



Suwannee Ripples

Published for Camp Suwannee by the Advent Christian Village Office for Resource Development



Suwannee Spotlight



Christian camps are a place for children and teens to experience the fun activities of camp, meet new people and spend time outdoors, all while keeping the Lord at the focal point. Camp Suwannee has been influential to many throughout the years and one camper in particular would describe his experience as life-changing.

Richard “Dick” Beggs was raised in Tampa, Fla. He and his family attended Francis Avenue Advent

Christian Church, which is where they learned about Camp Suwannee. Dick’s three sisters went to camp there and came home to describe their enjoyable, fun-filled week. With much excitement, Dick first attended Camp Suwannee at the age of 14 in the year 1953. Several of the camp activities Dick recalls include music with Cleo Smith, Bible study and special moments in the Suwannee Bowl—which continues to be a meaningful favorite of campers today.

“Fun, friendship and, most important, growing in the Lord,” are the memories he said come to mind about Camp Suwannee.

Dick spent 7 additional years at Camp Suwannee in many roles, such as camp master and lifeguard, under the leadership of Director Travis Carter. As camp master, Dick was in charge of waking campers up in the morning and making sure they reached their appropriate destinations on time and other responsibilities. (Continue on Page 4.)

After 105 Years Children Remain a Priority

By Craig Carter, ACV President/CEO

This past December, Advent Christian Village celebrated its 105th anniversary. Beginning on December 17, 1913, the American Advent Christian Home and Orphanage, the forerunner of ACV, opened its doors and welcomed the five Setzer children from North Carolina to their new home in Dowling Park. Though the methods have changed over the years, ACV continually serves young people as part of its ministry.

Today is no different, ministering to children remains a priority and much of that ministry occurs through Camp Suwannee. In addition to offering the camp ground for other groups to use, ACV uses

the facilities for several important programs.

There is Leadership Camp that provides training to high school juniors and seniors so they can carry their faith with them as they grow and mature. Adventure Camp for foster children is held quarterly to provide a time of respite and fun for those who have in many ways been overlooked in our society. Through our partnership with the Florida Conference of Advent Christian Churches, ACV provides campership scholarships to any camper recommended by an Advent Christian Church. Having the opportunity to learn of the love and saving grace of Jesus is too import-

ant for finances to come in the way.

Children remain a priority to this ministry and Camp Suwannee is the conduit for enabling a number of these ministries to happen. We cannot do it alone, however, and thus I pray you will consider the request that accompanies this newsletter. Your support will help Camp Suwannee share the wonderful message of our Lord and Savior with those attending the traditional camps while also providing needed opportunities for others in Christ’s name. Should our Lord tarry, with your help, children will remain a priority for years to come.



Director's Notes



By Doug Mabey

(386) 658-5100 • dmabey@acvillage.net

Happy New Year to all! At Camp Suwannee, 2018 was a little busier than previous years, but there are still plenty of openings and opportunities for groups to utilize all that the camp has to offer.

We have two new groups that have toured our facilities recently; both loved what they saw and said they want to make us their retreat home for years to come. The first one is a new family group of 75-100 called Pioneer Health & Missions that is coming in March. The other, Paddle Georgia, is scheduled to come in June and there will be about 300 of them staying for a week. We also have a new first-time day camp being offered by the Village Church here at ACV called Creation Art Camp. It will also be in held June.

By the time you receive this, our January Youth Retreat will already have taken place. The theme is "Your Treasures, His Gifts!" We have invited two outside speakers and they will be bringing some of their students from their church with them. Having speakers from other churches has proven to be a great way to expose our facilities and ministry to people, groups and churches that might never hear about us otherwise.

Sadly, Roving Volunteers in Christ's Service had to cancel their visit in March. We have benefited from their volunteer work for many years. They do excellent work at no cost to us beyond the cost of materials.

Last summer's experiment by the FLCACC Youth Committee of combining three weeks of camp into only two weeks worked well, so they have chosen to do it again.

The weeks of camp are as follows:

- Junior Camp - July 7-13 - ages 7-12
- Senior Camp - July 14-20 - ages 13-18

Please encourage the youth in your family, your church and your neighborhood to come to Camp Suwannee this summer. As you can see in camper's testimonies, it is a life changing experience. Camp applications will be mailed in March. All campers registered by June 1 will receive the discounted rate of \$285.

Proverbs 3: 5&6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding but in all your ways, acknowledge

Him and He will make your paths straight."

We are trusting God to do a great work at Camp Suwannee again this year. Thank you for your prayers and your financial support, which help make that happen.



Counselors & Staff Members **NEEDED** High School Seniors & College Students

Camp Suwannee is an amazing opportunity for high school seniors and college students to participate in ministry. As a counselor or staff member, you will be directly involved with students in worship, games, fun activities, Bible study, and building relationships that will last a lifetime. This is an awesome way to spend a week or two during the summer and watch what God does in and through your life. Camp Suwannee will hold two weeks of camp in 2019: Week #1 for ages 7-12 July 7-13 and Week #2 for ages 13-18 July 14-20. If you are interested in serving on staff for either or both weeks of camp, please contact Randy Lamb at (386) 658-5344 or rlamb@acvillage.net.

Most Wanted List

Youth Lodge Board Walk Project: \$2,000

Industrial Pressure Washer: \$500

Rotary Sidewalk Cleaner: \$130

Basketball Goals (2): \$130 each

We are thankful for those who have given toward items on our Most Wanted List. Thank you, all!



2018 Camp Suwannee Testimonies



Camp Suwannee Week 1 of 2018 was a very fun and eventful week at camp. The very first night we split up into teams. We are in this team for the week. This gave us the opportunity to meet new people and work together to complete any games or tasks given to us and also have fun as a team by making a skit. The worship service was new. Robert Peacock led the worship and it was different from what some people were used to but it was a good different. It was still very moving and a special time as it always has been. Bowl was also another time of worship and a significant time of prayer. Every year when the week ends I start the countdown until next summer. Camp Suwannee is and always will have a special place in my heart and life and it is a very sacred area and has been for years. My prayer is that God will continue to change the lives of anyone that steps foot on the ground of Camp Suwannee.

- Bethany Mabey, 16

Camp Suwannee is an experience most likely different than what you might expect. All of the buildings are air conditioning. Before any meal, everyone gathers outside the cafeteria and the one who prays for the group gets to enter the line first. The morning role call is just us meeting by the bell and doing something active, usually dancing. The devotions that the guys and girls separate out for has to be one of my favorite times, I really enjoyed the devotion time and the leader that did it. Again, the experience is different and I would recommend going to Camp Suwannee.

- Eli Nissley, 15

Camp Suwannee Week 2 of 2018 was great with all of the newer kids coming. It was also emotional on Wednesday night when my dad spoke and then we sang. He called for an alter call if anyone wanted to go up to the cross with a sticky note listing all our problems. Almost everyone stayed up there and cried; it was very emotional. Then we had bowl service and everyone from the service started crying again. It was a very moving week. Like always we did the activities like swimming, tubing and canoeing. Last summer had to be the best week I've had since I have been there, and I've been there my entire life because my dad is the Director and my siblings have all gone. Camp Suwannee has a very special place in my heart because every time I step on that campground all of the memories come back to me.

- Alex Mabey, 13

Camp Suwannee is a place you can have fun, meet new friends and you also get to have worship time. Worship time is when you worship God, Jesus, and have prayer. Before getting into our lesson we have a fun and silly time. I was scared at first because it was my first time going to camp. Then when I had my friends and my counselor with me it felt like I was at home. You should go to Camp Suwannee because it's AMAZING! I loved it and I am going back.

- Sierra Nissley, 9

Where Christ is Exalted Through Camping



Camp Suwannee
P.O. Box 4313
Dowling Park, FL 32064



386-658-5100 • 1-800-371-8381
dmabey@acvillage.net

Suwannee River Conference & Retreat Center
is part of ACV Conference Services, LLC,
a wholly owned Limited Liability Company
of Advent Christian Village, Inc.

Camp Suwannee 2019

Two exciting weeks:

Week #1 July 7-13
(Ages 7-12)

Week #2 July 14-18
(Ages 13-18)

Applications will be mailed out in March.
For additional applications, go online
to www.campsuwannee.net or call
Director Doug Mabey at (386) 647-6624.



Suwannee Spotlight



"I am grateful to the Carter brothers for giving me responsibility when I was deemed mischievous," Dick said with sincerity. Pomeroy Carter was Dick's first counselor.

Dick originally thought he would be a carpenter, like his father. However, after attending Camp Suwannee, his aspirations shifted to serving God full-time in the Christian camping ministry. Dick attended Aurora University to continue his education and graduated. That is where he met the love of his life, Nancy.

In 1970, Dick's dream came true as he became Director of Camp

Maranatha in Idyllwild, California. He served as director for 33 years until his retirement in 2003. Nancy also worked at Camp Maranatha as the Food Service Director for 35 years, retiring in 2005. Now, they spend their time traveling and camping between their home in Dowling Park and southern California. They have many friends that they visit and enjoy spending time with their children, 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Both Dick and Nancy share a passion for youth and their faith. In addition to working at Camp Maranatha, they served as sectional officers in the organization

Christian Camping International, now known as Christian Camp and Conference Association. And Christian camping clearly runs in the family as Dick's grandson, Brian Reeves, currently serves as director for Camp Maranatha.

"Christian camps are the best way to reach young people," said Dick. "You can take your children to church but for them to be away from home, entrusted with the staff, it's another experience entirely."

"There has never been a regret," Dick said thinking back, "A lot of great memories."

Upcoming Groups

Date	Group Name	Date	Group Name
Mar. 1-3	Suwannee Big Book	July 14-20	A.C. Week #2
Mar. 15-17	Pioneer Health & Missions	July 22-26	NFYC
April 5-7	Leadership Phase IV	Aug. 3	Young Family Reunion
April 10-14	Tres Dias Men	Aug. 30 - Sept. 2	CISV
April 24-28	Tres Dias Women	Sept. 27-29	Dynamos
May 10-12	SHS NJROTC Banquet	Oct. 2-6	Tres Dias Men
June 18-21	Paddle Georgia	Oct. 18-20	Tres Dias Women
June 24-28	Creations Art Camp	Nov. 1-3	Williamson Family Reunion
July 7-13	A.C. Week #1		



WE NEED YOUR REFERRALS

Camp Suwannee is a great place for groups to rent, whether for a day, a week or somewhere between. It offers sleeping accommodations and places to meet, eat, play and worship. Help us get the word out so that we may minister to more groups. Have them call us at (386) 658-5100 or visit acvconference.net to find out more.