



# RIVER IMPRESSIONS

A Record of the Passing of Time  
Spring 2017

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JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP

## # Celebrate Sliver of Land with Silver Lining

**This land is your land, oh Friends of JRVC!** "Curly" reflects on his thirty years at Johns River Valley Camp with a reading of The Giving Tree, by Shel Silverstein. "The tree is the real story," he says. "It's also my story, of living at Johns River Valley Camp, teaching respect for trees and for campers, along with respect for your neighbors and mine.

It's my story, because I have lived in tension with the trees, and their growth and my life. It's my story, because I have lived the life of the boy in the story, jumping into piles of leaves, playing in wooded forests, climbing trees big and small, eating tart apples from a backyard tree, swinging from branches and imagining towering fortresses. It's my story, a story of seeking happiness among neighbors, cousins, church folk, family and friends. It's my story, one of sharing my life with Ms. Curly, and breathing life into three incredible boys. It's my story because, in the end, I'm there as a 'stump' -- still giving -- if only a resting place for others. [Sorry, I didn't mean to give away the ending.] And, it's my story, to help unveil -- in each camper -- a giving story. I too have taken from the life of the trees, but have worked tirelessly to give back to the forest." [Rev. C. L. "Curly" Stumb will again co-direct the Outpost Caving Camp (this summer with Lucy Bennett) for one final time.]



## # Paint the Town with strokes of love



**Let's Paint the town!** Consider participation in a youth - work - mission - camp at Johns River Valley Camp. Serve others in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Engage in community service projects. Dig at the roots of socio-economic and environmental justice issues. *Experience! Discover! Participate!* Find camp activities awaiting each evening. Work hard. Play fast. Stir Creation's canvas with new colors.

## # Meet new Director at JRVC "ultra" games

**Camp Board announces new leadership.** Johns River Valley Camp has announced a "call" to Rev. Phil Hardy to become its next Executive Director. While Hardy sees a place for traditional camping [Phil will again direct the Middle High Ultra-biking Camp this summer], he envisions building upon a JRVC Board initiative (now in its 8th year) that has been focusing on a model of mission trip camping, and making Johns River a hub for addressing poverty and environmental issues in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Says Rev. Hardy, "Invitations will be extended to the Southern Conference and beyond to join the Camp in responding to the scriptural mandate to care for and advocate for the poor and to be good stewards of God's creation." The ministry of Phil Hardy will officially begin on September 1. Rev. Hardy will pick up the mantle from long tenured Executive Director, Rev. C. L. "Curly" Stumb, who will retire on December 31, 2017. The two leaders will work together during the fall months to transition leadership and allow time for the new director to prepare for the next camp year.



**\* Save the Date...  
Saturday, at JRVC  
September 23, 2017**

A celebration is being planned to honor the Rev. C. L. "Curly" Stumb, to recognize the impact of his ministry by the waters of the Johns River, and affirm his walk amidst the people of Southern Conference.