



Wabanna News



December 2005

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AT A TIME

A Note from the Director



The staff and families of Wabanna wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we celebrate the birth of Christ please remember that He was born so that we might truly live. May the love of Christ fill your life this holiday season.

It seems like just yesterday that we were preparing for the 2005 summer camping program, now here it is November and we are preparing for the 2006 summer camping program.

I just spent some quiet time in our lodge, dorms and various spots around the property. It is amazing how everything is the same yet so different. There is no activity as I go from one dorm to another... No children getting ready to go to the waterfront, or the pool, or to the ropes course...No one is swinging from pole to pole on the giant swing... There are no children yelling with excitement in the gym...The snack shop is quiet...There are no boats pulling campers around the water...There is no familiar ring of camp songs coming from the senior chapel... There are no camper groups involved in a Bible study.

The camping areas have turned from being full of activities to just places that hold stories and memories of summers past.

As I finish my first summer as the director, it becomes more and more evident to me that Wabanna is not just about buildings and structures. Wabanna is about people! Wabanna comes to life with each camper, staff member, chapel speaker, and volunteer...everyone who has given of themselves as they spend time here. It is the diversity of the God given gifts found in these people that enables Wabanna to minister much more effectively. Thank you to all the people who recognized this and helped make the summer of 2005 a fruitful one.

Mark L. Bates

Remembering the ministries at Wabanna during the holiday season is a precious gift. The winter months are typically lean months for the program. Your financial assistance will enable the mission to stay on course as we finish 2005 and look towards 2006.



Campers on Registration Day of week 2.

Get a Glimpse of Summer 2005

Over the years, one of my favorite things to enjoy during summer camp is experiencing worship time during chapel. At the beginning of the week, all different types of campers with many different perspectives and ideas on worship enter the chapel together. By the end of the week, these campers sing boldly and beautifully as a unified body that worships our Lord and Savior in an amazing way. I was shown this truth each week during the Summer of 2005. This transformation in worship strikes me so powerfully because it demonstrates the inner change happening within the hearts of the campers. This summer, these heart changes were as evident as ever.

This past summer, Wabanna was once again bustling on every part of the property. Between running Day Camp, Junior Camp, and Senior Camp, the entire property was always hosting enthusiastic and fun-loving campers. Over the eight week summer, nearly 1,000 campers were part of Residential Camp. Day Camp, in its third summer, grew to over 400 campers.

With a lot of help from many people, we were able to have our first ever brand new powerboat as part of our waterfront program in 2005! Because our used boats often break down during the summer, this boat single-handedly provided many campers with great boating experiences.

We are thankful for all of your support and prayers again this past summer. Campers felt safe because of God's protection and the awareness and discernment of our staff. Our staff demonstrated transparent and authentic faith that confronted campers face to face with God's truth and love daily.

Mike Avink

Residential Summer Camp 2006

WEEK 1 SUN-SAT JUNE 18-24
7-15YR. OLDS AND LIT'S*

WEEK 2 SUN-SAT JUNE 25-JULY 1
7-15YR. OLDS AND LIT'S*

WEEK 3 SUN-SAT JULY 2-8
7-15YR. OLDS AND LIT'S*

WEEK 4 MON-FRI JULY 10-14
6TH-12TH GRADE ONLY

WEEK 5 SUN-SAT JULY 16-22
7-15YR. OLDS AND LIT'S*

WEEK 6 SUN-SAT JULY 23-29
7-15YR. OLDS AND LIT'S*

WEEK 7 SUN-SAT JULY 30-AUGUST 5
7-15YR. OLDS AND LIT'S*

WEEK 8 MON-FRI AUGUST 7 -11
7-15YR. OLDS

* LIT (LEADER IN TRAINING) PROGRAM FOR 15-18 YR. OLDS.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT IF YOU REGISTER BY MARCH 1, 2005!

Day Camp 2006

Day camp for 4-12 year olds will run

Monday-Friday from June 19-August 11.
(Same 8 weeks as above)

OPEN HOUSE DATES

Fall/Winter 2005-2006: Tours will be given upon request

Sunday, March 5, 2006: 1:00 am - 4:00 pm
Community Open House with activities & food

Saturday, April 1, 2006: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Saturday, May 6, 2006: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Appreciation Celebration

Since 1941, Camp Wabanna has depended on volunteers to accomplish its mission of “providing an environment to direct people towards the love of Christ.” Each year, we take time to appreciate each person or organization that has helped Wabanna. On September 11, we had our annual Appreciation Celebration on the grounds of Camp Wabanna. It was a beautiful day filled with hamburgers and pork bar-b-que, desserts, boat rides, camp activities, swimming, and fellowship. Volunteers Larry Frye, Larry Leitch, Joe Berry, Rishi Kurichh, and Jim Berge were given special honor for their commitment to camps ministry. A special presentation was made to Brian Peacock, the 2005 Volunteer of the Year. These men have helped camp in many ways from donating food, working on the property, fixing boats, and fixing computers.

The food for the event was donated in part by Safeway and by the Callahan family. Grilling was provided by Greg Callahan of “Two Guys and a Grill”. It was a great day of enjoyment and reflection on God’s goodness and how He draws people to Himself through the ministry of Camp Wabanna. A special thank you to Brenda Mahaffey for coordinating this wonderful event!



Appreciation awards

Matt Stewart

[Our head male counselor for the summer, Matt Stewart, wrote the following article to describe individual changes that happened at camp during the Summer of 2005. Matt is a graduate of Geneva College in Pennsylvania and is now traveling around the world with a missions team until January.]

I'm pretty sure it would be hard to work at Camp Wabanna for too long without seeing 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 in action. In the passage, Paul writes,

"What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; your are God’s field, God’s building.”

I saw this verse illustrated this summer in the life of a camper I have known over the last four years. His weeks at camp have not always been pleasant, and he had been sent home previously. He generally acted like he didn't want to be at camp or enjoy anything. He would not participate and would provoke other campers, lose his temper, and be disrespectful to counselors and staff. The summer of 2004 was probably the low point, and I'm not sure anyone thought he would be back for his last year of camp.

Fortunately, he did come back this summer, and it was a blessing to see how God worked in his life. As one of the oldest boys, he helped his team out in games by being one of the strong guys, answered questions in Bible study, and looked out for the younger campers, particularly one who had a slight disability. I saw him say “hi” to him once and ask him how he was doing, and the younger camper proudly said “hi” back. I could tell that the younger camper looked up to him. Seeing that respect for the older camper was one of my favorite memories from last summer.



Head male counselor for the summer, Matt Stewart.

Wabanna Weekend Retreats

If you have never experienced Wabanna during the school year, here is your chance. This year we have a variety of retreats that can include the whole family! Come experience the beauty of Wabanna in the winter or spring. Contact the camp office for more information.

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| Jan. 27-29, 2006: | • Youth Winter Tubing Retreat for 6th-12th graders |
| March 17-18, 2006: | • Overnight retreat for age 6-10 Friday evening through Sat. |
| | • Day retreat for ages 4-5 on Saturday, March 18 |
| May 12-14 | • Family retreat for ages 5-15 and parents |

Since I have known this camper for the last four years, I have had the opportunity to see God's work in his life through different people planting and watering. I have gotten to wrestle with him in the pool and watched him laugh and pray with other counselors. I know that his mom loves him at home and makes sure he goes to church and lives out his commitment to Christ. The divine coordination of workers in his life is beautiful to see, and I think one day he might do some watering of his own. The same God, who makes planting and watering worthwhile, promises in Philippians 1:6 that he who began the good work will "bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Outdoor Daytrip Program (ODP)

We are currently into our 3rd year of the ODP at Wabanna, and we have enjoyed working together with so many schools! We have spent many summers investing in and ministering to the kids of this community; therefore, the opportunity to keep them coming throughout the school year has been a rich blessing.



Environmental education hike.

Nature Walks, Natural Arts & Crafts, Low Elements/Team Building, High Ropes Initiatives, Climbing Walls,

Canoeing/Kayaking, Orienteering & Maps, Botany, and Wetland Education.

It is an incredible experience to combine the natural beauty that God has created here, with the young minds in our schools. We hope to expand our program each year, and build relationships with many schools in the Annapolis, Baltimore, DC area. For more information on our ODP, or to schedule a school field trip, please contact our main office at 410-798-0455.



Tree planting and study.

Volunteer of the Year

For 2004-2005, Brian Peacock was named the Volunteer of the Year. Volunteers have always played a vital role at Camp Wabanna thru their giving of time, talents and donations. Throughout the year, Brian has gone above and beyond the call of volunteerism in many ways. Over the summer, he used his Jet Ski to help give kids an incredible (and fast!) experience on the water. Every Sunday, he drove his 4-wheeler and trailer to help the families registering for camp with their luggage. Brian also spent many hours hanging out with and encouraging the summer staff. It's people like Brian coming along side of us and embracing the vision of turning children toward Christ that makes this ministry successful. **Thank You Brian!**



Brian Peacock, Volunteer of the Year.

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