

Rawlinsville Ramblings

Rawlinsville Camp Meeting

Praising the Lord in Song, Sermon and Service

FALL 2024 Issue 100

INSIDE

Boarding House operators retire



Cindy and Dennis Brubaker retired after serving RCM well, ordering food and running the Snack Bar. **Page 3**

Bob Zercher, RCM's Mr. Everything, passes

He served Camp for 13 years as its president. His cottage was a welcoming spot. **Page 6**



Fall Fest is coming up



Fun, food, fellowship and a great auction on Oct. 18-19. **Page 7**

FAITH OF A CHILD



Riley Burkholder, 6, daughter of Leanne and Jay Burkholder, folds her hands and bows her head for the closing prayer of the cottage-holders meeting. She ended her prayer with a loud "amen."

Photo by Stephanie Reddinger

DAPHNE HATHAWAY, ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

A harvest of young believers

That feeling is in air. Summer is ending; fall is just around the corner.

When our annual Camp session ends, we return to the normal cycle of our lives. School has begun. Vacation is over. The sugar maples are beginning to turn already.



Daphne Hathaway

You may be thinking about fair season and Fall Fest and decorating for harvest or Thanksgiving. You may be freezing your last few dozen ears of corn or making applesauce. We finish harvest season and "rest" over the winter, then begin again next spring.

Our Lancaster County heritage keeps us attuned to the seasons. Our fields lie fallow over the winter to rest the soil, increase organic matter, absorb moisture; or they may be planted over winter with crops to aerate the soil, add needed nutrients, or prevent erosion.

At Camp, we have seasons, too. We celebrated a harvest of precious souls, 18 children who committed their lives to Jesus this summer during Camp. There may have been

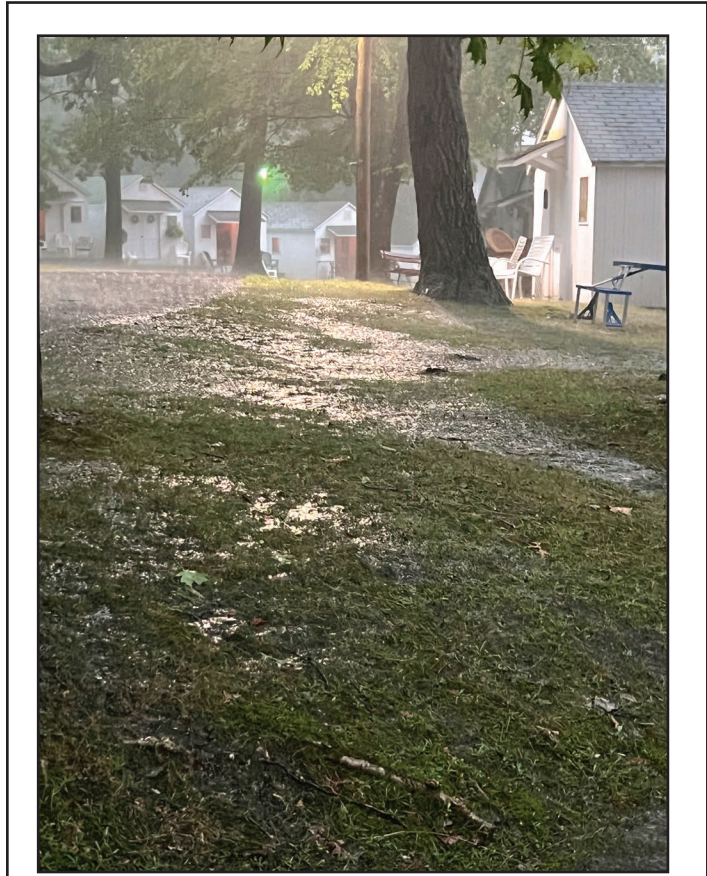


Photo by Stephanie Reddinger

And the rains came down



Camp opened with extremely hot and dry weather as the area suffered through a drought. But the second week saw torrential rains with the Lord playing his own music on the metal roof of the Tabernacle. But skies cleared for a beautiful last weekend of Camp.

others who made first time commitments, rededicated their lives to Christ, or heard a call from the Lord to serve in new ways. We rejoice in the harvest, but even now we begin to prepare for next year.

Over the past two weeks, six Camp committees have met to evaluate the Camp session, identify ways we can improve our mission and ministry for next year, seek the Lord's leading, and to recommit our

Dog owner directives

After a very doggy Camp, here are just a few reminders regarding dogs at Camp:

- Dogs may not be tied out on long leashes. This is a trip hazard for folks of all ages walking the grounds.
- Dogs may not be left in or at your cottage when you leave the grounds.
- Dogs must be cleaned up after immediately.
- If your dogs bark, howl, or bay regularly or frequently, they must be taken home.
- Dogs must always be walked on leashes.
- Except for certified service dogs at work, dogs are not permitted in the Tabernacle at anytime.

Here is a soup-er job

Do you love to cook and are you looking for an opportunity to serve at Camp?

We are looking for someone to take over the ham and bean soup initiative. Responsibilities include ordering ingredients and directing a volunteer crew for one day of cooking, cooling, labeling and freezing.

If you are interested, please sign up to help make ham and bean soup this year on Saturday, Nov. 2.

To learn more, call or text Daphne Hathaway at 717-490-2999.

hearts, minds, and efforts to what He has in store for us.

Our fields lie fallow for a time, but even now we are preparing for the next harvest.

Won't you join me over the coming months to pray for next year's harvest?

Pray that the Lord will be at work in the hearts of those who will come and hear the Gospel, that He will raise up workers for next year's harvest, that we will all be refreshed and fed spiritually and reenergized for the next season.

End of an era at the Boarding House

By Daphne Hathaway

If you ever visit the Snack Bar at Camp, you have probably met Cindy and Dennis Brubaker. We are celebrating their years of service to the Boarding House team. As they transition away from leading the Boarding House Committee, we interviewed them about their time in the Boarding House, how it all started, and what it has meant to them.

How and when did you start helping in the Snack Bar?

Cindy: In 1984 my parents, Glenn and Betty Deiter, began leading the Snack Bar operations. Dennis and I began supporting them as needed, and then as regular members of their crew.

What was your first major role in the Boarding House?

Cindy: My first major role was the Candy Store. My mom asked me to do it and I loved it. I went to multiple vendors and bought the candy and toys and staffed the stand. As Dennis and I took on more responsibility for the Snack Bar, we turned the Candy Store over to Terry Stumpf full time in 2007.

Other first roles that we filled included working the late shift in the Snack Bar for years, making hundreds of milkshakes.

We also used to help Dad, starting the week of July 4th, to clean the freezers and refrigerators. We would begin to fill bus-ing tubs with water to freeze to create block ice for cooling broth



Cindy and Dennis Brubaker are looking forward to having more time to spend at their cottage.

fun – they were family.

What was your least favorite part?

We were so blessed to serve, but we did end

up sacrificing the family cabin experience and that part of Camp life. We are hoping to make that up with our grandchildren.

We are also thankful for the ways our children supported us. Candace has been a huge help as electronic spreadsheets and order forms came into play. She would spend hours creating new forms and altering others and was mostly patient with her mother! And she and Keith and Derek and Hannah have jumped in to help on weekends where it seems there is always a limited number of volunteers.

What are your favorite foods at the Snack Bar?

Cindy: Cheeseburgers.

Dennis: Hot ham and cheese.

What food changes did you see?

Subs ran their course. They were initially popular but eventually would go unsold, so we had to drop them from our offerings.

French fries are an ongoing discussion. Shoestring fries are the far-and-away favorite, but they are tricky to fry perfectly, without under- or over-cooking, and they cost \$15 more per case than the larger cut fries. We go through 45 cases each year, so that is a big cost difference.

If the Association had given you unlimited funds, what one thing would you have done to expand or upgrade the Snack Bar?

We would have loved to air

for the Pot Pie Supper and to use in iced tea during camp. We would dump the frozen blocks and refill the tubs until we had freezers full with blocks of ice. We then had to do daily checks of the freezers until Camp to make sure they were working and down to temperature. We did that for years until we finally began ordering block ice!

When did you two formally take over as team leaders?

In the early 2000s, maybe 2001 or 2002, Betty and Glenn “retired” but Glenn continued to work the grill for us. By then, the food ordering function of the Boarding House committee had grown as churches provided less and less of their own food orders and we had to coordinate and order the daily food for each of the churches. This was a big expansion in the job.

What was your favorite part of working in the Boarding House?

Cindy: Working the fryers and ordering the candy.

Dennis: Watching all the people enjoy Camp food.

What was the best part of your Boarding House experience?

Working with and learning from so many older members of the team who taught us so much. We were so blessed by John and Carolyn Hershey, Denny and Liz Hildebrand, Russell and Evelyn Kauffman and Ike and Franny Metzler. We came in under them and enjoyed so much laughter and

RCM Calendar

Oct. 10

Fall Association’s annual banquet at 6 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. meeting in Boarding House.

Oct. 17

Ladies Auxiliary meeting at 7 p.m. in Children’s Building.

Oct. 18-19

Fall Fest.

Nov. 9

Fall cleanup day from 8 a.m. to finish. Also, pickup day for soup, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

condition the space and add a soft ice cream machine. We scoop 80 three-gallon tubs of ice cream each season, so soft ice cream would have been wonderful.

What would you share with the folks at Camp who haven’t yet volunteered in the Snack Bar?

Serving has been such a blessing for us! It “fills your tank” to bless others. You get to meet new people and enjoy the camaraderie of serving together. You should sign up to help next year; you won’t regret it.

What else would you like to share?

In 2019, when Dennis had his heart attack, the love and care of the Camp family was overwhelming. People stepped in to cover for us. Ketrina Walter as Ladies Auxiliary president did so much to support us. We were humbled as our Camp family stepped in to provide support.

We are also grateful for God’s faithfulness in giving us the stamina and strength to carry on for so many years and thankful for new folks stepping up – many hands lighten the load!

Please join us in thanking and honoring Cindy and Dennis Brubaker for years of committed service to all of us.

Looking forward

Many thanks to Ketrina and Erik Walter as they take over the leadership of the Boarding House Committee, as Cindy and Dennis transition away from that role.

They will be supported by Caroline Griffith, who will do the food ordering, and will work closely with the Ladies Auxiliary leadership who oversee the Dining Room meals.

Please prayerfully consider if the Snack Bar/Candy Store may be the place where the Lord is calling you to volunteer.

CAMP 2024



Above, Marie Swearingen ladles gravy during Sunday dinner served by the Ladies

Below, Emma Grace Trout attends her first Camp session. She is the daughter of Sara and Tyler Trout.



Four Grace Community Church volunteers take a break from preparing dinner.

Photos by Stephanie Reddinger



Camp-goers head down the street to the Tabernacle on the opening night of the 139th session.



If you are, or were a Camp kid, you played in the creek like the boys above. The one boy holds his treasure, a salamander.





In photo at left, Avery Griffith, daughter of Camp caretakers, Caroline and Austin Griffith, checks out the candy store.



Above, Alyssa Mayersky and Outpour Worship, serve as the first week's worship leaders.



Above, Perfect Harmony performs in a Sunday afternoon concert, "Then Sings My Soul."



At left, children of all age assemble in the Tabernacle for the Phredd concert.

It is a bittersweet moment when we join in a circle around the Tabernacle and sing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", signaling the end of another Camp session. Next session, Camp's 140th, opens July 28, 2025.



Remembering Bob

As president of the Association, he guided RCM for 13 years. He was devoted to Jesus, family and Camp.

Following is the eulogy delivered by the Rev. Mike Sigman at the celebration of life for Bob Zercher on Aug. 18 in the Tabernacle. Bob died on July 24, five days before the opening of Camp.

For 89 years, Bob Zercher lived a full and abundant life on this earth. With the exception of his faithful service to our nation in the United States Army, Bob never wandered far from the southern end of Lancaster.

Born in Marticville, he was the son of the late Andrew and Helen Herr Zercher.

One of five Zercher siblings, Bob was preceded in death by his sisters, Betty and Doris, older brother, Paul and his identical twin brother, Richard "Dick."

Bob graduated from Penn Manor High School, class of 1953, and it was at Penn Manor that a certain girl from Holtwood caught his attention. One could say that Bob was smitten with Joyce. Smitten means "to suddenly start to like or love someone very much."

Bob's smitten state only increased when, here on these grounds, he got up the nerve to talk with Joyce, who was serving as a waitress in the Boarding House. She too was smitten and reportedly their first kiss took place on these grounds. We have installed the sand volleyball court on that very site to commemorate this historic event!

Bob and Joyce married on Sunday, Sept. 1, 1957. They enjoyed nearly 67 beautiful years of marriage. "Will you



Photos by Stephanie Reddinger

Shown at top, Bob and Joyce Zercher welcomed many Camp-goers to their cottage, No. 11, over the years. In middle photo, it's Bob at the bat in a Camp softball game. Below, Bob provides a ride in a Camp golf cart.



love, honor, and cherish him, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, cleave only unto him, so long as you both shall live?" Their answers were the same – "I will."

And they did until Wednesday, July 24, 2024, in the late afternoon when, in their long-time home in Holtwood, Joyce held Bob as he passed from this life to eternal life. Bob met Jesus face to face. He received his promised eternal inheritance in Christ and is at home with the Lord in Heaven.

We know that Bob did not earn eternal life by his good works; Bob was saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ did the work; Bob confessed Jesus as his Lord. And Bob followed Jesus as Lord.

Bob was a member of Bethesda Church and served as the financial secretary for many years. He loved his church and he loved the Bethesda family, always ready to greet people and hand out pink Canada lozenges every Sunday.

Bob was passionate about the ministry of Rawlinsville Camp Meeting. He was a faithful attendee, participating in Camp every year of his life except during his military service. He served as a director of the Camp, the representative from Bethesda church, the financial secretary, chairman of Building & Grounds committee, vice president, and, for 13 years, president of the Association. At the time of his passing, Bob was an honorary member of the Association.

It was my privilege to serve nearly half of my tenure as Spiritual Director under Bob's leadership. He was a practical, get 'er done leader with a tender heart for this altar rail and the decisions for Christ made here and in the children's and youth tabernacles.

Bob understood that he was a servant leader at this camp meeting whose sole responsibility was to ensure that people

of every age heard the good news that JESUS SAVES and embraced Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

In his professional life, Bob worked at RCA, Schick, and retired as a station mechanic from PP&L in 1994, where he made many lifelong friends. His pastor and PP&L co-worker, Chandler Evans, will tell us more about the good work of Bob at Holtwood. In retirement, Bob worked with Dick at H.L. Wiker.

Bob enjoyed skiing, golfing, softball and spending every hunting and fishing season at the family hunting camp, The Coffee Drinkers, with his brothers and nephew.

Bob was the epitome of an active, daring, risk-taking man for whom age was no barrier to any undertaking, whether it be shoveling snow off the Boarding House roof, sliding down the RCM youth water slide with a running leap, moving snakes by hand from main camp to the woods, or scaling the Tabernacle roof to check on the condition of our bell. Bob embraced a challenge!

And there are a few other pleasures in life that Bob embraced. Bob loved his dogs, coffee, black licorice, Pepsi, Snickers bars, well-done hot dogs and homemade ice cream; but most of all, Bob loved his family.

Bob loved Joyce, Daphne, Karin and Mike, Lauren and Brett, Evan, Caroline and Austin, Ellie and Avery, and his great grandchildren with whom he was reunited in heaven, Archer and Molly.

These are the facts about Bob Zercher, but there is so much more to his life. The stories are many and some quite legendary. You may have your own "Bob stories." Thanks be to God for the life and eternal life of our camp meeting friend and brother in Christ!

The pie contest is back this year. The two top prizes will be determined by Camp pie-tasters.



Photos by Stephanie Reddinger

Fall Fest welcomes us back to Camp

Melissa Markley

We are preparing for this year's Fall Fest, Oct. 18-19, and eagerly anticipating welcoming everyone back to Camp.

It will be a fun-filled weekend for the whole family. Our benefit auction relies heavily on the generous contributions of our Camp friends and family, so please start thinking of what you can donate. Items must be brought to the Boarding House on the Thursday before Fall Fest.

Mark your calendars to attend Friday evening and Saturday for a wonderful fall

weekend.

Following is the two-day schedule:

Friday, Oct. 18

The Snack Bar will be open for dinner 5:30-7 p.m.

All activities will be in the youth tabernacle from 6:30-9:30 p.m. They include:

- Campfire
- Hayrides
- Pumpkin decorating
- Guessing games
- Pie baking contest
- Obstacle course inflatable

- Cornhole

Saturday, Oct. 19

- 9 a.m., breakfast (by

donation) followed by family devotions in the Boarding House.

■ 10 a.m., The Great Pumpkin Hunt (meet in the Main Tabernacle)

■ 11 a.m.-noon, lunch in the Boarding House

■ 12:30 p.m., annual benefit auction in Boarding House

Pie contest

Make and bring along your favorite pie and drop it off in the Youth Tabernacle on Friday, 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Everyone will get a chance to vote on their favorite pie. The top two pies will win prizes.

Auxiliary can proclaim 'Mission Accomplished'

The bylaws of the RCM Ladies Auxiliary state that the purpose of the Auxiliary "shall be to assist the Association by whatever means deemed appropriate in the furtherance of the Gospel."

Frequently, "whatever means deemed appropriate" for the Auxiliary translates into providing financial support for missionaries and the Camp Meeting's operating budget.

The Auxiliary offers various fundraising activities throughout the year. Individuals support our mission by volunteering to prepare and sell items and by supporting the events and sales financially.

RCM Ladies Auxiliary

Last year, as a part of the camp's non-profit recertification process, ministry leaders were asked to submit the number of volunteer hours provided by friends of RCM in the previous year.

Following are the number of volunteer hours devoted to the Auxiliary for the 2023-2024 fundraising year:

- Cakeless bake sale mailing: 13 hours.
- Easter egg sale: 262 hours.

Sept. 30 is the deadline for ordering soup

By Diane Jacobs and Sandy Lee

Co-presidents, Ladies Auxiliary

Three kinds of soup will be available this year. Chili will take the place of tomato bisque. Chicken corn soup and ham and bean are the other two selections.

The deadline for ordering is earlier this year, Sept. 30. Reserve your soup by contact-

ing Kelli McCall at 717-917-8488 or by email, kam1986@aol.com.

Soup making will take place in the Camp kitchen on the following schedule:

Chili, under the direction of Karen McGaw and Kelli McCall, will be made Saturday, Oct. 5, starting at 9 a.m.

Chicken corn soup making, under the direction of Sandy Hoover, will take place Sat-

Ham and bean soup simmers at last year's soup-making days.

urday, Oct. 12. Chicken picking will start at 8 a.m., and soup will be made that day as well.

Ham and bean, with Daphne Hathaway leading the soup making effort, will start at 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2.



All soup will be frozen and available for pickup on Nov. 9, fall cleanup day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Boarding House.

The cost of soup remains \$9 per quart.

Rawlinsville Camp Meeting Association

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HOLTWOOD, PA 17532

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Auxiliary

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- Fall Fest weekend: 191 hours.
- West Lampeter Fair: 465 hours.
- Memorials: 29 hours.
- Soup sale: 312 hours.
- That's an amazing grand total of 1,272 hours!
- Those combined activities produced a net profit of \$32,869.
- Memorials 2023: \$8,465.00;
- Fall Fest 2023: \$7,217.88;
- Soup sale 2023:

- \$4,637.45;
- West Lampeter Fair 2023: \$4,093.96;
- Easter egg sale 2024: \$4,088.27;
- Cakeless bake sale 2024: \$4,366.66.

Your generous gifts of time and money have allowed the Ladies Auxiliary in the last year to gift \$30,000 to the Association and \$5,000 to support Camp missionaries in spreading the Gospel.

Remaining funds support the operation of the Camp kitchen.

Mission accomplished! We will need almost 1,000 volunteer hours in the next

Auxiliary officers

- Co-presidents**
Diane Jacobs and Sandy Lee
- Co-vice presidents**
Donna Wendler and Alicia Walter
- Treasurer**
Patti Kleckner
- Secretary**
Amy Willever
- Corresponding secretary**
Sarah Trout

two months if fundraising opportunities mirror last year's numbers.

Our volunteer base must

extend beyond the ladies who comprise the Auxiliary. We need help from women, men, young, old, and especially the strong! We welcome new volunteers, and any amount of time you can offer would be appreciated.

The dates of these service opportunities are included in the newsletter and will be posted on Facebook.

We encourage you to register your availability on Sign-Up Genius, but if that is not an option for you, please volunteer by contacting Auxiliary co-presidents, Diane Jacobs at 717-875-0006 or Sandy Lee at 717-468-3317.