



Where God's creation is on display, memories are made, and our guests sleep better than the average person.

## And The People Came Back

### FAMILY CAMP & DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

It was as it should be. The last week of May/first week of June, and Camp Garner Creek (CGC) was crawling with activity. What a blessing to be back together again.

### SUMMER CAMPS

The first two weeks of summer camp season was kicked off by MidSouth Senior High and Middle School camps. There numbers were 409 and 281, respectively. At the writing of this newsletter, Kamp Kenessee who has been coming for 27 years, is on campus with 350! This is what Camp Garner Creek was made for! God, we want to align ourselves where you are working in the lives of campers!



## Johnson Lodge Rooms Get Makeover

Built 1992

Remodeled 2021-until...

Twenty-nine year old bathroom vanity and very old carpet. Need I say more?

Johnson Lodge continues to be our most popular lodging spot, and with scheduled remodeling, she will be ready for the next few decades. We are going for simplicity, beauty, and durability.

- 1) Furniture – hotel grade
- 2) Flooring – Vinyl plank flooring with extremely long life, and 100% waterproof
- 3) Bathroom vanity, sink, and fixtures – granite countertop, faucet, etc.



Johnson Lodge – Ready for the next years of service.

It's no secret that we don't remodel our rooms frequently like a hotel may. We plan on this lasting awhile!



- easier to clean thoroughly
- durable, waterproof flooring
- no carpet = fewer retained smells
- rooms feel more spacious with fewer pieces of furniture
- Appeals to guests who aren't okay with old/rustic



✓ **Word-of-mouth campaign**

✓ **Pay as we go**

**48 Total Rooms**

Completed – 3

Funded – 3

Pledged – 2

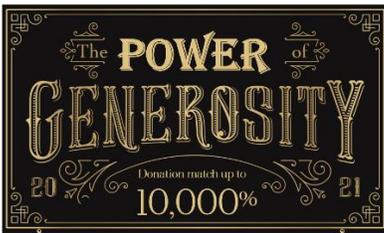
Remaining – 40



**2021 cost/room is \$5,000.** We will announce new prices if costs go up over the next couple years.

An individual or church can pay for a room or portion of a room. Remodel costs will likely go up over time, but for now, we can get a room done for \$5,000. If a donor pays for an entire room, it will be appropriate to dedicate the room to a person or cause.

### Update: Matching Gift Campaign



You remember we had a donor give us money to be used in a matching gift situation? We launched the giving campaign on March 21, 2021. Here is what has been given thus far.

Dollars Donated: \$13,309.54

Matching Dollars: \$14,485.50

I thank God all the time for the generosity of the first donor and the generosity all the subsequent donors who have given as a result of the opportunity. Generosity is catching!

This matching gift situation will continue until the \$50,000 has been depleted. For every gift of \$100 or less, the match is \$100, and every gift greater than \$100 will be doubled.



## Remember to Pray for Camp Garner Creek

At this year's District Assembly, Pastor Bob McKenzie from Franklin Church of the Nazarene talked to me from his heart. He told me that he prays for this ministry at CGC and calls out each member of our staff by name each morning. He told me how much he wanted to know more about the needs and challenges. He challenged me to keep a journal that could be used by a team of intercessors to hold CGC up in prayer.

Bob, I heard you, and God has convicted me for being so careful about making needs known. From my vantage point, I know both the short-term and long-term needs for CGC, and if I don't share those with those who love this place, I am failing at that point of leadership. I have been overly concerned with appearing to be too needy. For that I repent.

Since beginning my tenure as the Executive Director of CGC, I have been asking God to grow his vision in me for this place. God has done that, so of course, we have a lot of needs! My vision includes projects that will take years and millions of dollars to complete.

Just because I have a vision doesn't mean that vision is from God. I am a man who seeks God, but I am a man. Mixed motives can cause me to want things that are for my glory instead of God's. Though I guard against it, some things may find their way to my prayer list only to exit that same list 6 months later without being accomplished, for as I spend time in God's presence my Spirit is redirected, not indicating God's mind changed but that I heard God more clearly.

So in no particular order, I will begin to journal needs as they take a more central place in my field of vision. I will narrate this list with updates and new thoughts. Thank you, Bob, for your challenge to me, and thank you all who join me in praying.

### What I'm praying for:

- That God will help our leadership team make decisions based on the mission of CGC. I want us to use our resources in ways that align us with where God is leading.
- For a safe, accident-free environment.
- For funds, deals, help for the completion of the remodeling of Johnson Lodge guest rooms.
- That God will intervene and give one of our employees, Michael Gardner, relief from a pinched nerve that is causing him to miss work. He is in terrible pain. He is following the doctors' advice.
- That God will raise up help to paint the buildings on camps. Except for the Tabernacle, the Youth Chapel, and Cottonwood dorm, all of the buildings need the protection that fresh paint provides.
- That God will put it on the hearts of volunteer(s) to care for our landscaping. There is so much beauty, and so much more we could do. Part of our mission is for CGC to be a "beautiful place of refuge." Making this place beautiful with plants, trees, and shrubs is part of our mission!
- Volunteers for uncompleted tasks. Many of our needs are only a volunteer away from being met!
- The correct person for two key volunteer leadership roles. I pray for God to match the tasks with the gift mix. God knows.
- A skid steer is a piece of equipment we need every week. Occasionally, we are able to borrow one. It helps us maintain our gravel lots and trails, keep our creek clear, haul large, heavy things on campus, keep up with grading needs on campus, since, erosion is a natural part of being situated on a creek with many tributaries.
- I envision a specially trained staff who would oversee team building events during our down times. Working with businesses would mesh well with the open weekdays we have during our long retreat season. I can see where a business-focused ministry could go a long way.
- There are several improvements I envision for our campground in God's timing.
  - Enclosed basketball court
  - Metal building to house maintenance and housekeeping operations.
  - We turn groups away because we don't have the beds or eating space needed. If God wants us to tackle this need for a larger retreat/camp venue in Middle Tennessee, we would build a new dining hall and an additional lodge. There is no rush. It's all in God's timing.
- Operating funds to maintain the asphalt areas on campus.

## Keep the CGC Staff in Your Prayers

God is assembling a dedicated group of servants. I am convinced of their tender hearts toward the ministry. Of course, they need to provide for their families, but what motivates them is not financial. It's ministry. I want you to know the staff here at CGC and a bit about what they do.

**Doug and Debbie Bumpas-Volunteers.** Doug and Deb live on campus in their RV about 6 months out of the year. Doug volunteers as if he is a full-time member of our Facility Stewardship team. Deb helps out at the Creekside Café...and anywhere else she is needed.

**Katie Gardner-Director of Financial Accountability.** *Hired in 2006.* Katie has a financial services background through both education and experience. She is the recordkeeper of monetary resources that pass through our hands. She also oversees the Gift Shop.

**Rusty Hertzler-Director of Food & Fellowship.** *Hired in 2021.* Rusty is a chef with a heart for ministry, and he manages the Creekside Café at the dining hall. He plans not only menus but relational spaces for fellowship all facilitated around a meal.

### Rusty's Team

Jane Gill, Amanda Hertzler, Bella Holder, Becky Morsch, Callie Pickering, Enjoli Shrader, Sarah Swaw, Margaret Wood

**Lori Knowles-Director of Group Logistics.** *Hired in 2018.* Lori is the voice of CGC to every group leader who plans an event. She works with prospective groups, and through gathering and sharing information, she makes the event experience positive for the groups we call customers.

**Gary Rhodes-Director of Facility Stewardship.** *Hired in 2019.* Gary is the caretaker of all that makes up our facilities and grounds. As he does preventative maintenance and repair maintenance, his eye is on stewardship of all the awesome gifts from God. I have not yet found something Gary cannot do well.

### Gary's Team

Michael Gardner, Elisha Matheny

**Rebecca Wade-Director of Facility Cleanliness.** *Hired in 1997.* Becky leads a team of dedicated ministers who prepare our indoor spaces for the next guests who will arrive. We have many old buildings, but they are clean. Her team has one of the most important, thankless jobs in the organization.

### Becky's Team

Liz Clifton, Margaret Lynch, Hannah Matheny, Hailey McClure

**Nancy Welches-Snack Shack Coordinator.** *Hired in 2019.* Nan heads up the Snack Shack operation but is also a perennial volunteer for anyone who needs help.

**Summer Interns.** These students work 10 weeks during our camp season. This is an opportunity to save some money for college and experience the inglorious side of ministry. Our intern groups are a big part of the reason we can handle the volume during the summer months.

Carmen Knowles, Lead Intern-Carmen was an intern in 2019 and returned this year to lead our new team. She has a heart for ministry and people.

Nicholas Bennett  
Alex Brown  
Samuel Dellinger  
Sean Privett  
Kayle Shah

**Finley Knowles, Executive Director, Camp Garner Creek**

