



Our Mission: "To provide a place apart where all people can experience God's love within a welcoming Christian community."

Fall 2011 Edition

Johnsonburg, NJ

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In the Interim

Johnsonburg welcomes the Rev. Karen Brostrom O'Brien as Interim Executive Director. Karen is an intentional interim minister and this will be her eighth interim position. She has served churches in New Jersey, Maryland, Ohio, Colorado and Mississippi. In each state she has been involved with Presbyterian camps.



Her love affair with J'burg began in the 1960's when she was a camper. Karen then served on summer staff, volunteered as a counselor, age group director and served on the Board of Directors in the 1970's (from New Brunswick Presbytery) and more recently as a representative from Elizabeth Presbytery. You may have seen her in Taylor Lodge (assisting the nurses) or acting as chaplain for a week.

"I am looking forward to working with the great staff here at camp. They are the folks who maintain Johnsonburg as the place we know and love. We'll take time to create a vision for the future while remembering that we are unique in the world of Presbyterian camps."

Karen lives in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Her parents live in Tinton Falls. Her sisters Nancy and Barbara, (both former campers) and their families live in Keyport and Bridgewater respectively. Her son Dave (former camper) and granddaughter, Riley (future camper) live in Ohio. When you come up to visit please stop by the office and say hello to Karen.

Important Notice:

We will be starting online registration for next summer this fall, by the end of November!

Summer 2011 Highlights



“And it Was Good!” was not only the theme of the 2011 summer curriculum, it is also a great description for the summer overall. This

year saw over 1,100 kids and family members come to summer camp for a week or more of fun, acceptance, and Christian fellowship. Despite some speed bumps along the way, it was a great summer!

Each year we add new programming to keep camp fresh and this year was no different. A few of the new items for 2011 included a new low ropes element, the Mohawk Walk, two theme weeks during the summer (animals and holidays), and local alpacas visited each week of the summer. The campers enjoyed all these new elements to the summer program.

Perhaps the biggest change was in our scheduling. This past summer we offered fewer specialty units, where campers sign up for units that focus on a particular activity (archery) or skill (babysitting). Instead, we offered a series of “choice” units where campers would break off from their small group a few times during the week to pursue a specific area of interest after they got to camp. This allowed kids



to meet and interact with campers from other units and have more choice in their program options. It also allowed us to offer some camper favorites more often during the summer. Overall campers seemed to really like this added element of choice.

Another change for 2011 was the addition of three new staff positions: naturalist, music and worship leader, and arts and crafts coordinator. In past summers these positions were filled by a different staff member. To improve consistency in these program areas we staffed them with dedicated and skilled resource people. This worked so well that we’re planning on keeping this model as we move forward. So if nature, arts and crafts, or music and worship leadership are your thing, we may have a spot for you next summer!



We also continued to offer buildings for groups who wished to hold their own event at camp during the summer. Two groups that took advantage of this opportunity were work groups from the Presbyterian churches in Forked River and Cranbury. These groups of teens and adults spent some time working here at camp or at a nearby church and the rest of their day enjoying camp. We are very grateful to these folks for all the work they accomplished!

As in years past, Johnsonburg continues to be a place where all kids are accepted for who they are, regardless of their beliefs, abilities, or backgrounds, and this was the main highlight of the summer. Watching campers grow in confidence and independence, seeing friendships form, and

hearing faith expressions was a true blessing for all of us on staff. Thanks to all the campers who came to Johnsonburg this summer and sharing part of yourself with us. We appreciate the trust you place in us and we will work hard to maintain it. See you next year!

Nature Center Makeover



This summer, we were blessed with having a dedicated Naturalist on our staff for the first time since the 80s. Drew Lovering brought a great deal

of knowledge to the position, but also an effort to make some significant improvements to our Nature Center. The walls and ceilings were falling down, covered in mold and inhabited by lots of critters. Throughout the years, many people have taken an interest in improving the nature program at camp, bringing curriculum ideas and donating fossils, microscopes, books, and tanks. We have greatly appreciated all of these things, and the Nature Center itself was definitely overdue for an overhaul!

This spring, Drew gutted the entire building, sorting through materials and salvaging many of the wonderful gifts we've received over the years. With the help of his father, Graig Lovering, board member Bill DiBartolo, and many others, the building was cleaned up and the electrical system was updated and improved, including new lighting. The Nature Center is now much safer and better lit to see all of the wonderful creatures and samples.

But this is just the start. The walls and ceilings are still bare and will remain so until the roof can be repaired or replaced. If you would like to help us continue this project, especially the roof, please be in touch with us!



Looking for 2012 Summer Staff – Join Our Team!

If you are between the ages of 16 - 25, are a committed Christian, love kids, and want to make a difference in their lives, you may be in for the best summer of your life!

Every year our staff is the key ingredient to the success of our summer program. Because of that, we try to fill each position with the best possible people. For next summer we will be looking to fill the following positions:

- Age group directors (21+ and a college graduate)
- Chaplain (21+, seminary student or Christian education background preferred)
- A waterfront director (21+, Red Cross lifeguard and WSI certified)
- Ropes director (21+ and challenge course experience)
- Male and female counselors (18+ and one year out of high school)
- Nature resource person
- Arts and crafts coordinator
- Music and worship leader
- Lifeguards (16+ and Red Cross certified)
- Kitchen and support workers (16+)
- Junior staff (16+),
- Nurses (RN or LPN).

While we prefer people who can work the whole summer, we will consider outstanding applicants who may only be available for part of the summer. All staff must attend a week long staff training (June 22-28) and the summer program runs from July 1 - August 18, with an additional week of family camp running August 19 - 24.

If you need more information, or if you have any questions, please contact our program director, Harry Zweckbronner, at staff@campjburg.org.

**Check out the new camp website:
www.campjburg.org**

Camper Feedback

If you had a child come to camp this summer and haven't already done so, please take a moment to fill out our summer camp survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZBRL9S5>. Your input will help us improve our summer camp programs!



6th Annual Golf Tournament (Better known as "Rain, Rain, Won't Go Away!")

Despite our best efforts to hold our sixth annual golf tournament, Mother Nature had a different plan. After Hurricane Irene flooded the Minebrook Golf Course on the original date of September 10, we rescheduled to October 1. All seemed well with this date until the week leading up to the tournament, we had more flooding rain! With the Minebrook Course flooded again, and even more rain expected along with cooler weather, we saw no choice but to cancel the tournament.

However, the Lord is watching over Camp Johnsonburg, and many of our loyal supporters donated all or a portion of the golf fees back to camp. These generous golfers, along with a number of good sponsor donations, allowed us to raise over \$8,000 for our Karin Peri Memorial Scholarship Fund. This will enable us to support many campers next summer who would otherwise not be able to attend Camp Johnsonburg. Thanks to all of you who were planning on playing! The crazy summer of 2011 will not temper our enthusiasm for our annual tournament. We hope for a beautiful sunny day for the tournament in 2012....

Question: Will next year's tournament be the SEVENTH ANNUAL or SIXTH? What date shall we choose next year to ensure beautiful weather? All suggestions are welcome!

Follow us on Twitter
@campjburg

Johnsonburg Day 2011

On October 8, 2011 we celebrated our fourth annual Johnsonburg Day here at camp. It was a beautiful day with lots of fun, food, and fellowship. In



addition to our typical Johnsonburg Day events like egg-toss, putting, and pie-eating contests, this year we also added the opportunity for people to try favorite camp activities like archery, boating, and the zipline.



Lots of people took advantage of the great weather to walk the site and re-connect with friends. In middle meadow, one of our favorite praise bands,

Our Saving Grace, was generous enough to play for us throughout the day. Other features of the day were our food tent, bake sale, camp store table, and a board with pictures from every unit we had this past summer.

Thanks to everyone who came out for the day and to the many volunteers who made it possible!

Spiritual Sanctuary

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat. So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. (Mark 6:30-32)

The Spiritual Sanctuary at Johnsonburg offers an opportunity for adults to come apart to a quiet place for rest, refreshment, and renewal. The serenity of the camp setting invites a sense of stillness and calm for body and spirit. Come experience a time of personal retreat, or attend a Sabbath Day, Retreat Day, or workshop for spiritual growth. Hike the trails, sit by the lake, walk the labyrinth, or sit within the circle of others who also come seeking this time apart.

Spiritual Sanctuary offerings for 2012 include:

- a Lenten Retreat Day on Friday, March 2, 2012
- an Open Forum Conversation: “Experiences, Struggles, and Visions: Who is the church today? How do we open ourselves to where God is guiding us to be?” (watch for date, times, and more information upcoming)
- a Sabbath Rest for the Caring Soul---a day for caregivers on Sunday, April 22, 2012
- a Spring Sabbath Day on Thursday, May 10, 2012
- a Fall Sabbath Day
- a Men’s Retreat
- an Advent Retreat Day

All programs are open to both laypersons and clergy who have a desire to come together to share the movement of God’s Spirit among us.

Ways to Support Johnsonburg

Send your child or another child to camp

Volunteer in the summer or anytime!

Put Johnsonburg in your church’s mission budget

Bring your church or another group to camp

Visit a church and share your Johnsonburg story

Make an individual contribution

Donate a Wish List item

Attend a Johnsonburg retreat or other event

Include camp in your will

Ask your employer about matching gifts

Purchase items at the camp store
and

Keep the Johnsonburg ministry in your prayers

CAMP WISH LIST

- Comfortable cushioned chairs for adult events (approximately 20 @ \$200 each)
- New linens (sheets and blankets for twin-sized beds)
- New Motorola 2-way radios to replace units that no longer comply with FCC regulations (10 @ \$200/each)
- Chainsaw
- Generator

Volunteers Fall 2010 to Summer 2011

Kathleen Aiello	Lara Carter
Emily Albrecht	Wade Carter
Ben Alexander	Rosellyn Cassidy
Stu Alexander	John Cavicchia
Valerie Alexander	Stephen Cristiano
Zak Barreiro	Chris Ciongoli
Brooke Bartleson	Donna Ciongoli
Kristen Beam	Wally Cook
Wally Beam	Andy Corwin
Laura Benick	Cranbury Presbyterian Church
Lisa Benick	Robin Miller Curras
Paula Benson	Richard Daugherty
Jeffrey Betz	Ed Davenport
Cynthia Betz-Bogoly	James Davis
Moses Ohene Biney	Kyle Davis
Bob Bingham	Bill DiBartolo
Jon Bingham	Craig Doolittle
John Blakeley	Jill Duncan
Beth Blanchard	Ross Duncan
Matthew Blanchard	Kenny Edler
Sarah Blanchard	Tim Edler
Bloomfield College students	Charlie Elflein
Katie Boyle	Susan Elflein
Rob Brabant	Renee Elwell
Robby Brauer	Emily (Caldwell)
Leslie Brennan	Mark Erickson
Bill Britton	Ray Erickson
Kay Britton	Julia Finlayson
Karen Brostrom-O’Brien	Bob Foltz-Morrison
Elisabeth Buckley	Dan Foltz-Morrison
John Burke	Leslie Foltz-Morrison
Liz Burke	Hannah Ford
William Burke	John Ford
Jon Burrafato	Forked River Presbyterian Church
Frank Butterfield	Allie Forsythe
Max Butterfield	Brian Freund
Sue Butterfield	Dieter Fryer
Morgan Cahill	David Galofaro
Shawn Cahill	Marisol Garcia
Caldwell Presbyterian Church	Abi Gardner
Kelly Carman	Rich Gelson

Sarah Gillette	Tony Loreti	Chrissie Parziale	Jill Vanderhoff
Shannon Goldbach	Drew Lovering	Curtis Lane Paul	Joe Van De Weert
Sara Goltsch	Fluff Lovering	Sarah Paul	Lily Van De Weert
Anne Gordon	Graig Lovering	Alexis Pellechio	Lisa Van De Weert
Sarah Gordon	Robin Maestripieri	Steve Peri	Daniel Velez
Lauren Greenwald	Matt Maffucci	Jane Politi	Ruth Velez
Erin Guthrie	Mike Maffucci	Phil Powers	Sarah Vita
Hamilton Square Presbyterian Church	Sandy Maffucci	Susan Joseph Rack	Daniel Waldeck
John Hansen	Tadd Maffucci	Ramsey Presbyterian Church	Andrew Walker
Doris Haring	Mary Marcus	Mandy Rauffer	Joyce MacKichan Walker
Susan Harkins	Paul-Louis Massol	Anne Reilly	Julie Wallwork
Cat Heavener	Arlene McCann	Ellen Ringle	Nick Wallwork
John Heinlich	Kay McLean	Joshua Ringle	Sharon Wardlaw
Cindy Heinz	Karen Meilands	Chad Rodgers	Marc Weston
Bruce Hellriegel	Pam Meilands	Katie Rodriguez	Caleb Whipple
Daniel Hellriegel	Pat Meilands	Megan Rodriguez	Jean Wiarda
John Hellriegel	Greg Melville	Kristen Roman	Randy Wojtech
Nancy Hellriegel	Cassie Merkel	Danielle Romeo	Zasha Wojtech
Calleigh Higgins	Liz Mertz	Kat Rothe	Danika Yacic
Sharon Holmsborg	Kathy Meyer	Robin Rothera	Kate Zisa
Margaret Hriczak	Emily Minieri	Sue Ross	Chris Zwarych
Bob Jacobus	James Minieri	John Rowland	Susanna Zwarych
Caroline Jacobus	Laurie Minieri	Claudia Salinas	Ann Zweckbronner
David Joseph	Nick Minieri	Abby Sander	Kathryn Zweckbronner
Noah Joseph	Sara Minieri	Scott Scardena	Molly Zweckbronner
Linda Kaplarczuk	Matt Morrison	Ian Schumacher	Will Zweckbronner
Sherry Karasik	Hannelie Mostert	Lauren Scott	
Griffin Keat	Kim Muench	Mandie Segda	
Mike Keat	Emma Neishloss	Carolyn Smith	
Susan Keat	Hayley Nelson	Courtney Smith	
Tom Keat	Dave Newkirk	Mark Smith	
Dan Kiessling	Emma Newkirk	Sarah Smith	
Jenell King	Olivia Newkirk	Sam Snyder	
Corinne Kitner	Rayna Newkirk	Kathy Socia	
Jill Hedlund Kitsko	Sharon Newkirk	Steve Specca	
Kristin Kosier	Doug Norrie	Jaime Staehle	
James Lambert	Marc Oehler	Richard Stenken	
Stacey Lange	Erica Oelschlager	Laura Still	
Anna Lawler	Ethan Oelschlager	Doug Strahle	
Johnny Lawler	Stephanie Keat Oelschlager	Steve Sues	
Kathy Lawler	Derek Osewalt	Brennan Thiemann	
Andy Leedom	Kelly Oulton	Rob Thiemann	
Jim Leedom	Our Saving Grace	Skylar Thiemann	
Kathy Leedom	Marcel Paillard	Taryn Urban	
Emily Lewis	Andrew Palmer	Jill van den Heuvel	
	Rich Palmer		

CAMP NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH A SPECIAL PROJECT:

Do you own or have access to a posthole digger? If you do, camp can use your help installing a new fence around the perimeter of the camp Garden. If you would like to help us out, please be in touch with Kurt at kurt@campjburg.org.

Alumni News

Weddings---

Alicia Pasko and Sam Morrison were married October, 2010, and celebrated their marriage with family and friends on June 25, 2011.

Heather Estelle Miller, and Eric Allen Foster were married on July 30, 2011 and celebrated with family and friends in Neptune, NJ on Saturday, October 8th.

Babies---

Dex and **Albry Montalbano Smither** welcomed their daughter, Zoey Grey Smither, to their family on March 31, 2011. Zoey, born March 29, 2011, is the granddaughter of Joe and **Theresa Montalbano**.

Dana and **Becky Huber Trytten** announce the birth of their son, Arlo John Trytten, on June 13, 2011. Arlo visited camp at the end of the summer and then welcomed a group of 2011 summer staff for a visit to his house in September.

Robert and **Alyssa Strouse Valenti** welcomed a son, Simon Joseph, on June 29, 2011.

Mike and Beth Innis Keat announce the arrival of their daughter, Evelynn Kathy Keat, born July 14, 2011 just days after her dad came home from volunteering at Johnsonburg. The Keat family visited camp during Family Camp to introduce Evelynn to the special place where her mom and dad met.

Aimee and **David Galofaro** welcomed a daughter, Gianna Rose Galofaro, on August 29, 2011 during the height of Hurricane Irene. Gianna's big brother is Anthony, 4, and her proud grandma is **Vicki Galofaro**.

Ross and Jill Boreman Duncan visited Johnsonburg in July to volunteer for the first Sunday of summer camp and then returned home to welcome their son, Ethan Augustus Duncan, born August 30, 2011 at Kingston Hospital in London.

Destin and **Sarah Pancoast Evans** announce the birth of their daughter, Alexa Christine Evans born September 23, 2011.

Tucker Brennan and Stephanie Collins welcomed their daughter, Tegan Ruth Brennan, to their family on October 14, 2011.



Tucker Brennan and Stephanie Collins w/daughter Tegan

Other Alumni News---

Three former Johnsonburg staff members have embraced the challenge of the Appalachian Trail this year. Tony Loreti and Andrew Walker began in Georgia in March and completed their trek to Maine in September. They took a short break to visit Johnsonburg and volunteer during staff training. Gregg Randolph began in Maine early in the summer and arrived in New Jersey the first week of October. After visiting with family and friends, he resumed his journey, accompanied for a few days by his brother, John Randolph. Gregg, John, and Michael Gurzo stopped at Johnsonburg for a brief visit before Gregg resumed his hike into Pennsylvania. He anticipates arriving in Georgia by early December.

In Memoriam---

Maurice S. Shier, of Phoenixville, PA and formerly of Pennington, NJ, died on October 17, 2011. Maurice was a member of the Johnsonburg Board of Trustees for many years, and his family members were campers, volunteers, and staff members. He leaves Sue Shier, his wife of over 45 years; four children, Stephen and his wife, Kate, Lorena Beach and her husband, Andy, Andrew and his wife, Jessie, and Michael and his wife, Heather Hibbert; a sister, Rebecca Viebrock; and eight grandchildren, Susanna, Jane, Maxwell, Benjamin, Graeson, Myka, Maddie, and Lily.

We are grateful for the contributions that Maurice brought to the Johnsonburg Board and ministry and hold his family in prayer during this time of loss.

With much gratitude for a job well done...

...the staff of Johnsonburg bids farewell to Colleen Earp who has served as our marketing assistant since January. Colleen has a long history at Johnsonburg as camper, summer and year round staff member. During this past year she has greatly expanded our ability to share our programs and ministry within the churches and communities of New Jersey and beyond. You may have spoken with her on the phone, greeted her when she visited your congregation, or received one of her numerous emails or Facebook messages. Her love for Johnsonburg has been evident in all that she has accomplished on the camp's behalf, and she will be dearly missed. We congratulate her on completing her Masters degree this fall and wish her many blessings on her continuing journey!

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Nov 10, 2011 – Advent Workshop Day for pastors

Nov 18-20, 2011 – Senior High Retreat

Dec 2-4, 2011 – Junior High Retreat

Feb 17-19, 2012 – Family Camp Weekend

March 2, 2011 – Lenten Retreat Day

March 2-4, 2012 – Confirmation Retreat #1

March 23-25, 2012 – Confirmation Retreat #2

April 20-22, 2012 – Senior High Spring Retreat

April 22, 2012 – Sabbath Day for Caregivers

April 28, 2012 – Spruce Up Day

May 2, 2012 – Church Secretary Appreciation Day

May 5, 2012 – Open House

May 10, 2012 – Sabbath Day

May 18-20, 2012 – Junior High Spring Retreat

May 25-28, 2012 – Alumni Reunion

June 1-2, 2012 – 4th and 5th Grade Retreat

June 10-14, 2012 – Special Needs Camp

July 1, 2012 – Summer Camp 2012 Begins!

Give the Gift of Camp

With Christmas only a few weeks away, consider giving that special child in your life the gift of a summer camp experience at Johnsonburg. Gift certificates are available in any amount and will be applied to their fee when they register for camp next summer.

The gift of a full or partial week at camp also makes a great birthday gift.

The base fee for a one- week experience at Johnsonburg in 2012 is \$485.

For more information please call camp and 908-852-2349 or e-mail Wendy at wendy@campjburg.org



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