



HIDDEN ACRES CHRISTIAN CENTER

Hidden Acres Christian Center's Newsletter

November 2016

Around the Grounds

by Elly Mullen

If you've stopped by Hidden Acres recently, you'll notice new sidewalks from the horse barn down to the David Martin Bible Chapel. In the past month we have also added sidewalks and patios around the new dining hall. These new paths are a perfect addition for our Wonderfully Made Family Camp, an event designed for families with a child with special needs.

Concrete hasn't been our only project. With winter coming, we've kept busy cutting and stocking firewood for all of our fireplaces and outdoor fire pits. The horse barn now has a new obstacle course for riders to enjoy. There is new landscaping around Lodge 139, and Jenny's Chapel has had some clean up and restoration work done. The horses and their feeders are set up and are ready for winter.

Looking forward to winter, we're planning to repaint rooms in the Inn and Johnson Lodge. We're also hoping to put cultured stone on the front of the Main Lodge.

I want to thank Chris Clark and the volunteers from CrossRidge Church in Holstein, IA. They just helped us with backfilling around the new sidewalks and with splitting firewood. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office at 515-547-2751 or email us at office@hacamps.org.

From the desk of Steve Pinkley

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Hidden Acres' new Executive Director. I feel blessed and humbled to have been chosen to lead the camp into a new chapter. To be honest, I'm also excited, nervous, and scared. Like many of you, it's easy for me to forget that my calling, training, experiences, strengths, and relationships are gifts from God. As a result, I can easily depend on my own strengths and experiences to succeed in a job. As I reflect on my life, I feel blessed but unworthy and can see how God has prepared me for this opportunity. However, the truth is that I can't do this on my own. I must fall at the feet of Jesus every day, praying that I will get out of the way and that He will work through me (John 3:30), use me, direct me, and give me wisdom to lead this vital ministry!

Earl has left big shoes to fill and despite the challenges he may have faced, he always made it look easy. Both he and Hidden Acres have succeeded because of your faithful prayers and support. Thank you! As God used Earl's obedience to

build this camp, I pray He will graciously use me to guide this camp into the next season. Please continue to pray for Hidden Acres and for me.

As camp moves forward, so do Earl and DeDe. DeDe has officially retired, and we miss her servant heart, her gifts and talents, and her organization skills. She is enjoying the extra time with her grandkids and working on projects around the house. Earl is helping complete the new dining hall and plans to retire in March. He hopes to see that building completed in time for his retirement and our annual Sportsmen's Retreat. Pray for them as they transition and pray that they retire with satisfaction, knowing they completed what God called them to do.

As I settle into my new role I am eager to meet and serve you. Once again, I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to lead Hidden Acres as the new Executive Director.

In His Grip,

Ministry Corner *by Ryan Graden*

Hidden Acres has been busy this fall! We've welcomed several amazing church families, youth groups, and college ministries. We really cherished the opportunity to serve these folks!

In October we hosted two of our own "Hidden Acres Retreats," events for which we as a camp do all of the planning and execution. Our Senior Saints Day on October 4th was a wonderful event for both our guests and our staff. God provided beautiful weather that day, which allowed the 130+ seniors to get outside and enjoy pumpkin painting, wagon rides, and the zip line. They enjoyed delicious meals, a Gospel hymn sing, and a message from guest speaker Bob Kosbau. We hope that those of you "mature" enough can attend our next Senior Saints Day on May 9, 2017!

Our Ladies' Horse Retreat was on October 21-23. It was such a blessing to see moms, daughters, sisters, and friends enjoying each other's company at the horse barn. Our wranglers did a great job programming the weekend with trail rides, lessons, an outdoor movie, and much more.

Two more Hidden Acres Retreats are coming up soon. The Men's Retreat is January 20-22, 2017, and the Sportsmen's Retreat is March 23-26, 2017. Registration is open for both now; men can register online, on paper, or over the phone! Visit hacamps.org for more information. Tell your friends about these wonderful getaways and get your group signed up soon!

Summer Camp Sideline

by Eric Smith

Is your child getting excited about coming to camp this summer? We're excited, too!



We recently announced our theme for Summer Camp 2017: Heartbeat. Using Ephesians 2:4-5 as a starting point, we'll discuss what the Bible says about having a spiritual heartbeat and being alive with Christ. You can find all of our camps, dates, and prices online, and registration just opened!



Interviews for new summer staff members have started already! The deadline for new staff applicants is January 1st. If you know someone who would make a great counselor or support staff member, please encourage them to fill out an application soon.

For questions regarding summer camp staff, please email eric.smith@hacamps.org. For questions about summer camps, call 515-547-2751 or email Judy Swanson at judy.swanson@hacamps.org.



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Dining Hall Update with Steve

Fall is football season! That means chilly evenings, exciting wins, disappointing losses, and hot cups of fresh ground Friedrich's coffee. I'm from the Cleveland, Ohio area, but this fall I haven't been too eager to watch my last place Cleveland Browns. However, The Ohio State Buckeyes are doing well! As I watch us build this new dining hall, I can't help but see parallels between our push to complete this building and a football team trying to score in the "Red Zone," the last 20 yards before the end zone.

When I step into the 30,000 square foot dining hall, I am amazed at how far we've come and overwhelmed by how much is left. Sometimes we wonder how we can finish it in time for Earl's retirement in March or how God will provide the rest of the funds we need. The good news is that we are getting closer. We've completed over 3/4 of the building, but the last 1/4 is the most difficult. This portion takes a lot of time, skilled labor, and money. The last portion includes the heating and cooling systems, trim, doors, serving lines, tables and chairs, as well as lighting, plumbing, electrical, appliances and equipment for the kitchen. When I think about this last 1/4, I can now better imagine how a football team feels when they get down to the red zone, with the pressure they feel to score and finish the job. They say the hardest thing for the offense to do is to score in the red zone. Often it seems like the team simply marches down the field with little opposition until they get toward the red zone.



We are getting close to the "Red Zone" with this building project. We have marched down the field pretty easily over this past year as donations came in at a record pace, people volunteered, and staff were eager and fresh. However, as the months have gone on, the donations have slowed down and the staff have grown anxious and are feeling the pressure. But, we can see the end zone! Earl has handed the ball off to me as the new quarterback at Hidden Acres, and I want to do everything I can to help us cross the goal line. I want us to help Earl celebrate one last win. This is Earl's last building, a building he has dreamed of for years. With your help and God's provision of money, workers, and endurance, I know we can do this. Help us finish strong. Help us send Earl and DeDe into their retirement with a completed dining hall.

How Can You Help?



- Pray for the ministries of Hidden Acres and that God would continue to provide for the new dining hall.
- Volunteer your time and talent: call the office at 515-547-2751 to set this up.
- Support us financially. All donations are tax-deductible. Use the enclosed envelope to donate or donate online at hacamps.org
- As a family, church, business, small group, or individual, adopt kitchen equipment for the new camp kitchen—more info coming soon!
- Sell or donate an item so the proceeds can aid the dining hall project.
- Be creative and give as God leads.