

## THANKFUL! TO WHOM?

*OVERHEARD AT CAMP* - "I think that everyone ought to be thankful for what the government does for them." He had been a camper for several season and understood that at Camp Appanoose, staff is intentional about nurturing a thankful spirit. What that camper did not comprehend was the reality behind that little doxology of worship, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below..."

In a culture where humble dependence upon providence has faded into a sense of entitlement, "free things" are offered as a "bait and hook". It is not surprising that the actual source of provision is sometimes forgotten. Even as I am formulating these thoughts, I am sitting in a fast food establishment where the table advertisement proclaims, "Free food tastes epic!"

Thankfulness is often associated in Scripture with the filling, or control, of God's Holy Spirit and its opposite is often associated with apostasy, unbelief and disobedience. Several decades ago, one of our summer cooks, reacting to an ungrateful spirit she observed in the serving line, began to encourage staff to correct camper speech when they did not want a certain food. Rather than, "I don't like that," they were instructed to say, "I haven't learned to like that yet", leaving the door open to a change in the future and more importantly softening a negative and ungrateful comment!

**FALL ROUDUP** – A great turnout of campers, ministry supporters, volunteers and many new friends, made Fall Roundup extra special this year. Earlier hours than in the past, an invitation to past campers and even families who have not yet sent their kids to camp, made the 2025 Roundup a very memorable reunion for supporters and many new friends.

*Past staff musicians shared music on the Pavilion porch for everyone to enjoy. Other former staff, with their families, joined in helping to make the day successful, and a bit of a staff reunion!*



Camp activities and a little competition kept everybody engaged in an exciting way. Following a fun filled afternoon, camp cooks treated attendees to a spaghetti dinner as Dell Collins and Pat Amsden renewed the challenge to support the ministry.

Two support opportunities were presented:

1) **Regular Supporters:** As you know costs have increased at a more rapid rate than income in the past few years. We continue to offer the challenge to become a regular monthly or quarterly supporter. If you would wish to set up an automatic funds transfer, the camp office will provide you with an ACH form to facilitate this. Please pray about becoming a regular supporter. Your commitment allows the ministry to better budget in the year ahead.

2) **Frontier Village Renewal:** Many of you have seen the beautiful upgrade on the Conestoga Covered Wagon Sleeper numbers 3 and 4. Several volunteers, under Marshall's direction, have brought those two bunk areas into a "better than new" condition! They are 95% complete now due to dedicated volunteers and a generous gift toward the project. A remaining financial goal; of \$36,000 will upgrade all of the remaining wagons and allow for some expansion of lodging space and infrastructure upgrades.

Wagon numbers 5 and 6 are currently in the gym to be renewed this winter. We are blessed with volunteers ready to go to work, but we are waiting

for the next designated \$16,000 to be able to move ahead on this project!



**PRAY FOR TOM WILSON** – Please pray for Tom Wilson, Kaella Wilson, their children and extended family at this time. Many of you know that Tom is battling cancer. You may access his CaringBridge page under "Tom's Health Update" and send affirmation of your prayer and love, as well as make a financial donation to the on-going needs of the Wilson family. If you wish to send a gift through the camp, please designate as "Wilson family" and the total will be forwarded to the Wilsons.

**GO TEAM:** meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of every month, to share volunteer needs and pray for the ministry of Camp Appanoose.

**SURF CLUB for teens!** Follow us on Facebook for scheduled activities, such as the Christmas party in December and a possible winter ski night.

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!** Approaching the end of another calendar year, I am reminded again that life is a gift from God, a special stewardship in which we have opportunity to fulfill our purpose in glorifying our Creator. Challenges, even over the past few years have presented a choice to proceed in faith, or to turn back in unbelief. It is a temptation to walk by sight rather than by faith, but God has called us to a life of faith, however hesitant we may be, and He does not accomplish through us, His greatest work, apart from faith which requires that we choose to trust Him and then wait for His provision. In this He is glorified! At times we may find ourselves making significant personal sacrifices, which often require growth in faith. At the end of the day it is a great blessing to see the hand of a sovereign God revealed in space and time.

As we come to end of year activities and the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we wish you and your family much blessing this season! As a ministry, we are most thankful to the Lord for His faithfulness, and also for the many friends, who support us, pray for us, and partner with us in so many ways. May God bless you in these holiday seasons! Do consider a generous end of season gift to this ministry at this time.

Appanoose Ministries, Inc. dba Camp Appanoose

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