



Merry Christmas From Camp Cherith!

Will it be a white Christmas this year?

We hope so, but as we write this newsletter, not much snow has fallen yet! This whole fall season has been unusually warm, which has been great news for our Building Committee who have been busy working on campsite improvements all through the fall (see Bunny's article below.)

We enjoyed four amazing weeks of camp this year! We had 233 campers and 105 staff over the summer, with 19 CILTs (campers in leadership training) and 8 Service Team members. Our most exciting change was the new Wilkie Memorial Pavilion, constructed in the spring just before camp started! The pavilion was entirely funded by donations and built by volunteers – a true labour of love!



Merry Christmas to you and your family!

The Camp Cherith Board of Directors

Clockwise from left: Charles de Grasse (Hawkeye), Fred Logan (Kingfisher), Kathy Logan (Kittiwake), Kevin Lam (Jay), Heather Cucan, Margaret Tallett (Karawan), John Tallett (Daffy), John Laughland, Dave Johnston (Black Bear), Debbie de Grasse (Robin), Barbara Johnston (Bunny). Not pictured: Kim Ziebell (Whirligig)

Were you at Camp Cherith this summer? Find yourself in the photos below! We hope to see you again next summer!



Week One



Week Two



Week Three



Week Four

Barbara Johnston ("Bunny") oversees Camp Operations and has been one of our camp directors since 1998.

Merry Christmas! I hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday. Summer at camp was amazing this year, as usual. Our theme was "Under Construction", very appropriate as we continued to build our camp into the beautiful facility it is now! It was awesome to see and experience the new pavilion, named after our beloved Wilkie, a faithful camp steward for over 25 years who sadly passed away last year, a victim of a traffic accident. We dedicate "The Wilkie" Memorial Pavilion to his memory. Many faithful volunteers came out over many weekends to build this beautiful pavilion, now being used as a program centre and a temporary dining hall. Many fun activities were held there this summer, and many fond memories have been made!

We also constructed an awesome new "Campitheatre" – bleachers made of logs so the whole camp can sit for campfires. Our new Tuck Shop was another huge success, as was the new office and storage



area. Over the summer and fall, more dedicated folks came and built the Quonset Hut, a steel building to house all our equipment and tools. There is still much needed to be built; but we are praising God for what we have so far, and trusting Him to provide for the rest.

People were under construction too! For 53 campers, a new life began when they made a heartfelt commitment to God. For other campers, and staff as well, lives were being transformed, as they trusted Jesus to help them build their lives around Him.

Our Staff Retreat, held in October, was a lot of fun. Besides good food, great teaching, games & singing, we had a terrific brainstorming session where staff comments were heard and are already being acted upon.

Next year, our theme will be "Get Connected". We are connected to so many things, but are we connected to God? You'll be able to apply online in January. Take note of the new dates for summer camp. Apply early to get your spot!

I hope to see many of you at our camp fundraiser dinner/dance in February. Otherwise, see you next summer at camp!

In Him, Barbara Johnston (aka Bunny)

Letters From Sarai and Josué!

Camp Cherith sponsors two children living in Guatemala through Compassion Canada. Each week at camp we invite campers and staff to share some of their tuck money for Sarai and Josué. These letters were received this summer. See below for how you can write them back!

From Josué Eliazar Gutierrez (GU 927 0379):

Dear Sponsor Laurentian Camp Cherith:

I greet you in the name of God I hope you are fine and your family, I hope you enjoy the rich blessings of our God and the Holy Spirit. I do well in school thank God, we had unit 2 tests and I did well, I like math. In school we made handcrafts for Mother's Day and Father's Day. I am playing soccer in the field in school with my friends, Selvin, Ramiro, Alex. Thank God with my parents we go to church. In May we went to a touristic center with the student center, and it was fun, we were in the pools, they gave us lunch, and I was so tired, but I had fun. Thank you for the letter. I have a new pet, a gray and black cat, it's playful. Please pray for my dad Guillermo and my sister Faviola so that they can have job soon. I am so happy because you sent me a beautiful letter, God bless you. How do you do in your job? I say bye with love, thank you for supporting me, God bless you. John 15:2. I send you hugs and a kiss, sincerely, Josué.

From Sarai C. Vasquez (GU 912 0594):

Dear Sponsors Laurentian Camp Cherith:

I greet you in the name of Jesus hoping that when you get this letter, you are in good health and our Lord continues to bless you all.

The reason for my letter is to thank you for the gift of Q 317.41 that you sent me. With that money, I bought a school bag, a pair of shoes, and three pairs of socks to go to school, and a swimsuit.

I thank you for your gift, and I hope that God continues to bless you. I always remember you in my prayers because you and the student center are very important to my family and me.

I say goodbye for now, with love, hoping God stays with you.

Sincerely, Sarai C. Vasquez

Want to write to Josué or Sarai? Visit <https://www.compassion.ca/letterssend.asp> and fill out the form using their name and child number above. Our sponsor name is "Laurentian Camp Cherith" and our sponsor number is 1004982-6.



Helping New Orleans Rebuild!

Six years ago in August 2005, Hurricane Katrina left a trail of destruction across the eastern USA. New Orleans, Louisiana was hit particularly hard. Believe it or not, there are still areas of the city that look like a hurricane hit last week, not years ago, and many people are still homeless.

James Whalen has been coming to Camp Cherith since he was 10 years old, and was part of the Service Team at camp this

summer. From November 5-12, he joined a team of volunteers from Reconnect Barrhaven church who travelled to New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for Hurricane Katrina victims (see www.habitat.org/gv for information on their Global Village volunteer program.)

This year in addition to supporting our Compassion kids, Camp Cherith was proud to help James on this missions trip. Way to go!



Online registration for campers and staff will open on January 15, 2012!

Save These Dates!

February

"Snowflake Soirée" Dinner, Dance & Silent Auction
Saturday, February 11, 2012

May

Volunteer Work Weekends
to be announced (see our website)

"White Owl Lodge" Dedication
in memory of Joe Molloy
Saturday, May 26, 2012

2012 Summer Camp Dates

Pre-Camp Training: June 1 and 2

In-Camp Training: July 6 and 7

Week One: July 8 to 14

Week Two: July 15 to 21

Week Three: July 22 to 28

Week Four: July 29 to August 4

August

One Under The Sun Beach Volleyball
Saturday, August 11, 2012

3rd Annual
Snowflake Soirée
Dinner, Dance and Auction
Sala San Marco
215 Preston Street
February 11th, 2012
6 p.m.
\$45 In support of Camp Cherith

A Great Valentine's Day Idea!

Hey mom and dad, here's a great event idea for Valentine's Day!

On Saturday, February 11, we'll be hosting our annual "Snowflake Soirée", a fundraiser featuring an elegant dinner, dance and silent auction. This year we're moving the event to Sala San Marco Banquet Hall on Preston Street in Ottawa.

The silent auction portion of the event will feature a wide selection of products, artwork, and services as well as gift baskets and prizes! All proceeds from the evening will go toward our camp building projects including future staff cabins, a full-size dining hall and health care center.

Tickets to the fundraiser are \$45 each and can be purchased from **Fred Logan** at (613) 823-8394. We look forward to seeing you there!



Did you notice these new additions to Camp Cherith in 2011?



Tuck Shop



Quonset Hut



Campitheatre