

St. Louis News

Editor: Brenda VanNorman
Editor Emeritus: Roland Behnke

April, 2009

The VANtage Point

Greetings!

After a four year “sabbatical” from the Board of Directors, I now find myself entering a tenth year as chairman of the board. I am grateful for the leadership of the past chairman, Sam Dunbar, especially as he had to negotiate the way through the challenges of the governmentally mandated well water improvements. Although it was costly to update, we are now in accordance with the regulation concerning a safe and plentiful water supply.

Another major change is in the position of treasurer. After more than two decades of service in this position, Henry Mashue, is stepping aside. (I think it has something to do with spending time with grandchildren who live in Colorado.) At any rate, he has advised us well through the years as we were at times journeying through some precarious financial waters. When he became treasurer, the camp ground association was almost \$100,000 in debt and was struggling just to meet the interest payment. He helped us pay off that loan and at the same time make numerous improvements in the camp. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

As the Bible informs us, God places members in the Body as it pleases Him and He has led us to our new treasurer, Debra Klein. We had a strong slate of candidates from which to choose, and Debra, with her financial and camp ground experience, emerged as the final choice. We look forward to the experience and leadership she is bringing to this position. With this change, please be aware that your financial support now needs to be sent to: St. Louis Camp Grounds, 8489 N. Bagley Rd., St. Louis, MI 48880.

Continuing in the financial vein, I need to make you aware of the current status of our camp ground budget. In a day and age when the national news is saturated with economic items like bailouts, bridge loans, bankruptcies, layoffs, stimulus packages and T.A.R.P., it is no surprise that charitable organizations, like the St. Louis Camp Meeting Association, are being affected. There are a lot of camp ground needs that are going unmet as we walk a tight-rope trying to find the right balance between a high quality camp experience and fiscal responsibility. The Board of Directors is committed to being good stewards of the resources that come our way.

The good news is that a deficit of over \$19,000 that we had at camp meeting time was cut to about \$7,400 at the end of the year. The bad news is that our income drops dramatically during the winter months while financial obligations continue. For instance, during the month of February, insurance and utility bills amounted to over \$7,600. This added to our end of calendar year deficit, put us back up to being \$15,000 in the red. I do not want you to be in the dark (which is where the camp would literally be if we didn't pay our utility bill!) concerning the challenge of trying to get current with our budget and then working at staying there.

The advantage we have over the national economy in attaining fiscal stability is that we do not have to look to political maneuvering as a solution. We look to God, who supplies our needs through His people. As a Christian steward, please give your tithes to your local church as the Bible instructs in the Old Testament book of Malachi. As you give offerings, above and beyond tithing, please consider the St. Louis Camp Grounds. We are a significant part of the Kingdom of God and we depend on the support of individuals, congregations and businesses, as we continue to con-

tribute to the total ministry of God's church.

Additionally may I point out the valuable contributions of volunteers who donate time, effort and experience to the camp. Volunteer labor goes a long way in keeping our camp costs down and expanding the impact of our Resident Director John Contois in his responsibilities of maintaining a quality camp ground. Just give him a call at the camp at (989) 681-2581 to see how you can contribute your talents to improving our camp grounds.

Forging forward in faith,

David VanNorman

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED
PUTTING ST. LOUIS CAMP
GROUNDS IN YOUR WILL?



ADDRESS CHANGE
FOR OFFERINGS AND
GIFTS

Please note that the new address for sending financial offerings and gifts for the camp meeting and camp grounds is:

St. Louis Camp Grounds
8489 N. Bagley Rd.
St. Louis, MI 48880

THANKS.

from John Contois

"I would like to say thanks to all the people, groups and churches that

volunteered this past year. We cannot do what we do without help. Thanks to all the campers throughout the year.

I would like to thank my work crew, who are the backbone of the camp. Without their help, I would never be able to keep things running here:

Ken & Onieta Bauer
Sally Vernon
Richard Dunbar
Dave & Virginia McMacken

Don Kerkau
Daryl Curtis
Gilbert Curtis

These individuals are here day in and day out to help support these grounds and ministry.

There have also been many, many other volunteers that have come for a day or a project throughout the summer. Again our camp could not survive without the helping hands that have come here to work.

Thanks to all who support the camp financially. We hope that we can all band together again to make 2009 the best year yet at St. Louis Camp Grounds."



With Sympathy



Since our last time together at camp meeting, several of our campers have gone home to be with the Lord. We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of the following:

Rev. Jack Dunn
Jack Eckelbarger
Gerald "Blackie" Scott

"Be still and know that I am God."

Youth Zone Additions



By the time camp meeting rolls around we plan to have a couple of additions to the Youth Zone area. Thanks to an Eagle Boy Scout project by Ethan Eastman of the Floyd Church of God, a set of bleachers will be in place at the basketball court behind the Youth Tabernacle. Our thanks to Ethan for this improvement and our congratulations for his ascendancy to Eagle Scout.

Since the demolition of the old camp store, the youth have been looking forward to a new Youth Pavilion in its place. Under the direction of Dick Willette, a new pavilion has been designed and is scheduled to be in place this summer. The projected total cost will be about \$9,250, of which \$7,924 has already been raised. We are trusting the Lord and His people for the additional \$1,326 needed.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, just designate it "Youth Pavilion" and send it to the camp grounds:

St. Louis Camp Grounds
8489 N. Bagley Rd.
St. Louis, MI 48880



May Work Weekend

A work weekend, primarily for the Youth Pavilion construction, will be held Friday, May 22 through Sunday, May 24. Please call Dick Willette (989) 871-3633 for any help you can give during these days. Thank you, Dick, for your willingness to see that this project is completed for the Youth.



BAKE SALES BENEFIT

Thirty congregations are signed up to conduct Bake Sales on March 14 & 15 to benefit St. Louis Camp Meeting. Thanks goes to Kent Canerday for spear-heading these fund raisers.

ALL BOARDS & COMMITTEES MEETING

The annual meeting of all the boards and committees for St. Louis Camp Grounds will begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 18 at the First Church of God in St. Louis, Michigan. Lunch will be provided for all attendees. The Board of Directors will meet from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Other future Board of Directors meetings will be held at the camp grounds in the Senior Citizen's Center at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 26 and Thursday, May 21.

Sam Dunbar has recently published "The Story of St. Louis" in DVD form. The cost is \$15. If you would like a copy, please contact Sam at:

Pastorsdunbar@yahoo.com or

Call at (989) 681-5530 (office)
(989) 681-5509 (home)

New Treasurer Selected

After over two decades of service, **Henry Mashue** is vacating the position of treasurer of the St. Louis Camp Meeting Association. When he became treasurer, the camp was nearly \$100,000 in debt and was not eliminating the principle. With his guidance, the debt was paid off and at the same time many improvements were made on the camp grounds. During his term, we constructed the sidewalk, erected the Children's Buildings, the maintenance building, the evangelists' duplex, the business/bookstore/camp Store building, developed the memorial garden, dug the new wells, expanded the camping lots and renovated the Youth Tabernacle. He has served us well.

Our new treasurer is **Debra Klein**, the Senior Pastor of Riverside Park Church of God in Livonia. She has over 20 years of accounting experience in the automotive and general contracting businesses. She has also served the Glendale, Arizona West Side Church of God as Administrator and Assistant Treasurer. Added to this financial experience, she has served these past two years on the Board of Directors for the camp. We are looking forward to her service in this new capacity.



Along with the new treasurer, we also have a new assistant treasurer since **Mike Stone** will no longer be assisting Henry. Our new assistant is **Connie Luellen**. She is treasurer of the Riverside Park Church where she has been a longstanding member. She has served in the banking business for 16 years, currently as a loan officer. She is a valuable addition to our executive staff.

With our new treasurer, offerings and financial gifts will now need to be sent to the camp grounds:

St. Louis Camp Grounds
8489 N. Bagley Rd.
St. Louis, MI 48880



Meet Your Board

Chair: David VanNorman
Vice Chair: John Miller
Secretary: Paul Kirkpatrick
Treasurer: Debra Klein
Asst. Treasurer: Connie Luellen
Program & Publicity: Jeff Eckman
Development: Dave Kunz, John Miller
Operations: Ken Bauer
Budget & Finance: Kent Canerday
Business & Nominations: Lucius Hayward
Resident Directors: John & Kelly Contois
Newspaper Editor: Brenda VanNorman

Pray for your Board as they make Godly decisions for the St. Louis Camp Grounds.

Meet Me

In St. Louis



For Camp



Meeting



August 6 - 14