

JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP



RIVER IMPRESSIONS



A Record of the Passing of Time
Fall 2011

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Celebrating 75 Years of Church Roots

In the year 2011, celebrating 75 years of stewarding a land by the Johns River, it is a fitting reminder that the camp's origins emerged from the hands of Western North Carolina Association leaders (and former Southern Synod). Banks J. Peeler records in "A Story of the Southern Synod" that, "in 1936, an overture appeared on the agenda of the Classis of North Carolina from the Young People's Conference, over the signature of its president, Miss. Geneva Leonard, petitioning that body to consider 'establishing a camp for the Classwis.' Their request was honored, and a committee composed of Revs. H. D. Althouse [Corinth, Hickory], George T. Fitz [First, Salisbury], and Mr. Herbert W. Coble [Burlington], was named to consider the matter."

Photo (right): Celebrate 75 Worship / L > R : Carol Fonville, Dale & Lucille Bennett, Phil Leonard, Chad & Jeni Lawson



"Got Spirit?" Asks the Camp Curriculum

"God inspires awe and wonder in us" says a writer for this summer's curriculum resource. Who knows what will cross one's path, assuming a wide-eyed perspective and an open mind. Campers at the Youth Work Camp, preparing for a river sweep clean-up trip, welcomed the serendipitous encounter of a spotted orange lizard amidst an early morning rain. For 75 years, Johns River Valley Camp has been a place where campers of any age can observe the handiwork of a creator God and connect dots toward a broader understanding of a shared planet earth.

Photos (left): Work Campers share discovery.

Celebrate 75 / A Big Day ... August 20 / When Even the Winds and the Water Were Stirred

If the huge poplar tree -- anchored centrally in the Mainsite of Johns River Valley Camp -- could talk, countless stories would be heard from its commanding field position. The Celebrate 75 Day in August allowed for a next best scenerio, gathering 150 former campers and friends under the shade of its outstretched limbs. Nora Driver Foust noted surprise when a generation of campers pre-dating her remembered tunes they had sung from "Songs of Many Nations." Experiential moments were re-created, by getting feet in the river, shooting a round of archery, contributing to the creation of a banner, hiking to Little Falls, or climbing Vesper Hill. Stories echoed above the quiet rocking of a porch crowd. Infants and children had eyes opened to this valley defined by a river setting. Gathering at the River Chapel to mark the day's end, worshippers joined voices in song, heard thoughtful words from Elizabeth Schiemann, C. L. "Curly" Stumb, and Ronny Holsdte. All present will remember being touched by elements of creation, recalling the biblical passage of the disciples where Jesus commands even the winds and the water. A brief moment, as if corragraphed by the Creator God to be in sync with song lyrics, stirred winds over the worship area, and sprinkled selective drops of water. The Spirit of a Living God walked among worshippers on that special day.

Photo (right) portrays Banks Shepherd and Hamp Shuford sharing stories



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