

ISSUE 25 - NOVEMBER 2023

WHITEHALL WHISPERS

Fall Newsletter

Obedience is the Best Sacrifice

BY DAVID (MIT) SAROKON

Recently I have been studying 1 Samuel and was reading through the story of Saul. At first Saul was on fire for the Lord, following His commandments and authority to a "T". After a while though, Saul started doing things his own way or - even worse - the people's way, turning his back to the commandments of the Lord. One instance is in 1 Samuel 13, when Saul offers the sacrifices himself instead of waiting for Samuel to return to offer them. 1 Samuel 15 depicts another moment of disobedience, when Saul spares the best of the livestock even though he was commanded to "devote to destruction all that [the Amalekites] have."

Saul was ultimately rejected as king over Israel because of his disobedience. In 1 Samuel 15:11 the Lord said to Samuel that He regrets making Saul king because he does not follow Him and carry out His commandments. Even though Saul was sacrificing or was going to sacrifice to the Lord, he did so without fully following God's commands. By not following God and His commands, Saul's sacrifices gained nothing except rejection.

See, God doesn't need our sacrifices, He wants our obedience over anything else. Samuel says it best in 15:22, "Has the Lord great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams." Overall God wants us to obey Him and His word, nothing more and nothing less. He wants us to surrender ourselves and to not be swayed by the opinions of others. He wants us to rest in His word and live our lives for Him.

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A Look Back at 2023

As we close in on another year of ministry here at Whitehall Camp we wanted to take a moment to touch on some highlights, or "God moments" as we like to call them. We hosted Winter Blasts in February and saw a record number of kids attending the younger camp, so much so that we had to overflow lodging into Faith Lodge even though we added heat to the one side of Pioneer Hall.

As numbers keep increasing during our youth camps the Spirit keeps moving! During our senior high youth camp some students participated in a day of fasting, which was full of prayer and worship. Then that evening, we had an extended time of worship that lasted a couple hours. It was amazing to step back and take in these teens pouring their hearts out to the Lord. It's great that we have the space to allow these encounters to happen but it's even better to have strong christian leaders to come alongside the campers. Something we'd invite you to be praying about personally and for the campground in general is His provision of more volunteer counselors for these camps. While our camper number has increased, our volunteer count has not. This creates a problem for the ministry to operate smoothly and for our camper and counselor ratio to be where we'd like it to be. Counselors are unequivocally one of the most important aspects of the camp week. We need solid, Bible believing adults to come and be role models in our campers lives!



Summer Missions Team

Our Summer Missions Team this summer consisted of 10 outstanding teens and young adults. It was amazing to watch them work together and serve everyone around them. Many of the staff were young and had opportunity to grow as individuals in work ethic, and as a team with others who are different from themselves. It's our hope and prayer that they can take a few things they learned working in a ministry setting and apply them now and in their future.



SMT 2023 at Whitehall was one of the best summers I've ever had! Throughout the summer I got to see God's hand work in each and every team member, as well as in my life. The constant growth in faith is irreplaceable, and having the opportunity to repeatedly be the hands and feet of Jesus is so valuable! It's such a good opportunity to be able to spread the amazing news about Jesus starting at Whitehall Camp and going to the ends of the earth!

-Josie Bates





Words to Live By:

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I
HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES
THE LORD, "PLANS TO
PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO
HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE
YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.

JEREMIAH 29:11



Family Fun Labor Day Weekend

We had a great turn out and wonderful time of fellowship at our annual Labor Day picnic this year! This is one of the last events for the season that brings many who love Whitehall Camp together to reminisce and soak in the last bit of the summer camping season. We enjoyed many annual activities such as our bounce house, hayride, and "pot luck" dinner. Congratulations to the "Pensons" team for winning the annual Family Feud game and the "Whitehall Willy's" for winning the axe throwing competition. Thank you to everyone who came out and for your love and support of Whitehall Camp.



Revive Ladies Retreat

This year we hosted our Revive Ladies Retreat in October. It was a fun weekend full of fellowship, growing deeper with God, and relaxation. We had a total of 102 women attend this year! Our speaker, Kay Warheit, spoke on praying through the attributes of God. We also had a great worship leader, Saralee Lenhart. Every session was so eye opening and Spirit led. We also had amazing breakout speakers and a great cookie decorating class offered during free time.





Leaseholder Reminders

As we wrap up another camping season here are some reminders for our leaseholders:

- **Water Shut-Off:** We shut off the water to seasonal areas of the campground on November 1st. A reminder to take care of winterizing your lines inside and under your cabin/RV to avoid frozen pipes.
- **Leaf Clean-Up:** Leaves raked into piles, free of sticks and stones and placed next to the road will be removed by the campground through November 20. The removal of leaves during any other time is the responsibility of the leaseholder. (They may be hauled to the compost pile across from the RV Overflow area).
- **Golf Cart Storage:** Carts can be stored between Nov - May for a fee of \$50.00. Please contact our office to make arrangements.
- **2024 Lease Renewal:** Information for lease renewal was sent out in early October. A reminder that the deadline for renewal is April 1, 2024. Please also submit your signed 2024 lease agreement with payment.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to bring you up to speed on a couple new policy additions adapted this year.

- [RV-01, General, NO. 2] - All new RV's moving onto a leased lot must now be approved by the director prior to placement on the lot. This is for current and new leaseholders. This policy is merely a step to prevent campers from being moved onto the grounds that don't meet policy. The last thing we want is to have someone invest time and money into a camper purchase that cannot be put on a lot here.
- [RV-01, 20; MH-01, 19; CT-01, 21] - An addition was made to these policies that will result in units reverting to Whitehall Camp ownership in situations where a lease has not been executed for the previous year(s). details can be found online at: www.whitehallcamp.org/important-forms

2024 Programs:

WINTER BLASTS:

JR/SR HIGH (7-12)
FEBRUARY 9-11

ELEMENTARY (3-6)
FEBRUARY 16-18

YOUTH CAMPS:

SR HIGH (9-12)
JUNE 9-14

JR HIGH (6-8)
JUNE 16-21

ELEMENTARY (3-5)
JUNE 23-27

FAMILY FUN LABOR
DAY WEEKEND:
AUGUST 31 -
SEPTEMBER 1

REVIVE LADIES:
FALL 2024 - TBD





Winter Blast 2024

We are gearing up for our annual Winter Blast retreats in February and would love to see your kid/teen here! This event is always a nice getaway in the middle of the school year and long winter season. Campers have the opportunity to connect with friends they made at summer camp, or maybe come for the first time and check out the camp on a shorter overnight weekend. It's a great snapshot of summer camp, just with snow! The weekend will be filled with lots of fun activities including sledding and snow activities, food, worship, and teaching from God's Word.

**Jr/Sr High Winter Blast:
February 9-11, 2024**

**3-6 Grade Winter Blast:
February 16-18, 2024**

More information will be available online in the coming months. **REGISTRATION will be open in January 2024.** Until then save the date! If you have any questions please contact Ashley Trimmer at: 724-867-6861, or by email trim.whitehallcamp@gmail.com.



Plea For Counselors:

WINTER BLAST WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HELP OF OUR VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS.

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SERVING DURING ONE OF THESE WEEKENDS. IN A WORLD WHERE KIDS AND TEENS ARE BEING BOMBARDED WITH DISTORTIONS OF GOD'S TRUTH, THEY NEED STRONG BIBLE BELIEVING ROLE MODELS IN THEIR LIVES TO POINT THEM TO THEIR CREATOR! MAYBE GOD IS CALLING YOU!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION.

[WWW.WHITEHALLCAMP.ORG/
COUNSELORS](http://WWW.WHITEHALLCAMP.ORG/COUNSELORS)

Renovations at Whitehall



Gaga Ball Pit by the Lake



New Dock

You may have noticed that the grounds of Whitehall have seen a lot of change and updating in recent years and this past year has been no different. God has surely provided for the campground in various ways to make these updates possible. We take very seriously the stewardship of the monies God sends the camp's way. Here are some of the renovations that have happened this past year: new pergola swings by Hillside, swings over looking the lake, a gaga ball pit by the lake in the ball field, and we've started construction on a new dock!

These updates help us draw people to this place called Whitehall where they can build a relationship with God and their fellowman. We thank the many people who give of their time and monies to make projects such as these possible. It is all for God's glory, to keep camp going so the next generation can experience what previous generations have.



Pergola Swings & Fire Pit by Hillside



Swings overlooking the Lake