

ROSS POINT BAPTIST CAMP

ROSS POINT REPORT

FALL 2016

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Summer 2016 was a challenge for us finding staff, both paid and volunteer. It was trying at times yet at other times it was fun to sit back and watch God provide, sometimes at the very last possible moment. We ended up with a great operations staff for the summer and great counselors and directors for our youth camps. Over a dozen campers made initial commitments to Jesus as Lord and Savior and a similar amount were baptised. Along the way, countless others made significant decisions regarding faith and life and direction. It is these markers that encourage us and sustain us during the busy times of camp life. It continues to be a blessing to see friends and family year after year. Thanks for being part of the family.

Fall is the time of year that we begin preparing for the next summer. Much is done with maintenance, cleaning, ordering, repairing, and improving. This fall included projects like carpet cleaning, table and chair cleaning, painting, sealing the driveway and parking lot, adding a cooling unit to the chapel to assist on those extra warm and packed August days; cutting down and clearing of dead trees, many of which are infested with Bark Beetle (we pray God will protect our trees and remove the beetles); replaced the water boiler for Riverside Lodge; and transitioned to Office 365. As a non-profit organization we qualify for Microsoft's donation of products and services. God continues to bless and expand the ministry of Ross Point and it is great to be part of the process.

I hope that you will continue to partner with Ross Point. I hope you will consider supporting Ross Point as we continue to expand God's work in this place. I hope to see you at camp in the coming year. I hope that you will have a special Christmas season, celebrating the grace and goodness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

May God's blessings abound in your life,



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/2-4 *Fall Youth Retreat*
- 4/7-9 *Spring Youth Retreat*
- 4/16 *Easter Sunrise Service*
- 4/21-23 *Women's Retreat*
- 6/18-23 *Junior High Camp*
- 6/23-24 *My First Camp*
- 6/25-30 *Junior Camp*
- 6/25-28 *Middler Camp*
- 7/9-14 *Senior High Camp*
- 7/23-29 *Family Camp Omega*
- 7/30-8/5 *Camp Journey*

Registration for all events available online at www.rosspoint.org!

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CAMP JOURNEY

Camp Journey, Ross Point's camp for those touched by childhood cancer is a medically supervised weeklong camp for young cancer patients (on/off treatment). They can bring a sibling or a buddy. There is no cost to the campers or volunteers who make the program special. It is an opportunity for them to spend a week in the outdoors, participating in typical camp activities while making friends with others who understand and share their situation.

Last summer's camp, held in the warm and inviting days of early August on the shores of the beautiful Spokane River, saw 123 campers and more than 80 volunteers from as near as Spokane and Coeur d'Alene and as far away as northeastern Oregon not only transform the lives of those they touched, but also experience an awakening of their own spirits.

While the camp director and volunteers are responsible for the majority of the planning and day-to-day scheduling, there is one small group that is training to take over the reins as the year's progress. The Camp Journey Leader-In-Training program (LIT) is geared towards transitioning the older campers, ages 16-17, from their role as campers to that of role model and potential counselor. This past summer, six boys and fourteen girls participated in the LIT program.

While the LITs are still campers, between the swimming, rope course, arts & crafts, and campfires, the LIT's learn how to mentor

the younger campers, develop and put on one "All Camp" activity, hone their individual skills of independence and self-sufficiency, and strengthen their group cooperation abilities.

This summer, the 20 boys and girls in the LIT program spent the first few days of camp establishing a sense of camaraderie amongst themselves. The team-building games included finding commonalities with their fellow campers, singing and dancing in order to break the ice, as well as initiatives that developed teamwork and trust in each other. The group also worked towards enhancing their leadership skills, along with setting both personal and group goals for the week.

The transition from LIT to counselor can be a rewarding and challenging experience. The following story details the LIT experience.

Alex attended camp for the first time in 2008, he is a cancer survivor, past LIT and was a first year counselor this past summer. When asked what being a Leader-In-Training had meant to him he said "Being an LIT gave me firsthand experience with leading a group of people, be it small children all the way up to people my age and also gave me the safety net of having someone else to guide me through it. Having that experience gave me the confidence and the knowledge I felt was necessary to become a counselor. The advice I got from you guys during those couple weeks of being an LIT has stuck with me and has improved my life in work,

school, and even with my roommates. The thing that was different from being an LIT compared to just getting leadership training somewhere else is that the advice you guys gave me was personalized to me. You told me what you thought I should work on and what I was doing really well. I know I am very strong minded and having someone that I thought was my friend and my leader tell me alternate ways of handling situations has significantly affected my decision making skills. I know this is a lot of writing but being an LIT and transferring into a counselor has impacted my life more than most people would be able to comprehend and I am extremely thankful that I had people like you guys to teach me what I needed to know!"

Thanks to generous donations from caring individuals, organizations, and foundations, this unique camp experience is provided without cost to campers and their families. Won't you join us in our effort to make this a truly memorable time for them?

For a donation of \$1,046.00, you can give a child the gift of Camp JOURNEY 2017. Your sponsorship will cover his or her housing and meals for the week and provide access to swimming, boating, archery, crafts projects, a climbing wall, a ropes course, a cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene, and the many other adventures that going to camp entails.

Kari Allen
Camp Journey Director
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WHAT CAMP MEANS TO ME BY RAY EICKMEYER

What does Ross Point mean to me?

Ross Point means Friendships

Ross Point means Growth

Ross Point means Service

Ross Point means Relationships

Ross Point is a Blessing

I started attending Ross Point as a camper in the mid 1980's. There were many things that were different back then like there were Burros to ride during free-time. Yet there are many things that are



the same. The cabins are for the most part the same. The counselors and camp speakers are the same. They are people who love God and serve the campers by investing their time and passion. In the late 1980's one of these counselors served my family in an important and meaningful way. One day during free time, in a canoe, at

summer camp, the Holy Spirit and a counselor lead my brother into an invitation prayer. My brother accepted Jesus that day as his Lord and Savior.

Ross Point meant a lot to me then as a camper but means a whole lot more to me now as I am older. Ross Point of course is people, the setting is pleasant but it is the people and the service of the Lord our God, which makes this place meaningful. As I grew in maturity, Ross Point changed for me from a place to be served to a place to serve. I was blessed with the opportunity to be a counselor, camp nurse, camp speaker, camp director, and camp helper for many camps over the past 26 years. This service gave me something even more important. It was a place where I formed lifelong friendships and relationships that changed my life. Serving God along side other believers is life changing. God gives us a calling, a vision, and a heart for ministry. What started at Ross Point as a place to serve, turned into a closer relationship and new obedience for Christ Jesus, and a new ministry in the church of Spokane

called "Exodus".

Ross Point's meaning still changes for me today. As my children attend Ross Point as new campers, I look around and I see a legacy, a legacy of faithfulness and a legacy of fruitfulness. Ross Point seems to mean the same to many of the people who attend. I see camp leaders who were once campers. I've seen my friends who I grew up with at camp now have children serving as counselors. I see multiple generations serving Christ and the legacy continuing right before my eyes. This is beautiful fruit.

What started in 1948 with several bodies of believers purchasing by faith a piece of land called Ross Point is now a place where generation after generation build friendships, grow in maturity, and learn how to serve. What a wonderful blessing this is to you, me, and the body of Christ.



ROSS POINT FALL YOUTH RETREAT DECEMBER 2-4

December 2-4 is the annual Fall Youth Retreat. This retreat is for youth in 6th through 12th grade. The theme is

"Life Happens".

Throughout life, we all fall short, we all stumble, and we all fail. Circumstances come our way and it all seems like the world

is against us. It is in these times where we have the greatest capacity for faith. During this weekend they will be exploring what it means to live out their faith through the hardest parts of their life. Romans 8:18 NLT says "Yet what we suffer now is nothing com-

pared to the glory he will reveal to us later."

Please encourage the youth of your church or your children and grandchildren to get involved. They will make memories that will last a lifetime. Register online at www.rosspoint.org.

Online Registration:
www.rosspoint.org
 Or contact us at:
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 208-773-1655