

PEACEFUL VALLEY CAMP REPORT 2016

On March 23, 1953, Joseph E. Cleveland and Zalma Blanche Cleveland husband and wife, gave for the sum of \$1.00 and other valuable considerations to Trustees of the Cape Girardeau Baptist Association and their successors in office, what we now call Peaceful Valley Baptist Camp (32-37 acres) for the purpose of establishing an associational camp ground for the Cape Girardeau Baptist Association. This property is located in Ste. Genevieve County on the Perryville County line.

September 15, 2-15 CGBA voted at the 191st annual meeting to accept the constitution and by-law changes where by making Peaceful Valley Baptist Camp an Incorporated Not for Profit entity,

Peaceful Valley Baptist Camp now functions as a separate not-for-profit organization with board members elected by the CGBA. This board has faced many challenges this past year including replacing the camp caretaker's house after it was completely destroyed by fire in 2015.

What was accomplished in 2016?

1. An Operations Manual was created to facilitate and provide for effective communication of tasks necessary to keep the camp running and in good repair. A Tool and Equipment Inventory was produced to determine the camp property and to assist in creating a list of needed supplies and equipment. A centralized key lock-box was placed on the workshop containing keys to all the buildings.
2. The steps on the dining hall porch were replaced. The outdoor carpeting was removed from the porch and the porch was repaired and painted.
3. Repairs were made to the swimming pool prior to filling and treating for the season.
4. Landscaping and retaining walls were completed around the new shower house and by the pool house. Plants and shrubs were planted in these areas.
5. Eight additional parking spaces with barriers were created behind the dining hall.
6. Plaques with scripture verses were placed upon each new building. New Memorial Plaques were hung in the dining hall.
7. A marketing plan, developed by Brittany Vernon, was approved and adopted by the board. The 150 year old white oak tree on the sports field was used for the new camp logo. A website, visual display banner, brochures, business cards and a map of the camp site was produced. Camp tee shirts, backpacks, hacky sack, pens and drink bottles were created for promotion of the camp and given to the CGBA campers.
8. A Face book page with photos and calendar was created.
9. Mailings went to over 200 Christian churches in our area last winter, informing them of the improved camp facilities. This generated several inquiries which resulted in new groups using the camp this year.
10. "Boulder Mountain", the huge rock pile which resulted from having to blast rock for the foundation of the shower house, was removed. These huge rocks were removed from the front of the new shower house. Many of the large rocks now line the creek and walkways throughout the camp.
11. In May 2016 the three bedroom, two bath, enclosed two car garage with full unfinished basement caretaker's house was completed on the same site as the one destroyed in 2015. The completion of this building project was made possible with the help of many, many individuals, churches, organizations, and companies who donated materials, labor and time.
12. David Lawrence was hired as Camp Caretaker and he moved on site into the house the first of May.

13. The shower house with vanities; sinks; mirrors; five dressing rooms with showers; five toilet stalls including handicap accessible facilities are in each end of the shower building was completed the end of May 2016. (This structure is a major improvement for the camp by replacing the two old small shower buildings.)

14. Above the shower house is a 30 X40 foot meeting room which will be equipped with Air conditioning and heat for year-round use. The camp board's goal is to complete this room by beginning of camp season in 2017. This meeting room will be named "The Upper Room".

15. The Board appealed to associational churches to help to with maintenance and building projects. We promoted a Peaceful Valley Camp Sunday. CGBA churches were provided a list of needed projects and supplies needed by the camp for proper up keep.

16. Open House September 11, 2016 with CGBA churches invited to walk through all buildings and to see the improvements including the caretaker's house and shower house.

Cape Girardeau Baptist Association had five camps held in July. There were 46 attending the Senior High Camp; 76 attended the Junior High Camp; 60 attended Girls Camp and 46 attended Boys Camp and 48 Overnight Camp (1-2 graders). There were 33 salvations reported, 14 rededications and one call to ministry.

It was not possible to obtain statistics from outside camps related to decisions made as a result of a camping experience at the camp.

Christian Bow Hunters and another group have reservations for camps before the end of October 2016.

Other churches and organizations used the camp this year. They included 630 days of Christian Bow Hunters; 100 deer hunters; 32 from Trinity Lutheran School; 192 Grassy Friendship Church; 198 Apostolic Faith Came; 2 birthday parties; 2 church picnics and some other camp trips were canceled for various reasons. This means there were a total of approximately 960 individual camping experiences outside of the July CGBA scheduled camps.

There are weddings and three churches who have already scheduled for 2017.

Projects for 2017:

1. Complete the meeting room above the shower house which will be called "The Upper Room".
2. Build a one room cabin on the foundation of the old girl's shower house. This cabin will be available year-round with air conditioning and heat. It will be available for directors of the individual camps scheduled during the season.
3. The two room cabin, which has been called "the cook and nurses' cabin" was finished in 2015 and will be weatherized to be available. This cabin has a microwave and small refrigerator, so could be used for an overnight or weekend guests. A name will be given to this cabin with an appropriate plaque installed.
4. Obtain exact location of camp property lines.

Thanks to many volunteers who came during camp clean up week to prepare the camp for the summer season. There were very few problems this year with the facilities.

Long range plans:

1. Replace the dining hall within the next three to five years depending upon financial resources
2. Air condition/heat cabins
3. Continue marketing the camp to increase visibility and camp use to increase revenue to make PVBC financially self-sustaining.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Blevins, Peaceful Valley Camp Board Chair