In summary help me live again God. Let me feel alive.

- a girl camper

Dear God,

I love you so much because your son died for us because he wanted to pay for are sins. I learned so much stuff about you. You're the best father ever! You love me no matter what.

Hold On

Last summer, young campers with tear streaked faces, and hope in their hearts were hanging out of the bus windows waving goodbye to their counselors. In a simple last gesture, one counselor, Mr. Josh, tossed a leaf into the bus window towards a little boy that he had cared for all week. The boy caught the leaf and shouted, "What should I do with this leaf?" Mr. Josh answered, "Hold on to it, until next year!"

Fast forward to this summer...

After a challenging year Mr. Josh decided to return again to us as a counselor. When the campers arrived for second term one of the kids immediately recognized him and said "Mr. Josh! I have something to show you!" Now Josh remembered the boy, but hardly remembered tossing that leaf in his direction but you guessed it... This boy pulled a crumbled dead leaf from his bag, "See, I held on to it!"

If a camper, amidst the chaos of his young life, can manage to cling all year to a dead leaf, how much more might kids cling tightly to a truth heard, a grace extended or a love poured out. When we are in the

midst of the difficulties of ministry and are sowing seeds into the wind, it is so wonderful to be reminded that the Lord is faithful to plant those seeds deep into the soil of young kids' hearts.

At the end of term two in our staff's debrief and celebration time, Mr. Josh shared this story to a weary audience of his co-warriors for the gospel. There was a collective, "Awe!" He went on to express how humbled he was by the reality that a camper would cling so faithfully to something that represented his encounter with Jesus here, when we ourselves often struggle with faithfulness in our walk. However, the best part of this story was when Josh opened his Bible and said, "Look what my camper gave me."

Lying there on the pages of the Book that holds the truth we profess and the promises we stand on, there was a bright green leaf! The camper had instructed his counselor of course to "Hold on to it until next year."

And that is how life in God's kingdom works. We love children and instruct them to "Hold on" and they do! In turn they are a reminder to us to "Hold on."

Proverbs 4:13 "Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well for it is your life."



A Family Who is “All In”

If God answered all your prayers, would the world change? Or just your world?

This is a picture of my dearest friend from childhood and her family. Her husband, Eric, is a pastor in Michigan and they have four tall basketball lovin’ boys (oh and a precious tiny daughter-in-law). Three of her boys and her daughter-in-law have been serving kids in a powerful way at Pine Valley for several summers.

This family is truly impacting the world around them. Jayanne is a vivacious and loving OBGYN nurse in a big hospital in Michigan. Her husband Eric is a wise and wonderful teaching pastor and shepherd. This family is “all in” as they serve Jesus with their lives and are agents of change to the world around them. As you can imagine from the picture Jayanne and her family are pretty passionate about basketball also.

Just prior to summer their son, Caleb, pointed out an obvious and long time need at Pine Valley and approached his mom about our basketball court. The old hoops were definitely an eye sore but instead of criticism this family took action. If any kids deserve and would appreciate a decent court, Pine Valley campers would! Together they saw the need and

shared the need with others. Within two weeks of the start of camp, they had everything lined up to get amazing new adjustable hoops set, and the court resurfaced and lined.

Many of their friends gave generously and now the basketball court better reflects the love of God for His children. This favorite spot in camp is yet another place where kids encounter Jesus. We believe that fun builds a bridge to the heart of a kid. And Caleb the guy who inspired the building of a new court, is building bridges to kids everyday on that court. It is a joy to look across the field and watch this tall basketball player, who is heroic in the eyes of the campers not just because he can play ball, but because he chooses to do it with them, and to model for them the love of Jesus. When you live your life “all in” for the gospel, God will answer your prayers and change the world for those around you!





EVERY KID SHOULD GO TO CAMP... BECAUSE FUN BUILDS A BRIDGE TO THE HEART OF A KID

Would you **FUND** unforgettable **FUN** for kids this summer?
INVEST in the life change of children through the mission of Pine Valley.

\$52 1 Kid for 1 Day

\$315 1 Kid for 1 Week at Camp

\$3,150 1 Cabin for 1 Week

\$31,500 10 Cabins for 10 Weeks

Thank You! I am writing this term 4, we are halfway through summer and we have had great camper attendance, 404 kids in the first four weeks. We have new kids attending, we have new ministries sending kids, and we have closed registration and have a growing waiting list for the second half of summer. Praise the Lord for a full summer! As our numbers grow so do our expenses, will you pray for Gods provision for Pine Valley as we "rebuild broken lives through Jesus Christ". We provide the gospel through camp trusting God will resource His Kingdom work and those who do it. Pray for us as we provide programs, pay bills, and pay our summer staff. Thank you!

The Ripple Effect

As we say goodbye to another precious summer, I find myself reflecting on why Pine Valley is my favorite place to spend the summer: the people. Short and simple. From the children that come down the lane to the men and women who serve them to the churches and ministries that partner with us to the glory of God.

I spent some time today talking with one of our wonderful kitchen girls from this summer. Miss Jay told me how she came to camp as a 9 year old. Her church (which is located out of state) had given her a

“Every day whenever you can, make time for Him. You have to spend time with God on your own.”

brochure about Pine Valley and from her first summer, she was hooked. She gave her life to Christ here. Two years later, she invited her dear friend from school to go to camp with her too. They grew up and went through Crossroads (our Teen Camp program) and were invited to our Camper in Training leadership development program. This year, we had the honor of having both of them on staff as kitchen girls. Seven years of relationship. Three lives changed.

I say three, because my life would not be the same without them.

When I asked Miss Jay what she felt Pine Valley has taught her, she replied “Every day whenever you can, make time for Him. You have to spend time with God on your own.” Hearing this made me want to jump up and down and shout with joy.

Just think, it all started with one church hundreds of miles away, who gave one of our brochures to a child. I cannot say thank you enough for the joy that has come from being introduced to these sweet young women of God. To all of our partner ministries and churches, thank you. Thank you for investing in children day in, day out, all year long. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to meet and invest in the children with whom you daily work. Pine Valley would not exist without you.

One church who invited. One girl who came. Several staff who took opportunities to show joy and contentment in the midst of trials. And a life was changed. Not only that, but I believe a life changer was born. I am so excited about this generation, as I see children and youth passionately following Jesus in a culture that rejects Him. Thank you, churches, ministries, and individuals for championing Jesus and the good news of the gospel itself. Wherever Jesus is, a legacy of life change occurs, and we get to be a part of it. Amazing!





HARVEST BANQUET

The Story

OCTOBER 8, 2016 - 6:00 PM

Northbridge Community Church
216 MYSTIC PINE TRAIL, CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066

\$50 Plate

Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.
John 4:35

PLEASE JOIN US IN A CELEBRATION AS WE SHARE THE STORIES OF CAMPERS WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN CHANGED, AND HEAR OF THE WORK THAT GOD HAS BEEN DOING IN THESE ONES SO PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT.



Reserve tickets by October 3, 2016 via phone at 724-752-1661 or Send checks to Pine Valley Camp, 504 Chapel Drive, Ellwood City, PA 16117 with "Story Harvest" written on the memo line.

BUILD SOMETHING!

WE CONTINUE TO REBUILD AT
PINE VALLEY, YOU CAN TOO BY BRINGING
A GROUP OUT OR USE YOUR INDIVIDUAL
SKILLS AS YOU TAKE PART IN KINGDOM



BUILDING!
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save the date

September 24
Lumberjack Work Day

October 8
Story Harvest
Celebration Banquet
see page 14

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

You can now donate Online! visit:

www.pinevalleycamp.org/#/support



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