



Johnsonburg Journal

*Sacred place,
open space*

Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center www.campjburg.org Fall 2019

Our Mission: Where all may gather, where all are welcomed, and where all are invited to share gracious hospitality, joyful Christian community, and the wonder of God's creation.



We Kicked off Johnsonburg's 60th Anniversary!

In celebration of 60 years of ministry at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center, friends, alumni and guests joined for a Gala on October 5. Framed with the start of beautiful fall leaf color, Gala Committee Chair Casey Carbone welcomed guests with

live music as they enjoyed appetizers, wine and local beer. A scrumptious dinner by our very own Debra (and team) with violin accompaniment, was followed by a silent auction; a heartfelt testimony from camper-turned-counselor Dee Dee Pooler; a

ministry update from Elise, executive director; and a special gift from the 60s Crew. As the original staff of the camp, the 60s Crew made an announcement for the 60th: a pledge of a \$30,000 gift. Thankfully, 25% will go toward the Endowment Fund of Johnsonburg and 75% will go toward current needs (a new roof on the Dining Hall!). This is a wonderful commitment to the future of Johnsonburg and a true reflection of the impact a ministry can have.

Please plan now to join us May 22-24, 2020 for the culmination of the 60th Anniversary—there will be overnight, day and weekend options for everyone!

More info at www.campjburg.org



Gathered together to kick off Johnsonburg 60th anniversary, some members of the original staff during the 1960s present a generous gift to Johnsonburg. Left to right: Elise, Robert Jacob, Karen Brostrom, Ray Erickson, Helen Kohler, Kurt Oelschlager, Jayne Stoll, Mark Erickson, Tom Stoll.

New Partnership with Living Waters for the World



Living Waters for the World (LWW), a ministry of the Synod of Living Waters, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is bringing their hallmark training program, Clean Water U, to Johnsonburg June 23-27, 2020.

This is an expansion from LWW's base of training at Camp Hopewell in Oxford, MS. Living Waters for the World takes a unique approach to water ministry. The organization trains volunteers, mostly from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches, to form international water partnerships. Teams engage directly with communities and train them to purify contaminated water, as well as help install and teach the local community to maintain the water purification systems.

"This is a wonderful opportunity coming at an important time," says Steve Young, LWW Executive Director. "LWW's mission teams have now partnered to install 1,000 water systems in communities throughout the world. By expanding our training into the northeast, we hope to welcome more churches into this life-changing work, as we look to the next 1,000 clean water partnerships."

"How exciting to be part of a global mission community via Clean Water U! Johnsonburg has trained leaders for the

national and international church for 60 years. Now, we are partnering with Living Waters, to educate new generations of people who feel called to make a difference. The Johnsonburg Board and staff look forward to welcoming clean water teams to the beautiful campus in northwest New Jersey," adds Elise Bates Russell, executive director of Johnsonburg.

"Camp Hopewell has been our training home since the beginning," says Kendall Cox, LWW's Director of Education. "Now we are expanding to Johnsonburg with Hopewell right alongside us to assist. What a gift God has given us by making us partners so that clean water may flow. We can't wait to see what grows from the seeds God has planted."



Johnsonburg's Executive Director Elise Bates Russell discusses the ultraviolet water purification system with Clean Water U instructors at Hopewell Camp and Retreat Center in Oxford, Mississippi.

Johnsonburg's
New Legacy
Society:

The Cedars

Since 1959, Johnsonburg has hosted summer camp, retreats, leadership development opportunities, and community-forming opportunities. Perhaps you have grown in your faith and personhood because of Johnsonburg. In celebration of 60 years of ministry, and looking to the future, the Board has established The Cedars, a legacy gift society at Johnsonburg. Please consider including Johnsonburg in your planned giving.

You can be a Charter member of the Cedars

All persons/families who notify Johnsonburg of designation in a will, insurance policy or estate plan by 12/31/2020 (or who notify Johnsonburg of prior inclusion) will be designated

Charter Members in the annual report and in the Dining Hall.

Why The Cedars?

The size and longevity of the cedar tree symbolizes strength, and in Lebanon, the tree serves as an important cultural symbol for that reason. Poets and artists have conveyed the tree as a sign of strength and eternity, especially given the tree's endurance through tumultuous periods of history. Cedar trees have been present at Camp Johnsonburg since the beginning. The drooping boughs of the cedar tree, which often touch the ground and create a shelter around the tree, certainly suggest protectiveness, and some American Indians saw the red cedar as a symbol of protectiveness.

Multiple



allusions to the cedar tree are made in the Bible, and one of the most meaningful occurs in the Book of Ezekiel, where the cedar's deep-reaching roots are said to be the cause of its grandeur: "Therefore [the] height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and [the] boughs were multiplied, and [the] branches became long because of the multitude of waters."

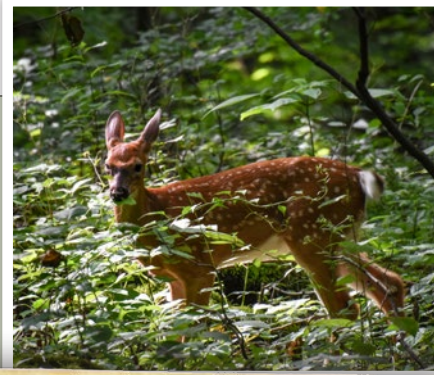
The ability of the cedar to tap deep-flowing waters inaccessible to other trees and to, therefore, become "exalted above all the trees of the field" again alludes to the cedar tree as a symbol of wisdom.

For more information, visit the website or contact *Elise Bates Russell* at 908-852-2349.



Nature Corner

Last year, the Johnsonburg Board approved a Forest Stewardship Plan for the care of the approximately 230 acres of forest (the other 70ish acres are the center of camp). As part of this plan, the camp will continue to aggressively remove and seek to eradicate invasive plants. (We don't want Autumn Olive or Multiflora Rose!) It includes caring for the trees with appropriate trimming, and planning for an adequate number of trees in the forest. It also enables the camp to apply for state grants to continue this good work as faithful stewards of God's creation.



Reflection on Summer 2019

This summer, we had the first artist-in-residence! David Joseph is a graduate student pursuing a MFA in creative writing at Arizona State University. Drawing from his experience as a camper and staff member at Johnsonburg years ago, David offered creative writing as a Camper's Choice each afternoon, for all ages, and he reclaimed some trails on the property too. David shared, "Even after ten summers away, when I hear Johnsonburg, I think home. I'm so grateful for the caretakers of this community who welcomed me with warmth and generosity." Here is a poem from this summer — enjoy!

Summer 2019 fun in the pool, on new water toys in the lake, playing soccer, moving into cabins, meeting Max the rabbit, shaving cream whiffle ball and so much more. Enjoy a bit of summer throughout this newsletter!



the maker

when asked / what brought me back
after so many years / i answer /
i've come to remember /

how many trees
i knew then / now are dead //

^^

there used to be a trail
in these woods / tagged
on poplar trunks / with blue blazes //

one day / the trail vanished //
no one could remember / who had made it /
or with what tools / the trail was cleared //

^^

with a handsaw / i scar a tree face
between two / splashed with paint //
each morning / i lose myself

in these woods / hunting
faded / blue circles / like stray tired eyes //
a carpenter ant touches / the pulpy inner wood

with its feelers / reminds me / the trail didn't vanish /
the woods reappeared // nothing here / was lost //
this is the site of a making //

^^

isn't this one of our names /
for god // maker // how many places
i've tread / now are living //

how many footfalls / before
the brush again is tilled bare / soil //

an important choice is said
to be / make or break // i asked god
and she told me / why choose //

^^

the trail i am making
in the woods / we might call
a fracture / an erasure / an absence //

when you ask / after so many years /
why i'm here /
i make you /
this story //

Johnsonburg

Camp & Retreat Center

Presbyterian Camps & Conference
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Johnsonburg, NJ 07825

908-852-2349

www.campjburg.org

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Looking Ahead 2020

Winter Fun Day	February 1, 2020	All Ages
Confirmation Retreat #1	February 7-9	Grades 6 - 12
Confirmation Retreat #2	February 28-March 1	Grades 6 - 12
Spring Youth Retreat	March 20-22	Grades 6 - 12
Do Good Friday Retreat	April 10 (opt. overnight April 9)	Grades 6 - 12
Women's Retreat	April 17-19	Adults
Spring Spruce-Up Day	April 25 (Rain Date - May 2)	All Ages
Spring Ultimate Youth Day	Saturday, May 9	Grades 6 - 12
60th Anniversary Alumni & Friends Weekend	May 22-24, 2020	All Ages

Wish List

- New single sheet sets for international staff
- Single size fleece blankets
- Gently used kayaks

Give a gift to Camp while you do your shopping!
Check out our AmazonSmile wish list!

Thank You!

