

# Suwannee Ripples

Published for Camp Suwannee by Advent Christian Village, The Office for Resource Development

## The Enduring Reach of Camp Suwannee

School is in full swing and cooler days are a welcomed relief as summer transitions into fall. At Camp Suwannee, fall is a time of reflection of the past season and a time of preparation for events to come.

This year, 120 campers participated in the two weeks of our Florida Conference summer camps. We have not yet returned to pre-pandemic numbers of young people attending, but it is encouraging to see how this ministry continues to impact lives.

I always enjoy reading in Ripples about the experiences of both the staff and youth who attend Camp Suwannee. It reminds me of my own experiences of Camp and the tremendous impact this ministry had on my life. It also affirms that the Camp continues to touch people's lives today.

Having been a camper and a counselor, I realize Camp Suwannee ministers to more than just the campers. As you will read in the enclosed articles, Camp Suwannee also has a profound impact on the counselors and leaders who have sacrificed a week of their lives to serve and minister. It is often overlooked, but most all who participate in the ministry of Camp Suwannee—campers and counselors alike leave changed and renewed in their walk with Christ.

I am so thankful for all of those who have had a part in making this past summer a successful season of ministry at Camp Suwannee. That includes the counselors, leaders, support staff, parents and donors who have given so that finances did not preclude anyone from attending.



Camp Suwannee is as relevant today as it has ever been as this ministry continues to change lives as we share the love of Christ with the world around us.

As we look to the future of Camp Suwannee, it is our desire to reach more and more youth for Christ. We cannot do it alone however, we need you to help share the word, encourage those you know to attend.

We also ask you to support this ministry financially so we can continue to ensure that finances do not prohibit any child from attending and so we have quality facilities to welcome them.

You too can be encouraged then as Camp Suwannee reaches more and more young people for Christ.



# Director's Notes

By Doug Mabey

We had a good summer camping season. Summer started with the Village Church hosting a Creation Arts Camp. It was a Day Camp and they made a different craft each day and they displayed them on Friday night to family, friends and residents of the Village.

It was exciting to have Children's International Summer Village (CISV) come right afterwards for 23 days. This was their first summer camp ever. They had previously come only for weekend retreats; the last time was in 2019. They had between 45-80 campers each week that came from eight different countries (USA, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Israel, Latvia & Sweden).



Our Florida Conference Church Camps held their two weeks of camp, Senior Camp had 60 campers and Junior Camp had 58. Senior camp's theme was "Reboot" and Shane Mumford was the speaker and he also served as Co-Director along with Liz Vann. There were eight first time

campers at Senior Camp.

Junior camp's theme was "Hide & Seek", the key verse being Psalm 139:14. I was the Pastor and speaker and the Co-Directors were Jeannie Thomas and Jeff Pannone. There were 26 first time campers at Junior camp.

Looking forward, we have the Youth Retreat coming up in January, planned for January 13-15. Applications will be available on our website in November and mailed out the first of December.

In closing, I'd like to thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. Also thank you to all the volunteers who have helped at Camp Suwannee over the years. You have contributed so much to the health and success of its ministry. We'd love to see you if you haven't been here for a while. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you and may He give you peace.

In Service to Him,  
Doug Mabey  
Director, Camp Suwannee & Retreats  
Ex-Officio, FLCACC Youth Committee

## Senior Camp Report

by Shane and Liz Mumford

Senior Camp was a great week with lots of new and exciting things. The theme for the week was "Reboot" to celebrate the new vision we had for senior camp as well as to embark on some of the old traditions. Shane's messages were centered around different characters in the Bible who had an experience with God and we explored how their lives were completely changed or rebooted by their particular experience.

We had a full worship band, led by Pastor Matt Malinowski of Dover Advent Christian Church. They did an amazing job in leading the youth into the presence of God. We also had our first ever "Color War" and it was a huge success! The campers have asked for that

to be a repeat event.

One of our newest traditions was the Rite of Passage for our senior boys and girls. They were put through various challenges as a "Rite of Passage", teaching them 1 Corinthians 13:11. This was another successful and meaningful activity that the campers will be able to look back on for years to come.

During the week we had one new decision for Christ and two rededications.

We are most thankful for our awesome staff. This was by far the best staff we have worked with; they were so engaged with the kids and there was a cohesiveness among them that allowed for everything to flow so smoothly all week. To God be the Glory!

# Junior Camp Report

by Jubilee Lee, Roxanne Lee, and Melody Lee (Counselors in Training (CIT))

This Summer we had the opportunity to work at Camp Suwannee's Junior Camp. This was our first year helping, and overall, we really enjoyed it. There were several things that stood out to us at camp. Some significant memories were the evening services, Bowl services, and water time.

The Theme for camp this year was Hide and Seek. The foundational passage for this theme was Psalm 139. Every evening Mr. Mabey and Mr. Sincovich taught on this theme. Mr. Mabey taught that we cannot hide from Jesus; we cannot hide our thoughts or our feelings from him. He knows us and He wants us to know Him. Also, God is not hiding from us; He has already sought us out and is waiting for us to seek Him. Mr. Sincovich taught that we need to not hide from the truth or hide truth from others. When hiding from the truth it is easy to believe a lie. Instead of hiding from the truth, we need to seek it out so that we can combat the lies we are believing.

The Bowl stood out to all of us. Bowl was an experience outside around a fire. Kids and adults could share what was on their heart. This time allowed us to see where kids were thinking and feeling, hear their struggles, and know how God was working in them. This time softened all our hearts and gave us more compassion for the kids. Sometimes, when things are crazy, it is easy to forget why you are doing what you are doing. This time at camp helped us to remember why we were there. It changed the places in our hearts that had become hard because of the business of everything.

Another of our favorite was water time. During this time the kids could go canoeing, tubing, or swimming. We liked this time because we got to put aside our leadership roles and be the kids' playmates and friends. We remember being kids and thinking it was fun when older people would play with us. It

was like our ages did not matter, and we could all be friends. Because of this, water time was something all of us enjoyed.

Ultimately, Camp Suwannee allowed us to see the body of Christ come together pouring Jesus into the lives of kids. We arrived hardly knowing any of the people and left being friends with all of them. After getting to camp, we learned that there were a lot of new people. Despite this, everyone got along. This is amazing! Being able to see the unity that strangers have when they are all connected to Christ is an awesome thing. We appreciate the heart of camp Suwannee. The directors were good to remind us that the purpose of camp was to focus on the kids and to lead them to Jesus. The cool thing about the directors telling us this is that they modeled what they wanted us to do. They interacted with the kids – loving on them and pouring life and Scripture into them.

In return, the kids themselves were a blessing. It was nice getting to be in a cabin serving with other counselors and kids. Time inside allowed us to really get to know people and invest in them in a deeper, more personal way.

As we reflect on our camp experience, we may not be able to see all the ways that God worked in the lives of the children there. We may not ever know the impact our lives had on the people we interacted with. However, God has not called us to walk by sight; He has called us to walk by faith. Because of this, we are trusting that God will use our service at Camp Suwannee for His glory.



**I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Psalm 139:14**



AT ADVENT CHRISTIAN VILLAGE

## Where Christ is Exalted Through Camping

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

(386) 658-5100 • 1-800-371-8381 • DMabey@ACVillage.net

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

### Most Wanted List

- Pool Chairs - \$10.00 ea. (need 15)
- Rescue Rings - \$75.00 (need 2)
- Rescue Tubes - \$80.00 ea. (need 2)
- Paint for the Youth Lodge Interior - \$500
- Fence around Rumph Pavilion A/C Units - \$6,000
- Golf Cart (Gas Operated/Used) - \$7,000
- Replace Dowling Cafeteria Ceiling, lights & insulate = \$26,000
- Seal Rumph Pavilion Roof = \$75,000 OR replace Rumph Pavilion Roof = \$170,000

Thank you to those who support projects from the Most Wanted List! We appreciate your help with making Camp Suwannee the best it can be.

### My Experience

"Camp Suwannee is my favorite camp of all time. I love everything about Camp Suwannee. I like bowl service, ga-ga ball, counselor hunt, and just spending time with the people in my cabin. I also like that by the end of the week I knew everyone at camp. Being at Camp Suwannee was the best year at camp I ever had, that is until next year."

-Kellan .F. Pfeffer, age 12

### Upcoming Groups

Dates	Group Name
Jan. 6-8	FLCACC Youth Retreat
Feb. 24-26	Leadership Camp Phase III
Mar. 3-5	Dynamos #32

To schedule your group for a reunion, conference or retreat, call 1-800-371-8381.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**Winter Youth Retreat**  
**Jan. 6-8 • Ages 12-18**