



Camp Newsletter
2011 Summer Edition



Jesus You're My Super Hero!... by: Middler 1 Band Member

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and protector of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" ~Hebrews 12:2

Sooo, if I post a note about how this week I have seen God at work, I will receive a Marion pizza food freeeee. But to be quite honest, I write this note without receiving anything. This week I have seen God work through so many people. This whole summer actually has shown me how awesome God is. So here I go.

Coming into this week at Butler Springs, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I knew that I would love it because I have gone to Camp Pyoca for nine years and I knew it would be similar and all church camps are amazing. You build lasting relationships and become closer to God. So I was like okay not too bad. Then I was told I was part of a band, which I was like sweetttt!! Music, friends, God, what's better than that? Thennnn, I was informed we would be working with third graders. I'm not going to lie, I was a little nervous. I mean I have always loved kids, but working with 85 of them...yeah kind of scary. But that is where this week has really shown me God working.

85 balls of energy jumping, dancing, and screaming around, at times can be overwhelming. But then I see one of God's greatest gifts, a smile. Every single child

shining their pearly whites, or well some of them may be missing some teeth, but either way they are beautiful. They all have no care in the world. Just being kids. God's work right there.

The people here that I have met are just God's light shining through. I mean everyone here is just so willing to take you in and the enthusiasm shown about how great our God really is. They all want to spread the word are genuinely good people. I am so blessed to have met all the people that I have. God is so good all the time.

Music. God works through music. With every word sung, every note played and motion made God is spreading the love. Looking out from the stage at all the campers, and staff members, I do see the love they have for our Lord and Savior. The way I see how He moves in people, is so hard to explain, it's one of those "you have to be there moments". But I hope that after this week, at least a few people will be able to take what they have learned and live the way that God wants them too.

One of my favorite verses is **1 Timothy 4:12** *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity"*. This verse is so true because you can learn so much even from kids. Yes, I know I am only 17 and I am also young, but I have learned so much from 10 year olds,

and their perspectives on daily life, love and Jesus.

The last and certainly not the least way I have seen God this week, is blessing me to meet the Scott family and becoming best friends with their daughter Lauren in kindergarten. I can't even imagine my life without them in it. They have been so beneficial in my faith walk and becoming the person that I am now. I know that I still have a lot of growing to do, without them.

This week has taught me so much, as to how to step out of the boat and lean on God. He is in control, I mean He is the epitome of a superhero. I am so blessed to have experienced Butler Springs. I hope that I can continue to spread God's love throughout the year and with everyone.

God is love.

Claire Hatton



She's gone and done it again!

And now she has included the whole family.

For over 10 years, this gracious volunteer, has committed almost every Monday during the summer to making Butler Springs the beautiful place that it is. And now her daughter Danielle (former summer lifeguard and first aid person for many years) has gotten involved with her children.

Debbie came to me this summer and said that Kenzie (grand daughter) said we needed a flower garden at the end of the

pool to spruce that area up. One week later it is done. A couple weeks later another flower garden by the bridge. A couple weeks later new landscaping at Hannah 4.

Many have wondered who does all this to make you stop and smell the roses. Well it is pretty much Debbie Robinette and family from Bainbridge. If you have been blessed by all the wonderful landscaping that she has done, send her a message on facebook, or post it on our facebook

page and we will forward it to her.

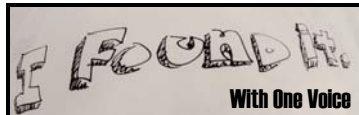
Just can't thank her enough for the many years that she has given to transform this campus into one of beauty and serenity. Take time to sit in the butterfly gardens and marvel at just how wonderful God is when he created something like the hummingbird Moth!

Thanks to all the volunteers who make this place what it is or give a week of their life to make some young person a sweet aroma to God!

Keith Warner, Director

With One Voice...by Chris Cox, The Experience Dean

The highlight of our summer has been The Experience @ Butler Springs. We led 150 high school students in a week of discipleship, service, worship, and fun! This was one of the best weeks of camp we have been a part of in over 10 years of ministry. The week was filled with God stories of redemption and healing. It culminated with 5 baptisms on Saturday morning before we left for home. Since the event we have heard many stories of how students began taking the Gospel to their friends, families, and the world. From confrontations with parents to decisions to go become pastors and missionaries, the students continue to reflect an experience with the Holy Spirit!



79ers (x) 2...by Frank Crockett, Dean

This is our second year providing two weeks at ButlerSprings for 7th -9th graders called 79ers 1 and 79ers 2. For the past several years the original 79er's has been maxed out, so with any good thing we decided to offer two weeks of the same thing to make it available to more kids. And that it did! 79ers 1 had almost 100 kids this year (and that's competing with the forth of July) and 79ers 2 had 165 kids. (Maxed out again) This week is made possible because of a group of youth pastors start meeting six months in advance to pray, plan and prepare for the awesome week at Butler Springs! And speaking of Butler Springs let me just say that they are some

of the most supportive and helpful folks in helping us make this camp happen. Hats off to you all at Butler Springs – Great Job! This same team is already at work planning for the 79er's fall retreat called "Warped" This is going to be a profound weekend when we create an opportunity for kids to understand God's design for them as it relates to purity. Probably one of the hottest topics facing junior high age kids today – register asap because will be full! We are looking forward to another great year with students in ministry and Butler Springs has become the backbone of our summer. As we move into the fall ministry season much of the teaching and memories are

fresh and provide a great platform for kids to continue their journey of faith and relationship with Jesus and with volunteer leaders and pastors.

Junior High Retreat!!

Warped
TRANSFORMING A DISTORTED HEART & MIND

COST: \$65
DATE: SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2
SIGN UP AT WWW.79ERSCAMP.COM

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Had another awesome week at Basketball 2. The faculty is amazing and the dean (Tony) is just hilarious. I recommend it to anyone who likes to ball it up.

Noah Scott

P.S—6 people got baptized in the pool at the end of Basketball 2, science, karate, kids cafe and cheerleading camp.

I miss Camp!!!! Cant wait till next year!!!

Haley Cullen

I loved it this year i loved how at 79ers camp my "family group" was so nice :)

Lexie Greene

My 9yo says "Butler Springs was totally awesome and I'm planning on coming back next year." He came back asking to get baptized. :)

Melissa Dabe



First Time Campers! Abby Mustard & Isabella Vesey (Rainsboro Church of Christ) **LOVED** Church Camp!!

I liked the fast slide at church camp. It was fun to fill bags of food for kids in Haiti. I want to go back to camp next year.

Abby Mustard (Day Camp)



Wow! Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with such a great group of people and to be with such a great group of kids! It is amazing how God brought so many groups together with so many different interest and made us into one large family! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it all and for providing such a wonderful environment to draw closer to God!

Tracey Reeves

Awesome time at beginner 2! Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who helped make it possible.

Jess Reynolds

"My daughter met her best friend @ Camp. Cassandra & Katie even looked alike. That was ten years ago. Last summer I had two boys on my Jr. High team, Jared n Dakota. They totally bonded. This year their parents couldn't believe how happy they were to see each other, even though they had not seen each other since last camp. They both were on my team this year and what a bond. This year I introduced their mom's, and they exchanged numbers and planned for the boys to meet at Kings Island after Camp. **Great Christian friends forge together at an early age, keep you strong in your faith. God does some amazing things at Camp.**"

Deanna Leroux



Camp 2011 . . . by Chris Osborne, Assistant to the Director

From Memorial Day to the middle of August (80 straight days) we had 4 full days where there was no bell ringing; no outside sound system blaring; no diving board constantly going “boing”; no basketball balls bouncing; no loud roars coming from the dining hall; no kids outside laughing/playing into the wee hours of the night; basically no kids and no noise. Imagine working two and half weeks and then getting one day off, then repeat the cycle three more times; now realize that on your “day off” you need to catch up on everyday housework, gardening, errands, etc... Oh, I forgot to mention that it's not a normal 9-5 job; it's more like a 7am—9 pm job plus the late night knocks on your door when something breaks or someone needs something (a.k.a. overtime). Sound fun? Probably not to everyone but we LOVE IT!!! Sure, it's exhausting and taxing on everyone during the summer but it's the results of all our hard work that makes this job so rewarding.

For the 2011 summer, we had 1,730 campers; 77 baptisms at camp; 20 baptisms at home churches that we know of; 169 re-dedications; raised almost \$9,000 in missions; packaged 140,000 meals for Haiti; worked with 513 volunteers and 14 summer staff; and mentored 54 teens through our Teens-N-Training program. God is AWE-SOME!!! We stepped out of our normal routine and offered 8 more camp opportunities than last year and within those new sessions alone, we had 8 baptisms. WOW!!!

And that's one of the reasons we offer so many different camp opportunities for kids. We realize that the typical “Main Camp” atmosphere like Middler, Junior, 79er's, or Senior High doesn't appeal to the outdoorsy type person and that's why we offer 5 Wilderness Quest's and 9 Safari's; we realize that the excursion sessions like Wild West Virginia, Junior High Extreme, Parent Teen Extreme, or Canadian Outback doesn't appeal to the sports enthusiasts and that's why we offer Basketball, Volleyball, Karate, Cheer, Soccer, Watersports, Woodworking, and Horse Camps; and if these don't interest campers, then Be Creative, Science, My Parent & Me, or Kid's Café may attract kids to Christian camping. With all the different choices of sessions to choose from, kids of all ages (as well as parents), different interests, and walks of life can come to Butler Springs and experience what a difference Christ makes in our lives.

Of course, our summer camp sessions would not be possible if it wasn't for our **amazing, supporting churches and all the wonderful volunteers** who give up their week of vacation to join in on our hectic schedules and devote their heart and energy to teaching kids about Jesus Christ. The more sessions we offer, the more volunteers we need to step up and help out (this could be your chance to be a part of this truly awesome ministry next year).

One of the neatest observations I've made this summer was the different “feng shui” of each session but the bottom line is the same. The maturity levels are probably the biggest difference; the personalities and enthusiasm of the session in general is quite the scene; for the most part, the activities are similar; schedules doesn't fluctuate much; but the real kicker is no matter how each session can be doing their own emphasis, i.e., cheer, basketball, horses, kid's café, etc...the grassroots message of Christ's unconditional love and saving grace is **always** taught to these young people in such a manner that these kids understand. Sometimes we don't realize how powerful these teachings are until all the staff is exhausted from the typical Friday clean-up and we join in on the massive crowds heading to the pool for baptisms. It's a tremendous sight and celebration to have witness 10 to 15 new brothers or sisters in Christ coming up out of the water. Parents and grandparents are crying; friends are crying; people are clapping and shouting for joy; and deep inside your chest, your heart melts into some kind of gooey glob and you wonder if it's even beating while you try to hold back the tears. From check in on Sunday to check out on Friday, you see these kids and you're always trying to show everyone the love of Jesus but sometimes you wonder if you are ever making a difference and it comes to culmination on Friday evenings at the pool. Speaking for myself, this is the motivation and encouragement that gets me through those 80 crazy days

I'll share one more thing with you before this article ends. There have been times at camp when you know that this one kid really get the message of Jesus but he/she doesn't make the decision to be baptized at camp. It messes with your mind somewhat and is quite discouraging at times. Then on a Sunday morning at church—not necessarily the very next Sunday—you see that kid walk forward during the invitation to be baptized.

I lose it every time. Parents and grandparents come up to me after the baptism with tears in their eyes and a frog in their throats and commend me on the work that I do at camp and how I have had an impact on their child/grandchild getting baptized. It would be nice to take all the credit but that would be foolish of me. This ministry here at Butler Springs is not a “one man show”, it's a collaboration of those 513 volunteers, 14 summer staff, 4 full time staff, and 54 T-N-T volunteers that has made the difference in that kid's life. We keep the grounds looking nice, constantly clean the dorms, make sure everyone has a great tasting hot meal three times a day, and repeatedly provide for the needs and requests of the deans—basically keep the camp running distraction free so the 1,730 kids can focus on Christ and not get distracted by the little things. **That's teamwork. That's camp. That's why we do what we do. That's ministry. That's Butler Springs!!!**



2011 BSCC Summer Staff—Philippians 2:1-11

Bekah Ramsey, Travis Hesson, Haylee Resor, Matt James, Jessica Hall, Caleb Denzik, Elizabeth Owsley, Joshua Setty, Katie Warner, Keith Warner, Gus Denzik, Chris Osborne, Kathie Baker, Terry Baker

Not in picture: *Katie Baker, Ashley Hall, Chelsea Hall, & Ann Turner.*

320 HisPower...by Pete Creamer, Watersports Dean

The third year of BSCC's Watersport's Camp was the most successful ever! 22 students attended the 4-day event, which was almost a 60% increase over 2010. This year 4 students learned to barefoot ski for the very first time and there were numerous other success stories. One of the more significant stories were two young ladies who on the first day of camp had never even been in a boat before. Both of those girls were skiing behind the boat before the day was over, and one of those two girls was even skiing double (two skiers behind the boat) that same day. Other students learned to wakeboard, kneeboard, and slalom ski and of course there were times when we just tubed. One of the adjustments we made to the week was an optional early morning ski run prior to breakfast requested by the students that wanted to barefoot or to get the "best water".

Our theme for the week (320 HisPower) was relevant and life-changing. Just like a water-skier is dependant on the boat's power to pull him or her out of the water—we are powerless to live a life successfully on our own. The "320" come from Ephesians 3:20—"according to His Power that is at work within us..."

We're all looking forward to the 2011 Watersport's Camp week and the thrill of many of our "verterans" coming back to learn new skills as well as new students coming out to check out this unique week of camp that Butler Springs offers.



Update—Snack Shack

We are still working on the Snack Shack. We hope to have it finished before Thanksgiving. Thanks to the Buildings and Grounds committee who have put in a lot of weekends to get it to where it is. Also thanks to Senior High week who had several groups helping as their mercy project.

We still need gifts of time and money to complete this project. Your contributions are tax deductible and also have eternal benefits in your favor! Please mark your check as Snack Shack or give online with your credit card at www.butlersprings.com



Patio Furniture

Using your place of employment to benefit the Kingdom!

Every company has things that we might be able to use. Here is one example of a wonderful person thinking about us when her company was replacing outdoor furnishings.

Barbara Grever from one of our churches gave me a call and asked if we would like a donation of 104 chairs and 18 umbrella tables? Sometimes you wonder what is the catch? All we had to do was be there when the new stuff arrived and take out the old.

WOW! Amazing how God provides! Now we have wonderful outdoor furniture for the New Snack shack! Thanks Barbara for thinking of us. And thanks to Beaufurn out of Winston-Salem NC for the donation.



Keith Warner,
Director



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Butler Springs

“Walk in the warmth of God’s love.
Play in the heart of his creation.”

One Hope...by Nicole Cockrell, Webmaster

God’s Plan of Salvation

- **Believe on the Lord, Jesus**
Acts 16:11
- **Confess, Jesus as Lord**
Romans 10:9-10
- **Repent**
II Corinthians 7:10
- **Be Baptized**
Acts 2:38
- **Remain Faithful**
Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10

**97 Campers
Baptized this year!**

*“Let the light of your life shine in such a way that others see your good deeds and bring glory to your Father in Heaven.” **Matthew 5:16***

Like the 97 campers baptized this summer and perhaps many of you, I will forever be so thankful for grace...and the day HE put the light in me! Glory to God, for His people that let their light shine in such a way, that they help make a life changing difference.

Christian growth is a process. There will be times you feel like you have hit rock bottom; things in this life you just don’t understand, etc. Only one place to look—UP. God is constantly calling us to TRUST HIM more. Give up all control and allow Jesus to direct your paths. Be faithful, read your bible, serve, pray everyday and you will grow!

This summer, I had the great honor of putting together a Photo/Video montage for family & friends—To commemorate the life of wonderful Christian man, great influence in my life and I know to so many...my uncle—Evangelist, Mike Free (Rainsboro Church of Christ). Such deep love for his family and had a greater love & commitment to Christ and sharing our **One Hope, in this world—Jesus. We must rely on Him.** A very humble servant. His life of faithfulness & work here on earth, we know made the Lord so proud!

After a long battle with cancer, God called him home this past July. We rejoice with the angels, in heaven. No more sickness or pain.

I’d like to share an audio clip of a sermon, I used to close the video, with each of you. I know he would insist... *“If you are a Christian, you must live a saintly life. That means a holy life. You must be separate from the world in the sense that you are not going to participate with them in sin anymore. You are not going to be unfaithful anymore. You are going to be faithful to Christ. I don’t want you to misunderstand here. When I offer an invitation, I’m not inviting you to come and get wet and then it’s all over with. I’m inviting you to live a different kind of life for the rest of your life. (*God’s Plan of Salvation*) It’s not an easy life. The world is constantly trying to draw you away, from Christ. The devil will work on you as he has never before. It’s not easy! But it’s the only life that has HOPE attached to it. Because there is no hope outside of Christ. HE is our HOPE. He is our only hope and only in Him, do we have hope of eternal life. It’s not an easy life. But it’s the kind of life God wants us to live. It’s the kind of life HE created us to live. A holy life. A commendable life.” - Mike Free (Winning Souls to Christ—TV/Radio Ministry)*



“Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!”

Evangelist, Mike Free—Founder of Winning Souls to Christ