

# People, Planning, & Program!

- Naomi Sponable, PVBC Program Administrator

## People!

What an exciting year to plan as we look forward to celebrating 50 years in ministry! With "we walk by faith" (2 Cor. 5:7) as a theme, I think of the many people over the years who trusted God and served Him at PVBC as counselor, kitchen help, engineer, technician, full-time staff, health officer, and so much more. There are people from the past who we want to connect with as we prepare for the future and new people are needed to continue the growth of camp in all seasons!

## Planning!

We have two new events planned for 2018 and one event that is coming back by popular demand.

**May 5th: 50th Anniversary Open House!** A time for all to come together to celebrate God's faithfulness, reflect on the impact that PVBC has had on the lives of so many people and experience what camp has to offer in 2018!

**May 25-27: Family Camp!** Families of all sizes can stay in cabins, tents, or campers. Families can play together, worship, eat, fish and fellowship as we bring back an event that holds so many dear memories from the past!

**October 6: Fall Fest!** Northern Michigan is beautiful in the fall and PVBC is no exception. Think about apple cider, donuts, go-cart rides and pumpkin launching!

## Program!

Camp is fun! Camp exists to glorify God and present the Gospel! The activities and events that happen year-round at PVBC reflect this philosophy. As we look to another 50 years of ministry, we seek to continue to develop activities (archery tag, traverse wall, kayaking), host guest groups (church retreats, school field trips, family get-togethers) and grow PVBC events (summer camp, one-day activities and community outreach). "Pleasant Valley is where we are and Bible Camp is what we do!"

## 2018 Calendar of Events

- Jan 26-28: PVBC Jr/Sr High Winter Camp
- Feb 9-10: Winter All-Nighter for Jr/Sr High
- Feb 18: Slide! Swim! Ski! Family Event
- Feb 23-24: PVBC Jr/Sr High Winter Camp
- Mar 2-4: College/Career Winter Camp
- Apr 2-6: Spring Break Work Days
- May 5: PVBC 50th Anniversary Celebration Open House
- May 25-28: Memorial Day Family Camp Weekend
- Jun 17-22: Summer Staff Orientation Week
- Jun 24-30: Senior High Week (ages 15-18)
- Jul 2-6: Day Camp (ages 5-9)
- Jul 8-14: Junior Camp (ages 8-11)
- Jul 15-21: Junior Camp (ages 8-11)
- Jul 22-28: Junior High Camp (ages 12-14)
- Jul 29-Aug 4: Junior/Junior High DUO week
- Sept 7-9: Men's Retreat
- Sept 21-23: Ladies Retreat
- Sept 28-30: College/Career Fall Retreat
- Oct 6: PVBC Fall Festival
- Nov 2-3: Fall All-Nighter for Jr/Sr High

Visit our website to find out more about all our events!



### We Walk By Faith [Continued from front page]

As a child around our family's dinner table, my father would share of needs that only God could meet and then, with simple faith, he would pray that God would somehow provide. My siblings and I have received a great heritage of simple faith, "Don't worry, God will supply".

Down through the years, campers have come and gone. Some became nurses, teachers, a doctor, missionaries, pastors, construction workers, factory employees, and homeschool mothers. Some of our young campers have gone to heaven to be with Jesus. All that have attended experienced Christ-centered camping. God has used PVBC to reach at least 1,000 souls for eternity.

A camper once said, "It's not fair, we have to leave but you get to stay here." The work of the ministry was not easy. My mother cared for four young children, cooked and cleaned for campers and fulfilled duties as a fulltime pastor's wife - all at the same time. My father built buildings, directed camp and was in the Pastorate.

Pleasant Valley Bible Camp is a testimony of God's faithfulness. "Faithful is He who calls you who also will do it."

I am so thankful to God that He allowed me to witness first hand "things that only He could do" and to continue to serve Him at PVBC.

May God continue to bless HIS work at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp.

## PVBC TURNS 50!

This year, 2018, marks the 50th Anniversary of Pleasant Valley Bible Camp. The camp's history is rich and full of opportunities to see God's faithfulness to the ministry here. We've chosen the theme for this anniversary year as "We Walk By Faith" based on 2 Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (KJV).



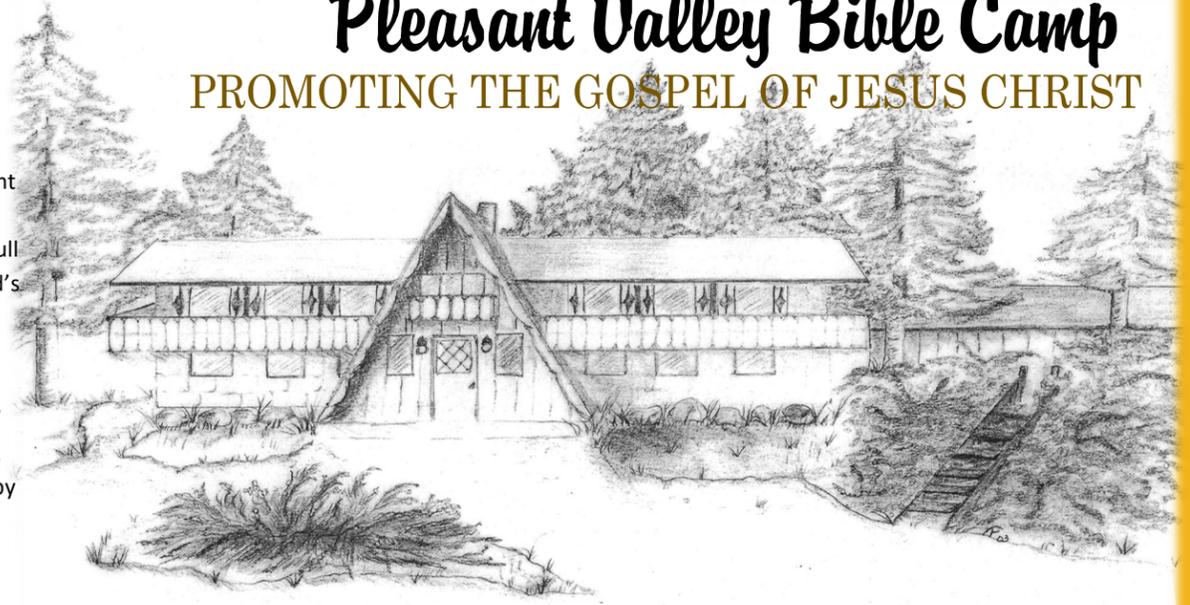
### Executive Board

- Tom Stagg  
Tustin, MI
- David Farmer  
Williamsburg, MI
- John Madsen  
Greenville, MI
- Larry Shetehelm  
Lake City, MI
- Dave Wellert,  
Boyne City, MI

### PVBC Staff

- Steve Sponable  
Camp Director
- Bill Green  
Promotions Coord.
- Sue Green  
Camp Store Manager
- Ruth Madsen  
Bookkeeper
- Beth Sommer  
Housekeeping
- Naomi Sponable  
Program Admin.
- Nathan Zeeryp  
Operations Admin.
- Kim Zeeryp  
Office Manager
- Food Service Admin.

# Pleasant Valley Bible Camp PROMOTING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST



## We Walk By Faith...

Submitted by: Beth Sommer

A simple definition of faith is "something only God can do". I had the undeserved privilege to grow up in a miracle...Pleasant Valley Bible Camp.

Pleasant Valley Bible Camp began by the simple faith of two people, Dick and Carol Sommer. It began with the faith that, if God wanted them to build a building to house an AWANA Club for local young people, that God alone could supply all that was needed for that building.

That first building, which is now the Dining Hall, began with a prayer "Dear God, if you have us build a building, would You please supply the finances for it." "Faithful is He who calls you who also will do it" 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

God did supply. The first gift toward that AWANA building came from a widow, Mrs. Ray. She attended Calvary Bible Church of Dowagiac, MI. She was not 5 feet tall and she had a quiet voice while my dad is over 6 feet tall. He bent down to speak with her one Sunday after visiting his home church. Mrs. Ray pressed a rolled up 5-dollar bill in my father's hand for the work in Pleasant Valley. My father later found out that Mrs. Ray weekly tithe was 21 cents. Mrs. Ray gave the "widow's mite" for the work that would eventually become Pleasant Valley Bible Camp. It began with simple faith and a widow's offering.

Continuing in prayer for the AWANA building, God moved in the hearts of a few individuals who sent gifts to my parents. My father totaled them up and there was enough money to pour the footings for a building 24' x 52'. So the work of the ministry began with a grub hoe, an axe and a shovel. The site was prepared and God faithfully supplied for the footings, floor, roof and everything in between.

The timber for that first building and others to come were logged by my father from a neighbor who was prompted by the Holy Spirit to donate the trees. (Our neighbor didn't have a relationship with the Lord.) The cross section of one of those trees had 200 rings in it. My father would tell how God had caused that tree to grow 200 years prior in preparation for camp buildings.

AWANA was held in that building and young people from the Pleasant Valley area attended and received Jesus as Savior.

A youth group from Whitehall, MI had a relationship with my parents and asked if they could come up for a winter retreat in the AWANA building. My parents' response was "No, we aren't set up for that." The next year, the Whitehall youth group asked again, "Can we come up for a winter retreat?" The response was, "Yes, come on up." That first winter retreat was hosted with a temperature of -20° on Saturday morning. The boys stayed in the AWANA building with no running water and girls stayed in my grandparents' cottage nearby. The male sponsor put his cot between the woodpile and the wood furnace. He fired the furnace throughout the night without getting out of bed! Pleasant Valley Bible Camp was born that cold winter weekend.

God has done miraculous things at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp. Every building from the Dining Hall to the enclosed year-round pool are testaments of God's faithful provision.

Continued. See We Walk By Faith, page 4



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Wow! Fifty years! Is this a long time or a good start? If you are 8 years old, 50 is REALLY old. If you are 80 years old, you may look back on 50 and remember how much you had yet to learn.



For most of us on this earth, our perspective of time is often driven by what we hope to accomplish in any give day, week, year or lifetime. But what is God's perspective? When we look to the vastness of God and the depth of eternity, 50 years is over so quickly. James 4:14 says: *Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.*

God holds all of eternity in his hand and He makes it very clear that every moment of time is precious and has a purpose. For 50 years, Pleasant Valley Bible Camp has existed "to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to provide a healthy recreational program in a Christian atmosphere." The time we have to invest in the life of a camper is limited and the challenge is to use it for eternity. Some kids we see for a week in the summer and some we only see for 12 hours at an All-Nighter. Some folks come out of curiosity and some are here because they love it! We don't control who is here, but we are responsible for what we can offer them while they are here. In Ephesians 5:15-16 we read, *Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*

Our desire for the next 50 years is the same. We want to use every minute of each day to see that the children, teenagers and adults that come here have the opportunity to hear the truth of 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*

Maybe you have personally been impacted spiritually through the ministry of Pleasant Valley Bible Camp. We would love to hear and even share your testimony. Maybe you have never been here before. We would love to show you around. Maybe you would love to invest in the lives of kids, teens or adults through our ministry. We would love to tell you how you can, through financial gifts, volunteering your time and sending someone to camp. Most of all, maybe you've never prayed for us before. We would LOVE it if you did, every day. Pray that God continues to work here at PVBC and that the Gospel is presented for the next 50 years!

...For the Next 50 years!



## Crafty Corner with Sue Green...

Greetings to all from the Craft Shop and Store,

As we get ready for the winter season, we ask for prayer for everyone who comes to camp...that when they go home, they personally know Jesus or have a closer walk with Him.

During the winter, I start planning for the summer season. How can you help? We have a "Create-A-Craft" corner where our campers can go wherever their imagination takes them! If you are a craft person and have scraps that you would like to donate for these projects, let us know!

\*Donate items to sell in the camp store.

\*Sponsor a day for our Day Camp (5-9 yr. olds) crafts

\*Items we can always use:

- \* Paint Brushes (variety of small sizes)
- \* Glue Sticks
- \* Washable Markers (thick and thin)
- \* Permanent Markers
- \* Small Hammers
- \* Brads & Variety of Small Nails
- \* Wood Glue
- \* Tacky Craft Glue

## ETERNAL OPERATIONS

Our Mission Statement is "Promoting the teaching of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and providing a healthful recreational program in a Christian atmosphere." This is the criteria that we remind ourselves each time we make any decision. But, how does this standard of measure affect me as the Operations Administrator? How can I, by overseeing the Operations of PVBC, help promote the spread of the Gospel?

When all things are in good working order, we can apply all our efforts to meeting the spiritual needs of our campers. The fact is, that nothing lasts forever and "wear & tear" is always going to be a factor, but how can I help our facilities run more effectively?

Part of my responsibilities is to track daily operations of camp. Here are two examples:

With 14 furnaces, that would mean that we have 14 containers to hold the fuel source for these. During the winter months, I regularly read the gauges on the seven fuel oil tanks and seven propane tanks and carefully record the data. This data can help us budget our operations cost for our winter season.

Out of the 32+ toilets on camp, only ten have a 1.6 gallon per flush rating. We are currently flushing 96.9 gallons. By replacing original toilets with new porcelain thrones, we can cut this down to 35.8 and potentially add years of functionality to our 25-year-old wells.

Pleasant Valley Bible Camp has two chapel buildings where the Gospel is to be presented twice a day during our summer camp program. The maintenance of these buildings has the utmost importance as this is where the camper is faced with eternal decisions. BUT, to provide ten chapel sessions where the Bible is preached, we must maintain other buildings or facilities to sustain life for our campers Sunday evening till Saturday morning: The Dining Hall to provide the meals, cabins offering the campers a safe place to sleep, plus all of the showers and restrooms. Aren't the chapels and these other buildings of equal importance when it comes to the spiritual welfare of our campers? If a camper has a hungry stomach, are they going to be able to focus on the message presented in Chapel? If a camper is sleepy, will they hear the Gospel, or sleep through it? I think you get where I am going... Every piece of camp has its purpose in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ...even the day-to-day operations!

- Nathan Zeeryp

## Thank You, Father

...from wood shavings to grease fittings...

Maintenance around camp is a never-ending task; from mowing grass and plowing snow; to clogged toilets and dripping faucets. Along the way, sometimes it all melds together to look like one giant, impossible job. It can get very overwhelming. But I have to stop in amazement and look at all the people that God has brought here to help with this ongoing endeavor. In the over 10 years that I have been actively involved in maintenance responsibilities here, I have seen hundreds and hundreds of volunteers put in thousands and thousands of hours to keep Pleasant Valley Bible Camp running as smoothly as possible. Even as I think about it, I'm overcome with emotion and gratitude to our Heavenly Father for these folks. Here are a few examples from my own experience:



There is a fella who, for many years, came each week in the summer and spend a day mowing all of the grass at camp. Some weeks it would take well over 12 hours. When he was done, he would sharpen the mower blades and grease the tractor so that it was ready to be used again. **Thank You, Father!**

There is a small group of men who come almost every Thursday of the year to work on whatever needs to be done. Hot days in July and cold days in February have not kept them from using their talents to help with everything from replacing doors and windows to installing flooring. They just keep coming. Their attitude of willingness remains constant. **Thank You, Father!**

There is a youth group who has come for several years during their Spring Break vacation to work at camp. They have raked (and raked and raked), picked up sticks, cleaned out brush, painted inside and outside, cleaned, washed windows and many other jobs. They have continued to demonstrate an attitude of service as they do things that just aren't fun. **Thank You, Father!**

There is a couple that has been helping in the kitchen over the past several years. They spend at least one week in the Summer and weekends in the Fall and Winter. Among the tasks that they help with are: preparing food, cleaning up after meals, washing dishes and baking. Their heart of service at PVBC is nothing less than a gift from God as they use vacation time off work to simply do what needs to be done. **Thank You, Father!**

When you stop and think about what all is going on at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp throughout the year, it is pretty amazing. Here are some numbers: There are **34** separate buildings at camp. Of those, **15** are specifically for housing guests/campers or staff, **13** are buildings used for activities/gathering places or bathrooms and **6** are used for maintenance, program and storage. We have **39** toilets, **46** sinks and **32** showers. Throughout our buildings, there are **22** furnaces or wood stoves and in an average year, we burn over **20** chords of wood. I could go on, but I think you get it.

My point is that God has so faithfully provided these buildings, toilets, furnaces, etc. as the needs became known for 50 years. Along the way, He has always provided the people to help accomplish His purpose at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp; to meet the spiritual needs of young and old alike in a welcoming, safe environment. There will always be a need and God will continue to faithfully provide. **Thank You, Father!**

## "Hey Mrs. Z! What's for Lunch?"

I have the most joy when I am at the serving counter talking with the campers as they come through the line at meal times. First of all, because I love to cook! Secondly, because I love kids! Don't get me wrong, prepping food for our adult retreats is super fun, too...but, there is just something special about a kiddo trying something new! Camp food and meals at the Dining Hall hold such fond memories for me. So, whether its "Alien Applesauce" on the menu or the singing of the "Seconds" song, its my goal to bring fun and excitement to meal times for the campers at PVBC. We've added gluten free options to each meal while keeping a peanut free kitchen—all for the safety of our campers and staff. I am diligent in seeking to offer delicious, well-balanced meals that are fun to eat! I cannot do my job without some pretty fantastic volunteers! I am grateful for their encouragement and HARD work! At the end of summer camp 2017, when all of the numbers were crunched, I was amazed to find that we had served over 8,000 servings of food, used over 500 pounds of hamburger and cracked more than 150 dozen eggs! As we look to 2018, the Dining Hall looks fantastic with a new shine to the floor and the kitchen crew will strive to provide the best food we can! (And have a little fun in the process!)

- Kim Zeeryp, PVBC Food Service Admin.

## Serving "Together" with the Business Office

Hello, I am Ruth Madsen and I do all the bookkeeping for Pleasant Valley Bible Camp. I live 3 hours from the camp property but we seem to communicate just fine.



While I do a lot of detailed kind of work for the ministry, I also pray for the ministry while I work and I find myself praising God for so many things that he is doing through people just like you. We are a part of His team when we pray and when we give and when we provide 'hands on labor' for the Master. Ten years ago God lead my husband, John, and me to minister at Pleasant Valley, and our hearts got *planted* there. So, "Here we are together...at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp". May His Name be glorified over and over!

