

# Annual Report 2017

Dear Friends of Johnsonburg,

On behalf of the Board and staff, I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report.

What you will not see in the numbers of this annual report are the staff and volunteers who are dedicated to serving the guests and campers who come to Johnsonburg each year. Whether they renovated cabins, raked stones onto the roads, facilitated the High Ropes Course for a group, removed invasive species from the tree line, led a turtle hike on the lake, weeded the Butterfly Garden, or prepared tasty food, their commitment was clear and profound. In addition, like our guests and campers, they were from all walks of life.

Johnsonburg's inclusion of diverse peoples has always been, and will always be, a hallmark of our ministry. As the ministry continues to grow, I look forward to seeing our diversity grow as well. I hope you enjoy this report, and perhaps find a way in which you can join this vital, growing ministry affectionately known as Camp Johnsonburg!

With thankfulness to God for the faithful loyalty and generosity of our camp friends,

*Elise*

Elise Bates Russell,  
Executive Director



Volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge spruce up the grounds on Spring Spruce-Up Day in April. Thanks to the energy of people of all ages, the cabins, buildings and property woke up from their winter slumber!



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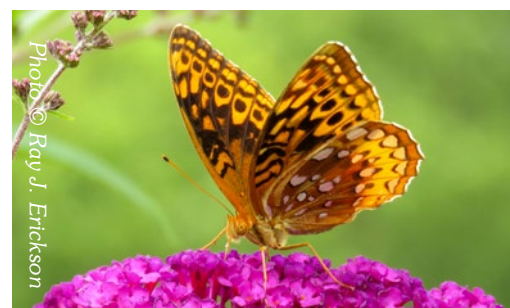
**Marion A. Walters**  
Retired

## Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center

Presbyterian Camps & Conference  
822 Route 519  
Johnsonburg, NJ 07825

908-852-2349

[www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org)



Join us **Saturday,  
July 7, 10am-4pm**  
for **Friends Day!**  
*Waterfront dedication 11:30am*  
*Activities, picnic lunch*  
*and worship for all!*

## Looking Ahead 2018

<b>2018 Summer Camp Staff Commissioning</b> (Presbyterian Church in Westfield)	<b>June 17, 2018</b>
<b>Summer Camp</b>	<b>June 24-August 11</b>
<b>Friends Day</b>	<b>July 7</b>
<b>Family Camp</b>	<b>July 20-22</b>
<b>Ultimate Youth Day</b>	<b>September 30</b>
<b>Fall Fun Day</b>	<b>October 7</b>
<b>Quilting Retreat</b>	<b>October 17-21</b>
<b>Women's Retreat</b>	<b>October 26-27</b>
<b>Confirmation Day Event</b>	<b>October 27</b>
<b>High School Fall Retreat</b>	<b>November 16-18</b>
<b>Middle School Retreat</b>	<b>Nov. 30-Dec. 2</b>
<b>4th-5th Grade Retreat</b>	<b>November 2-3</b>

**Johnsonburg**  
[www.campjburg.com](http://www.campjburg.com)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Randolph, NY

## Johnsonburg Journal

*Sacred place,  
open space*

Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center [www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org) Spring 2018

## Special Campaign for the Waterfront Update



Thanks to the generosity of so many supporters who believe in Johnsonburg, we have received donations and sold bricks to support the much-needed renovation of the beloved waterfront! To date, we have raised over 90% of the \$250,000 for the replacement of the docks (swimming/boating and fishing), Lakeside Fire Circle, and pathways. Over 200 bricks were purchased and the memories engraved will be laid overlooking the lake. The dock pieces arrived in early February, and installation has begun at the time of this printing! We are on our way to a new waterfront for Summer 2018!

Join us for the dedication of the new waterfront and fire circle on Friends Day, July 7, at 11:30 am. If you or someone you know wishes to Jump On In, please contact Elise Bates Russell, Executive Director at [elise@campjburg.org](mailto:elise@campjburg.org) or 908-852-2349.

*The old dock comes out in preparation for the new dock! Join us this summer at Friends Day on July 7 for the dedication of the updated waterfront.*

**Jump  
On In**

## Camp Joy!

enriching outdoor experience at Camp Johnsonburg for adults with intellectual disabilities was born! Some of our guests' favorite memories of camp include the zipline, boating, a pool party, and a cookout.

Wayne, who celebrates his 70th birthday this December, has been coming to Camp Joy for almost all 10 years. This is not surprising – he skis slalom (and wins!) in the Special Olympics, as well. Wayne won a gold medal this year. He also enjoys working at Panera Bread. He is everyone's "best buddy".



*Enjoying the Giant Swing, Wayne is always the first to try anything adventurous! He also enjoys skiing with our very own program director, Tom Paradise and Bill Testa, executive director of The Arc/Morris.*



Volunteers and staff enjoy lunch every Thursday in the Dining Hall. Please come join us!

Follow us on:



New or gently used current board games for all ages

Lawn games (such as Ladder Ball, Corn Hole, Can Jam)

Tools: Socket Set

Gently used snow shovels, leaf rakes, metal rakes

Brooms and dustpans

Gently Used Electric Golfcart (for transporting guests and campers with limited mobility)

Gator Utility Vehicle



A new Mission and Vision Statement

As part of the Master Plan adopted in early 2016, the Johnsonburg Board of Trustees recently created and approved a new integrated mission/vision statement for Johnsonburg. We are excited to share this statement.

Where all may gather

Johnsonburg seeks to serve all people in a beautiful natural environment which is conducive to building and strengthening relationships.

where all are welcomed,

Through its staff and volunteers, through its programs and services, in every interaction, Johnsonburg seeks to reach out and serve all persons in a manner which honors diversity and recognizes the worth of every individual as a child of God.

and where all are invited to share:

All aspects of Johnsonburg are intended to extend an invitation to guests, campers, and others to grow through their experiences at Johnsonburg, so that the world is more just, more loving, and more faithful.

gracious hospitality,

The hospitality we offer is infused with the grace of God and made possible by the gifts of many.

joyful Christian community,

We believe that individuals grow in faith in Jesus Christ, in commitment, and in their ability to serve when they are embraced by a loving community.

and the wonder of God's creation.

The awe-inspiring beauty of the natural world surrounds all that we do at Johnsonburg, and our decisions are guided by our commitment to be good stewards of God's creation.

Cedar Meadow Lodge: We Promise a Great Night's Sleep!

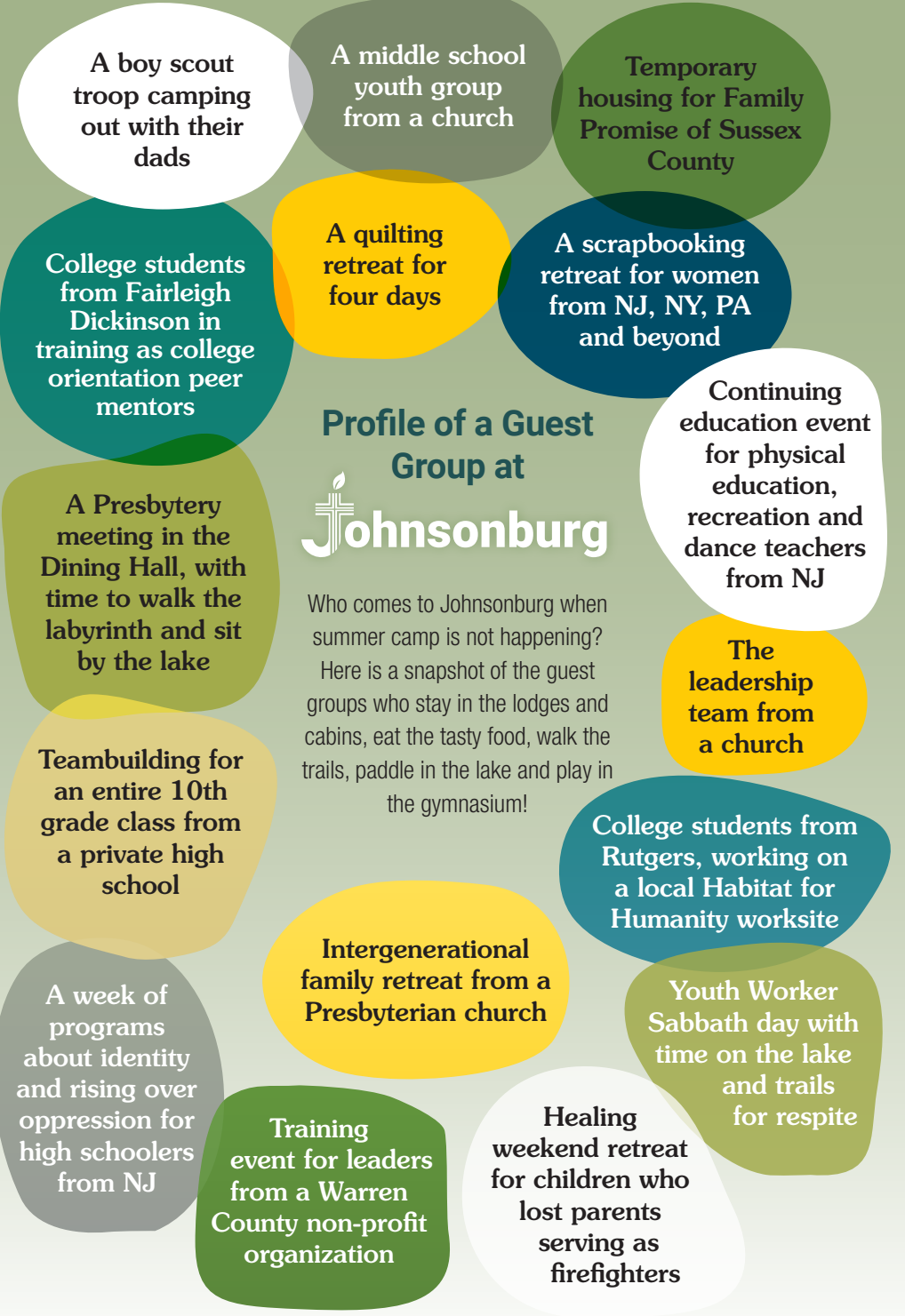


What? Tempur-pedic mattresses at Johnsonburg? Yes, you read that correctly! And this is how it happened...

In late spring 2017, a toilet continued to run and run in one of the bathrooms in Cedar Meadow Lodge. While we did not have the renovation of Cedar on the To Do List, apparently God had other plans for us! As a result of the damage, the lodge needed all new paint, removal of the existing bunkbeds, and new carpet. After careful consideration of the use of the lodges year-round by the various groups who hold

retreats and events at Johnsonburg, it was determined that adult-friendly beds would be the best investment. We began pricing new mattresses.

Thanks to a non-profit, Good 360, four of the five heated lodges at Johnsonburg received new mattresses—including a queen bed and single with trundle in each bedroom in Cedar Meadow Lodge. With room darkening curtains, new carpet and lighting, and comfortable beds, some guests have said it was the best night's sleep that they've ever had!



Meet Erin Schumacher: TRANSFORMING LEADER at Johnsonburg



Director and assists the children's Friday night program at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton.

As a stepping stone in her career, Erin joined the Transforming Leaders Program in September. Her dream is to become an Executive Director at a camp. As a Transforming Leader she experiences every aspect of the business from program to food prep to hospitality to maintenance. As part of the program, Erin also works at First Presbyterian Church of Boonton as their Youth

Erin grew up attending multiple camps. Being a third generation staff member, Johnsonburg holds a special place in her heart. With camps playing a huge role in her life, it made sense that she went to school to study Outdoor Ministries and Adventure Leadership at Eastern Mennonite University. She hopes to offer experiences to both children and adults that will challenge themselves to step beyond their comfort zone, and find a place and time to feel relaxed.

During the year, you can find her in the office prepping for the summer or helping lead activities for guest groups and retreats. In the summer she is often traveling, visiting churches acting as host sites for our Traveling Daycamp, Johnsonburg on the Road. When she is back at camp, she can be found having a great time leading games for campers! Erin looks forward to finding a full-time position in the fall for a camp or other non-profit.

Nature Corner By Ray Erickson

Winter has done its best to keep a snowy grasp on the woods and meadows of Camp Johnsonburg this year. While it may be a treat for children to have an occasional snow day off from school, there comes a time when we all say, "Enough is enough! When will spring finally get here?" The skunk cabbages in the swamp can tolerate a lingering snow cover. Their flower spathes emerge early, before the leaves, close to the ground, and can generate enough internal warmth to melt the snow around them. Most other wildflowers must have longer days and warmer nights to make their appearance. Many insects begin to stir now, too. One in particular, the fritillary butterfly caterpillar, has good reason to anticipate the arrival of spring. It has been waiting all winter, unfed and hungry, for the emergence of its hostplant, the violet.

The Great Spangled Fritillary is one of the most common butterflies at Johnsonburg. You can often see it

Spring at Last! I'm Starved!

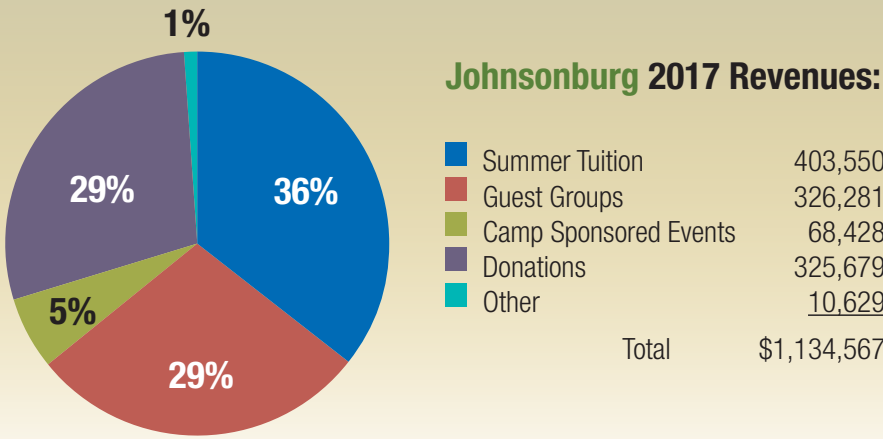
sipping flower nectar in the Butterfly Garden in Middle Meadow from June into September. It is medium-large, all orange on top, with black markings in the form of zig-zag lines, spots and bars. The underside is paler orange-brown with a series of silvery spots or "spangles". This striking summer butterfly has an unusual strategy for generational survival when winter temperatures begin to close in once again.

Male and female fritillaries court and mate in the summer, but females do not lay their eggs until late summer and early fall. Eggs are laid on the ground, on twigs and leaves near places where violets grow, but not directly on the violets. Unexpectedly, when the caterpillars hatch, they do not seek out the violets to try to take on nourishment for the approach of winter. The tiny caterpillars find shelter in the leaf litter and enter a state of 'diapause', without feeding at all. If they were to take on food, it could introduce water into their gut, which in severe winter

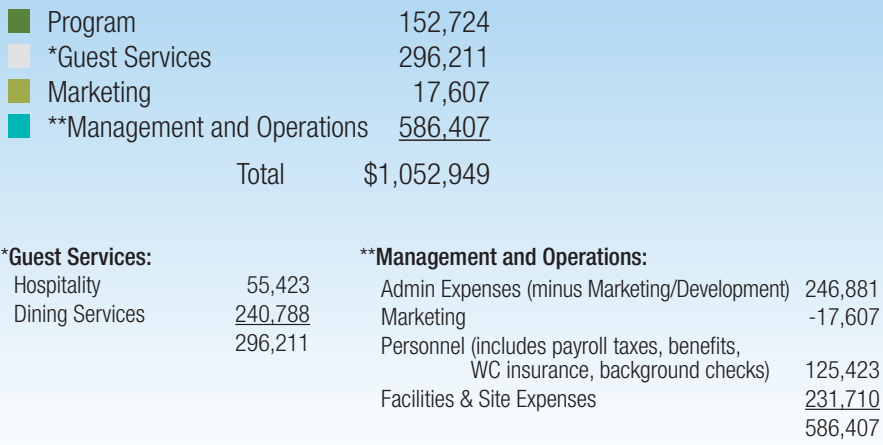


Fritillary Caterpillar on Violet, Photo © Ray J. Erickson

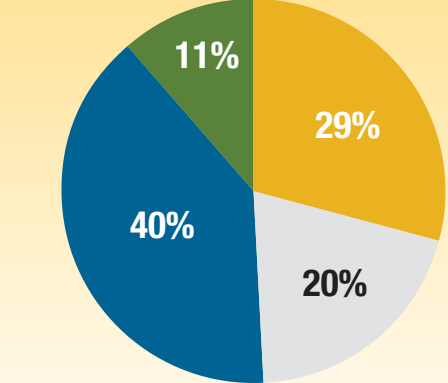
temperatures might freeze and kill the caterpillar. It is only with spring's reawakening that the caterpillars seek out new violet shoots and begin to grow.... One such scenario played out last April when someone found a fattened fritillary caterpillar while weeding the Butterfly Garden. It soon made a chrysalis, and a few weeks later emerged as a vibrant adult butterfly ready to enjoy summer and the Butterfly Garden all over again, this time from the air!



Johnsonburg 2017 Expenses:



Annual Report 2017



Johnsonburg Operating Revenues

