



GLACIER CAMP NEWS

[Jesus] said to them, "Come away to a secluded place all by yourselves and rest a while." – Mark 6.31

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September TIM Talks

"My Title for all Generations -- Names for God and Their Significance" will be the topic of the upcoming September TIM Talks. Mark your calendars for **September 17-19**. More information is available in this edition of the Glacier Camp News.

Donor Appreciation Dinner/Scholarship Auction

Sunday, November 19 beginning at 4.30 pm will be the evening set aside for our scholarship auction/donor appreciation dinner. All camp supporters and friends are invited to participate.

Sunday, November 26 -- On-Line Advent Bible Study begins @ **5.00 pm**. Join us as we celebrate the season of Advent with an exploration of the book of Romans.

Best Day Ever

One Camper's Story



WATERFRONT FRIENDS

editor's note: What follows are reflections based upon thoughts I shared about Glacier Presbytery Camp's mission and ministry at Helena's First Presbyterian Church and how their financial and spiritual support makes a difference. To ensure confidentiality, certain details of the story which follows have been changed.

by Rev. Tim Lanham -- Glacier Presbytery Camp Director

I am deeply grateful for your support of our ministry. But I am even more grateful for the opportunity to be with you on this Lord's Day and share with you just a glimpse of the ministry we are able to do in Christ's name -- thanks to you and to all our other mission partners.

To illustrate our ministry, I will tell you the story of one of our campers. He was in Middle School and was awkward -- like almost all Middle Schoolers are awkward. The difference between this kid and his peers is that he didn't try to hide his awkwardness. He didn't try to

cover it over with a veneer of “cool” or a pretense that he had it all together. This young person wore his awkwardness the way he wore his shirts -- untucked and hanging out, visible for all the world to see.

This young man, like many young people his age, had problems. His awkwardness was manifest socially as well as physically. It was hard for him to get along with others. He struggled to make friends. His family wondered if sending him to camp was even a good idea and after the first night, the staff wondered if camp was a good idea for him too. Things just didn't seem to be working out.

For this young person, there were two favored reactions to unwelcome stimuli. One reaction was withdrawal -- he would retreat into himself like a turtle, seeking refuge in its shell. The other involved extreme reaction to things like loud noises, an overly bright light, or a stranger intruding upon his personal space. For the campers and the counselor in his cabin, that first night was rough. And the question discussed at the morning staff meeting was simple. “Would he be able to stay?”

Our staff asked that question. And then they took it upon themselves to answer that question in the affirmative. They noticed that he did better when he had a “big buddy” near by -- a friendly presence that would help lower his level of anxiety. During this week, the support staff figured out how they could be that “big buddy” and still attend to their regular staff duties. Instead of pushing our friend away (which was obviously the way he had been treated many times before), they drew themselves close to this



FUN ON THE AQUAMAT -- LOW LAKE LEVELS REQUIRED US TO MOVE THE MATS FARTHER FROM SHORE.

person.

What happened wasn't perfect. Every day, it seemed, brought an outburst of anger or fright or even sobs. But Monday turned into Tuesday. And Tuesday became Wednesday. And Wednesday turned into Thursday. And our friend was still with us.

A big challenge came Thursday, at the waterfront -- where this camper faced the challenge of swimming out into deep water. The prospect of doing this brought a firm rejection. No way! No way would he be able to do that, to swim into the deep water. But the staff would not accept his “No!” They encouraged him



CAMP FIRE WORSHIP AT CLOSE OF DAY

and coaxed him. And where the world that surrounded him had sent a message loud and clear throughout his life that he was too stupid or awkward or inept to do anything -- the Summer staff countered that message with encouragement. "You can do it! We know you can do it!"

I watched as he swam out into the deep water and then swam back. And I will never forget the happy expression on his face. You would have thought that he had just won an Olympic gold medal. "I did it!" he exclaimed. "I did it!" At dinner, I made a point of visiting with our friend. I asked him (like I regularly ask our campers) what he did that day and what he liked the best. I listened as he breathlessly recounted his waterfront feat. "I didn't think I could do it," he admitted, "but I did. I did it!" Then he went on to comment: "This was the best day! The best day ever!"

In my daily prayers, I always pray for the camp and our staff members and our ministry. And I always ask that, in the divine economy of grace, the Lord might allow our ministry at Glacier Presbytery Camp to provide people with some glimpse, however fleeting, some manifestation of the kingdom of God. And I realized, as our friend (whose life can't be very easy or very fun) described what for him was the best day ever, that the Lord in his ever-gracious Providence had granted me on this day the desire and longing of my prayer. This kid was shown what the kingdom of God is like.

Without your support of our mission and ministry, these kinds of things couldn't have happened. Roughly half the kids who attend our camp are unchurched. Many of them, like our friend, live lives that aren't the best in a world which tells them they that they can't swim or grow or even succeed. But through your support of our work, you help the light of God's kingdom shine in a world which, for many of these kids, is dark and difficult. And for this, I am deeply grateful.

Sprinkling the Green Fundraiser - Update

Thank you! Thank you!! THANK YOU!!!

The Sprinkling the Green Fundraiser has been fully funded!

The sprinklers have been installed!

The lawn is starting to turn green!

And all that is thanks to the unfailing generosity of the people in Glacier Presbytery. We had donors of all ages, with the youngest being 12 years old. About 50% of the donations came from new donors and about 40% were made through our online giving portal.

The ministry at Glacier Camp continues to flourish and grow due to your generosity.

Many, many thanks from Tim and the entire Glacier Camp Committee. Every donation, no matter the size, is a blessing to the ministry of Glacier Camp.



NEW SPRINKLERS AT WORK

From the Mail Bag:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ (and TIM Talks),

Thank you all so much for remembering me in the loss of my husband. This has been an adjustment for me and will continue to be one.

I have felt buoyant with prayer. Your prayers and thoughts are part of that feeling.

I hope to see you either at the PW Retreat in August or the TIM Talk in September.

A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Pro. 18:24

Thank you for being my friends. In Christian gratitude, Marla Wilckens

A New Tool for Ministry

Glacier Presbytery Camp Gets a Van

by Dave Herman, Secretary -- Camp Committee and member of First Presbyterian Church, Great Falls

The First Presbyterian Great Falls Church Van has just found a new life at Glacier Camp. Instead of sitting doing nothing at church it has been sold to Glacier Camp and will be used for Summer Camp to transport campers to horse riding and transporting day campers. (\$2,000 saving this year renting a bus). When the camp is not in session it will take Summer staff on outings as a group. It can be used as a sales tool for having conferences

at Spruce Lodge, doing airport runs for attendees. The van will give the camp more opportunities for ministry year round.



HEADED FOR HORSE CAMP -- THE VAN AND CAMPERS ON THEIR WAY TO ARTEMIS ACRES

Friends Old and New

editor's note: Usually the conclusion of Summer Camp brings a bit of a respite for the core staff -- a few days where it is possible to sit back and take things somewhat easy, to get caught up on long neglected duties and chores. That respite didn't take place for us this year as we spent the third week in August hosting groups old and new. Here is a report.

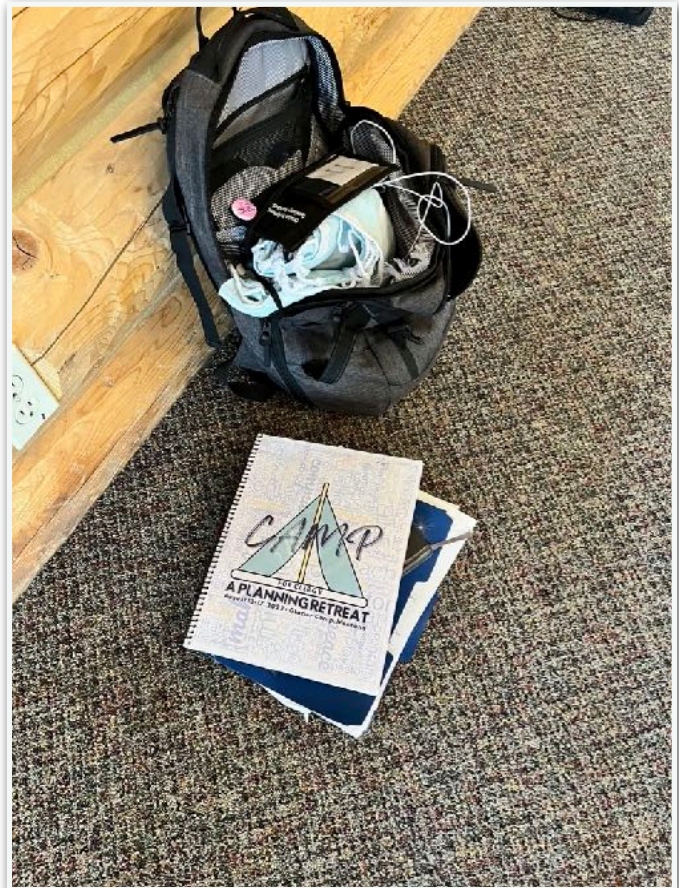
I. New -- Glacier Presbytery Camp host Omaha Seminary Foundation's Pastors Camp

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" -- Isaiah 43.19

The new director for the Omaha Seminary Foundation (OPSF) brought with her a new vision for the organization's mission and ministry. Camp shouldn't be just for kids -- let's make it available for pastors too. Out of this idea and conversations in the Spring emerged "Camp for Clergy -- A Planning Retreat."



Worship Planning was an essential element of Pastors Camp. Here a colorful chart shows the season of the church years.



Essential gear for Pastors Camp: backpack, participant booklet, name tag, etc.

Approximately 25 people gathered at Glacier Camp for five days of worship planning, sharing, reflection, prayer, and fun. They came across a geographic spectrum that stretched from Virginia in the east to Utah in the west. For many of these people, it was their first visit to Montana and their very first stay at Glacier Camp. An appealing aspect of this event was that it provided ample free time for hiking, swimming, site-seeing, or simply relaxing. OPSF President Shelli Latham that this was intentional. "A problem I have found with continuing education events," she explained, "is that they are over-scheduled. Participants are busy from early in the morning until late in the evening. We are very intentional in building plenty of free time into this event."

According to participants, that was one of the

things they enjoyed most about this conference. "I just needed some down time -- time just to sit on the deck and look out over this beautiful scenery," one of the participants explained to me. Having lived the life of a parish minister for thirty years before accepting the call to become camp director, I understood that need completely

Glacier Presbytery Camp was proud to be able to support the Omaha Seminary Foundation in providing this program. We look forward to more joint ventures and another Camp for Clergy in the future!

II. Old -- Glacier Presbyterian Women's Retreat

"Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the earth." -- Psalm 74.12

Our new friends from the Omaha Seminary Foundation had hardly just left when old friends arrived to help get things ready for the Glacier Presbyterian Women's Retreat. I can't say, exactly, how many years this retreat has been going on -- but I can remember bringing my mother and some Sunrise folk to this event fifteen years ago. The event is like the energizer bunny -- it just keeps going and going and going.

Nine (or perhaps ten -- our Presbyterian Women, like our campers, move around so quickly it is hard to get an accurate count) different churches from Glacier Presbytery were represented.



PW Retreat Participants Listen to a Keynote Address

If you add guests from congregations outside our Presbytery, there were at least a dozen different congregations present for the event. Total registrations -- including Saturday only participants -- were around 40, a retreat record!

These women did what Presbyterian Women do best. They prayed, worshiped, listened, learned, and shared visions of mission and ministry to reach out in love and compassion to the world for which Christ lived and died. I am always inspired by the enthusiasm and joy these retreat participants bring to us every August. Even on a smoky, late Summer day (when you couldn't see the mountains across the lake), these women brought the brightness of their faith and blessed us with the joy of their commitment to be going into all the world with the good news of Jesus Christ.



Table Fellowship is always an important part of the PW retreat.

TIM Talks -- September 2023

Dates: September 17-19, 2023

“My Title for All Generations”

Names for God and Their Significance Across the Witness of Scripture

Location: *Glacier Presbyterian Center*

Leader: Rev. Tim Lanham

“This is my name forever,

and this my title for all generations.” -- Exodus 3.15

The September TIM Talks will explore the Bible’s many different names for God.

Sociologists suggest that if something or someone is important to a person, a group, a society, they create a variety of names which show how they understand that person or concept. This theory can be validated in the wide variety of names given by Scripture to God.

Our September TIM Talks will look through Scripture’s assorted catalog of divine names. Some are generic, like the term used by the king of Nineveh to address the possibility of repentance in Jonah 3.9a: “Who knows? The God may relent and change his mind...”



Leaf from a Flemish Prayer Book, with Moses at the Burning Bush ca 1500

Other texts reflect calling upon God from a different, more intimate perspective, as Job did when he wondered in Job 31.2: “What would be my portion from God above, and my heritage from the Almighty on high?”

The deeper one looks into this subject, the more compelling it becomes. What is the meaning and significance of the divine name (commonly translated LORD in most English versions of the Old Testament) that was entrusted to Moses at the Burning Bush in Exodus 3? How did the understanding of this name influence Jesus’ self-identification, especially in John’s gospel?

Where did these names come from? What can we learn from them? What does their use by different groups and people tell us about their understanding of who God is and what God does?

In addition to a lively engagement of the biblical narrative and a celebration of different ideas and perspectives, the TIM Talks always provide opportunity for great interaction and wonderful fellowship. Join us September 17-19 for this time of in depth study and great Christian fellowship. To sign up or get more information, email timothy@glacercamp.org.

Schedule:

<i>Sunday, September 17:</i>	4:00 Arrive	6:00pm Dinner
	7:00	Lecture/Discussion
<i>Monday, September 18:</i>	8:30 Breakfast	9:45 Lecture/Discussion
	12:30 Lunch	
	1:00 Lecture/Discussion	3:30 Lecture/Discussion
	6.00 Dinner	
	7.00 pm	Reception at the Lanham’s home
<i>Tuesday, September 19:</i>	8:30 Breakfast	9:45 Lecture/Discussion
	11.45	Sack Lunch to Go



Hey Jude! Exploring the New Testament's Forgotten Book

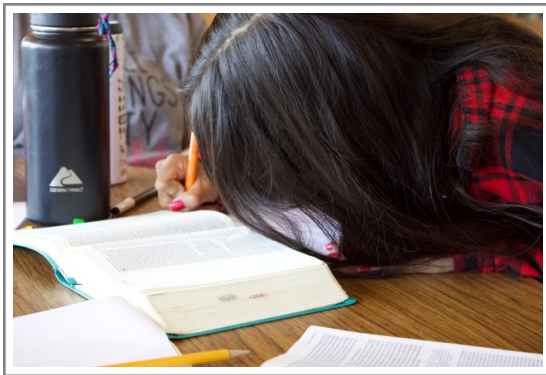


First Presbyterian Church -- Great Falls

Glacier Presbytery Camp Joint Educational Event

Rev. Risa Paul, interim pastor of Great Falls 1st & Rev. Tim Lanham, director of Glacier Presbytery Camp are leading a study of one of the shortest and most neglected books in the entire Bible -- the 25 verse long epistle of Jude. Jude speaks about the challenge of faith, the promised Day of the Lord, and willingness of false teachers to negatively influence the believing community and lead it astray. It is also known for its evocative imagery, its extra-biblical references , and the soaring majesty of its benediction. Jude's powerful message is as relevant today as it was for the writer's original audience.

Mark Your Calendars!
Hey Jude Study
September 9-10, 2023
starting at 4.00 pm
@ First Presbyterian Church
1315 Central Avenue
Great Falls



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. -- 2 Peter 3.18

Director's Reflections

Plumb Gone

Thoughts Near the Close of a Late Summer's Day

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. -- Ephesians 5.15,16 (King James Version)

For we are born at all adventure: and we shall be hereafter as though we had never been: for the breath in our nostrils is as smoke, and a little spark in the moving of our heart:¹

Smoke from fires both near and distant hangs in the late Summer air. An occasional puff of wind moves the translucent haze – pushing it sometimes closer, other times farther away. The temperature is hot but not oppressive. I won't complain, for I know how soon it will be Winter and how in those days to come I would willingly trade the cold for even a smoky heat.

The breezes come and go. But the shadows grow perceptibly along this threshold where the afternoon slides into evening. I watch as those shadows stretch and stretch and stretch toward the far horizon. It looks like they are reaching out to embrace and welcome the night which moves inexorably across the plains and mountains to the east. Soon the shadows and the night will merge.

for the breath in our nostrils is as smoke, and a little spark in the moving of our heart: Which being extinguished, our body shall be turned into ashes, and our spirit shall vanish as the soft air,

And soon the darkness will settle in. Soon. So soon. In this moment, I am struck by how quickly time goes by. And how, of all the seasons, Summer itself is so soon gone. Just weeks ago, the twilight lingered almost indefinitely. And when it did surrender to the night, only a brief window of darkness kept the morning's light at bay.

Thus were Summer's days, Summer's almost endless days. And while, according to the calendar, the season and this moment still belong to Summer, I know that the time is quickly passing. As if before my very eyes, Summer seems to disappear along with the sun beyond the western horizon. Time, as is its wont, presses on. And like the night sweeping away the remnants of this day, I can feel the press of Autumn as it pushes this Summer into oblivion.

And our name shall be forgotten in time, and no man shall have our works in remembrance, and our life shall pass away as the trace of a cloud, and shall be dispersed as a mist, that is driven away with the beams of the sun, and overcome with the heat thereof.

¹ The italicized reflections that are interspersed with my thoughts come from the Wisdom of Solomon 2.2-5. This book has canonical status in the Roman Catholic tradition but is not included in the Protestant list of inspired Scripture.

The gloaming fades from the western sky. And I wonder at the mystery of time and its unrelenting movement. Like the night, time pushes onward both swiftly and imperceptibly. You turn around and it is gone – it being an hour or a day, a month or a season, a year or a decade or even the better part of a lifetime. A friend's recent observation comes to mind: "It's hard to believe, but the Summer is plumb gone."

And I think of how the season's passing mirrors life -- our human life, that brief ration of time we are given which seems as brief as Summer under the Big Sky. You turn around. And it is gone. Gone. Gone, as my friend would describe "plumb gone." Where did all that time go? I ask the question aloud as the twilight turns to dusk. The blues, oranges, reds, and purples of the sky are now compounded into an ebony backdrop which begins to shimmer with starlight.

For our time is a very shadow that passeth away; and after our end there is no returning: for it is fast sealed, so that no man cometh again.

I peer into the dark night. And I find myself compelled by the eloquent calculus of the ancient witnesses (both in and beyond Scripture) which calls our attention to time and its fleeting nature. Like Summer itself, the ration of days we are granted on this earth are transient and ephemeral. You turn around, and they are gone. They are gone, plumb gone -- so quickly and so completely.

The secular world would seek salvation by denying this truth and exerting every last ounce of effort to believe in the lie that induced the first couple to violate Paradise's only rule. And so, even the local funeral home's advertisement of its services avoids any suggestion of life's transient nature and death's looming reality. But happy jingles about friendship and caring can't stop time from pressing on and the time we are given from running out.

The consideration of this reality is hard. After all, who wants to ponder the inevitability of their own demise? But as I give thought to life's fleeting nature, I find a force and power which compel me to seize these fragile moments I am given and live -- truly live more fully, more completely, more faithfully through the realization that our mortal time is just and only a very shadow which passes away.

The words from the Apostle come to me in this moment. And I realize the challenge I face as one called to walk in the way of the risen Lord. A deep quiet settles in along with the dark, blessed night. And my prayer reaches out to the heavens -- asking for strength and wisdom to redeem the time that I have been given, making the most of the days and seasons left to me on this earth.

Tim Lanham, Director



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