



The Anchorage

Camp and Conference Center

May 2023

Berean Baptist Church
517 Glensford Dr.
Fayetteville, NC 28314

Dear Friends at Berean,

It is hard to believe that I begin my 45th year of ministry here at the camp in just a few days. So much has changed in the summer camping world over those years. We have done our best to keep up, even be cutting edge along the way, while still holding fast to the message and methods God has established in His Word to reach young people with the truth of scripture in an atmosphere where truth can be heard.

Preparation for a new generation of ministry has been the ongoing theme of this past year. Thad Berrey and his family have acclimated well as program director. The camp program is increasingly reflecting his signature while remaining uniquely The Anchorage.

The **camp program** is often defined as “anything that campers do.” These are the experiences that the campers anticipate when signing up for a camping session. In large part these program opportunities are the impetus that attracts campers to attend. The primary focus of every camp session is the communicating of scripture truth, with particular emphasis on the Gospel, through preaching, teaching, counseling, or through other personal relationships. However, the opportunities for the preaching ministries are contingent on the prospect of a program that attracts participation and bolsters the communication of the truth to the individual campers. For us the program has been defined for most of our 50 years by a variety of water and boat sports—fishing, skiing, and, especially, tubing.

In 1989 we made the single largest program investment in our history. The addition of the climate-controlled gym & roller-skating rink coincided with the purchase of 2 world-class **Correct Craft Ski Nautique** boats, elevating the program to a whole new level. Roller skating, basketball, volleyball, imaginative group activities, indoor climbing wall, 9-square, plus greatly enhanced watersports opportunities became the new normal.

We are currently investing time and energy in program opportunities in a **big way**. Not quite as big as was '89, but close. Kayaking and canoeing have become mainstay additions to the waterfront program. The traditional water sports program, especially water-skiing, is being revamped and greatly enhanced with the purchase of a new, top tier **Correct Craft Ski Nautique 200** ski boat, of which we have received delivery just in time for summer.

Over the past year we have developed an excellent target sports area and have implemented ax throwing and air riflery with the potential addition of archery and other target sports. Also, the entire gym has been re-fitted to provide a playing zone for *Human Foosball* for up to 100 participants. This is fast becoming a signature event for the camp.

Installing proper drainage, overdue for more than 50 years, paved the way for the construction of an enormous new front porch for the main lodge. Of more importance, it also made it possible to continue construction of the new Lee's Creek Park, which should be ready as the summer camp season begins. Lee's Creek Park will be a green space featuring all sorts of free time activities including batting cages, bocce' ball, corn hole, Kubb, and any number of other "park" options. It is being laid out with seating and lights in such a way as to make it very conducive to nighttime use as well as a meeting area for small groups.

Funds, materials and labor for the target area, *Human Foosball*, the boat, the drainage and porch, and the construction of the Lee's Creek Park have been provided by generous friends as memorial gifts, special project support, and as service opportunities for families, men's groups, and youth groups.

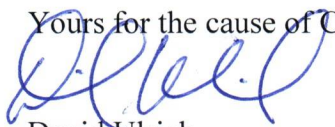
Currently underway is an enormous 2-story covered activities deck running the length of the exterior of the gym. This facility will be accessed through the current gym/skating rink so that its use can accommodate a variety of programs—the regular camping experience; the growing family and couples' outreaches; and as an additional attraction for the burgeoning local outreaches (day camps; open community skating; etc.). Already installed and in use is the GaGa Ball arena. Much of the rest of the space will be a unique 18 hole mini-golf course. Skee ball, a bouldering wall, and air cannons are also planned for this area.

Although they have been a long time coming we are thrilled to add these experiences in order to balance the program between exceptional water activities and traditional camp offerings. The goal of **providing an atmosphere where truth can be heard** and where personal discipling relationships can be formed is tremendously advanced through that balance.

In recent months the program opportunities have expanded exponentially. Specialty conferences, family camps, and couples' retreats have received particular emphasis. The weekly community skate night (Jan.-March) experienced tremendous growth with upwards of 225 participants from the immediate area participating each week. The Gospel was front and center during the mandatory devotion time each Saturday night. Our first annual Teen Rally Day drew 150 participants for a "camp-for-a-day" experience with evangelism as a major thrust. As the Lord continues to advance the facilities and the programs, putting the proper personnel in place for a new generation is a matter that demands continuous prayer and discernment.

I anxiously look forward to our 51st year of summer camp. Almost 900 campers and the most complete summer staff we have had since Covid provides untold opportunities to influence young lives with the Gospel and in serving the cause of Christ. Please join us in prayer for the summer camps, the heartbeat of our ministry. Thank you for your continuing friendship.

Yours for the cause of Christ,



David Ulrich
Director