

God Says “Time to Come Home”

Well, Heaven gained two Godly board members recently. God’s gain. Our praise. Mel Glick was just about to rotate off our board when God called him home on December 22 following a few hours of circulatory distress. Three days earlier Mel and wife, Mary June, were engaged in our Christmas craft exchange. A lasting memory is their smiles and a camper’s smile (from ear to ear) when they gave her a well constructed and beautifully painted personal bench. The camper immediately set aside her chair and happily sat upon her bench the remainder of the evening.

“Mr. Mel” joined us in 2016 as a part time maintenance staff member. He continued on in that role up until his passing. As Mr. Mel cut back to one day a week working at camp, he responded to a request for joining our board. He served with enthusiasm and a “can do” spirit. Although he kept an oxygen tank by his side throughout 2021, Mr. Mel kept on with his responsibilities with no complaints, but always with encouragements.

Born in Pennsylvania, Mr. Mel served in pastoral roles in New York, Virginia, and South Carolina. He and Mary June served as missionaries for a decade in Belize. In the earlier days of Bald Eagle Boys Camp in Pennsylvania, Mr. Mel served on the pastoral board. He also served as a stateside board member for Comeragh Camp in Ireland in its formative years. We are so grateful that God allowed us the opportunity of Mr. Mel’s service at our camp.



In February we gave up to Heaven a second board member. There is more inside.



Praise God for Donations!

Anyone notice food costs going up? We praise God for donations of food and funds that come in to us. The local Boy Scout Troop in Seneca brought out a load of collected food that new staff, Haein and Laura Faye happily sorted. Camp thrives with the help of donations, volunteers, and thrift stores profits!

Chief Ken Edgar, Camp's Founding Director, Has Gone Home

Chief Ken Edgar rallied support for the start up of Wilderness Way Girls' Camp in 1990 with the first girls admitted in early 1991. Much earlier, Chief Ken had his first experience with therapeutic camping with troubled youth. In 1960 Chief Ken stepped upon the grounds of Salesmanship Club Boys' Camp, in his home state of Texas. Camp and Chief Ken couldn't let go of each other, so they stayed together up until his departure on February 9. Having retired from camp in 2008, Chief Ken continued as a faithful girls' camp board member since then.

Chief Ken was a group chief at the Salesmanship Club camp until 1965 when he married Flora. A plan for him to be a supervisor by their wedding day did not come about due to a staff shortage. Ken remained a group chief for his first six months of marriage. What a start! But the duo stayed strong, even through another four month stretch when Ken left Texas to help Jack Eckerd get a camp started in Florida. Flora finished her school year in Texas as a first grade teacher before joining her husband at Camp E-How-Kee.

Chief Ken helped to start a number of camps, with the Eckerd Youth Alternatives, and several other organizations before joining the staff at Fair Play Boys' Camp in 1987. Chief Ken directed Fair Play Boys' Camp as they developed and then moved to their present location west of Westminster, SC.

Largely due to the encouragement of Harvey "Granddad" Yoder and the local school system, Ken and Flora established the Wilderness Way Girls' Camp on the old boys' camp property.

Chief Ken's love for Jesus has been unwavering as he was always encouraging all campers and staff to trust Jesus and see where that would take them in life.



All of Camp visited with the Edgars at a special Christmas dinner and worship service in December.

Polar Plunging

So you guys might be wondering what polar plunging is. Well, it does not sound very fun until you try it. So, on February 2, we went polar plunging. Basically you build a sauna by taking sticks and making a tripod and putting a tarp over top. Then you put hot rocks into a circle and dump water on the rocks. So inside the tarp you get really HOT!! Then very quickly, you throw the tarp off and jump in, this should be done in the winter. That's where the polar come in. But when we did it we just jumped into the water. We all squealed really loud. Before we jumped in, we all said that we would get our entire body wet including our hair. But when I went in it shocked me so bad, I ran out and then figured out that my hair was still dry. I thought OH NO! I have to go back in! So I quickly ran back in and got my hair wet. It was horrible! Then we ran back to the bus and got warm. We hurried back to camp to take showers. I felt so much better after showers!

Abby D.— Trailblazer

Taste and See Weekend May 28-30

Have you heard about Wilderness Way Girls' Camp and wondered what it would be like to serve here through Voluntary Service? How would you like a chance to experience camp for a weekend to learn more? Well... we are offering that opportunity to young women over Memorial Day Weekend. We are forming a camp "group" that will carry out responsibilities and adventures much like our two groups would do. Campfire cooking, tent building, wood splitting, and waterfall rambling will be parts of the experience. If you have interest in joining us for this weekend please call our camp at (864)972-0611 to speak with Bill Collins, or email us at wildernesswaycamp@gmail.com.

Thanks for a Big Boost to Our Thrift Stores

Zeb Earley has ended his tenure as General Manager of our Thrift Stores. Zeb and his wife, Hannah, joined us right after graduating college. Beginning in the summer of 2014 the Earleys began to co-manage the recently opened Anderson store, which Hannah still manages. Zeb progressed in developing good practices in the stores and, as a result, we soon doubled our sales and more than doubled our store profits. Many good working relationships with the Upstate community have been forged by Zeb. He leaves us in much better shape. Many thanks to Zeb for his years of commitment to the success of the stores and of the camp. We wish him well.



Zeb is holding up one of many interesting "treasures" that came through our stores over the years. This is a hand written instructional textbook from the seventeen hundreds.

New Staff Making a Difference

So far this year three new staff have chosen us for full time Voluntary Service. Haein Lee is assisting in the kitchen while Laura Faye Zimmerman and Melanie Stoltzfus are assisting with office help, grounds work and other support services. "Miss Mel" will also be helping parttime at a thrift store. We are excited to have this new boost of energy and competence added to our camp!



Miss Mel,

Miss Haein,

Miss Laura Faye



Wilderness Way Camp School, Inc.
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Fair Play, SC 29643

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Inside:

Two Great Men of Camp
Have Gone Home

New Support Staff

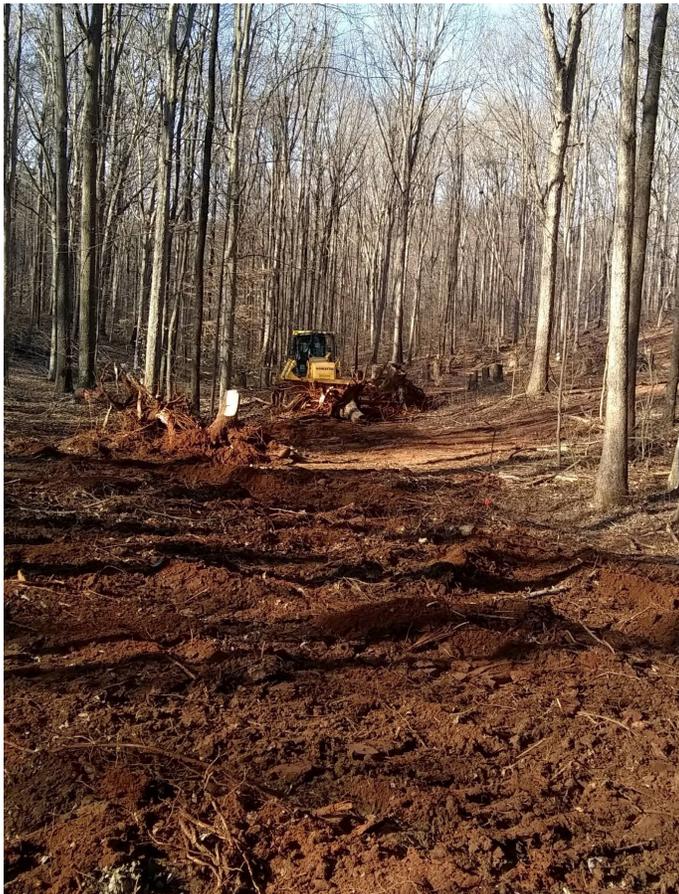
Taste and See Weekend

Praise God for Donations!

Thank You, Zeb

RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

What is This?



Looks like dirt among trees. Yep! But it's special dirt. This picture was taken at the site of our upcoming Bunkhouse for volunteer groups. Chief Brandon Weaver spent the first half of winter clearing off the trees from the site and the drive coming in. Lyndon Overholt has bulldozed the stumps and graded the site. This spring we will pour the slab and raise the frame. Solid funding has come in and some stages of construction have volunteers committed. We could use more of both. If interested, mail us at 175 Camp School Lane in Fair Play, SC 29643. You may call Brandon Weaver or Bill Collins at 864-972-0611.

We've been getting excited thinking of all the ways we can use this building and make it available throughout the year. Thanks to all who are supporting this project.