



December 1st, 2022

Dear Friends in Ministry,

I pray this 'state of camp' note finds you healthy and looking forward to what God has in store for you and yours in 2023. This year seemed, to me, to fly by quickly. Maybe because I became a grandparent this year, or because Chris and I are full blown empty-nesters, or just that life keeps going faster and faster as you go along. Whatever the reason is, when I look back, I am just so very grateful for many things, even if it feels like a blur.

Near the top of the list are God's blessings on Gretna Glen. In 2020 and 2021, I wasn't sure what 2022 would look like, and just like a lot of folks, I prayed for God's will to help us see a way forward. Well, without a doubt, the Lord and his people kept camp open and allowed us to keep serving camper families and guest groups. I am grateful that camp was back to a more normal pace with events, retreats, and summer camp in 2022. In fact, we had a record-breaking summer with 1,231 camper registrations, and outside of those seven weeks, we served 196 guest groups with 7,116 guests here for a day or overnight event.

Our summer theme this year was "The Water of Life", with the theme verse from Isaiah 43:2- "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." On the last day of camp each week this summer, the theme lesson for the day was *By Still Waters—Resting in God. The Lord is our shepherd and our host. God leads us; God feeds us. God loves us in and through every moment of our lives, whether it is by still waters or through dark times. Our cups overflow, spiritually and physically. Our challenge is to share all that we have received. May you and your campers know you are always welcome at God's water of life, and may you each be richly blessed.* As we shared this during the summer, the lesson spoke to me in new ways. I am not sure it would have been so real to me before 2020. Gretna Glen definitely can feel the water of life all around us.

For summer 2023, we are having eight weeks of faith-based summer programming. If we fill every program we offer, that would be 1,762 campers with whom we can share about God's love. Just ten years ago, we were blown away that we had 1,000 registrations. No matter what the number, we will give it all we have to spread the good news. Kids need camp, they need the outdoors, they need to have fun and have a week set aside to learn and grow in their faith journey. We are excited for summer number 63!

This all would not happen without the support of our camp community. The gifts that come from friends like you, truly make all that happens at Gretna Glen possible. Whether you gave this year through a monthly donation, a one-time gift or the ExtraGive, we are grateful. If you have yet to make a donation and would like to do so, we have several options available. See the back of the page for more information.

I hope this 'state of camp' brings you joy. Thank you for being a part of Gretna Glen. Thank you for your prayers.

Be Well-

Apryl Miller, Director

Donation Opportunity Details

Carrie Lodge/Health Center Project

This building project design planning is well underway, with hopes of starting the project in the fall/winter of 2023. This project is now estimated to be between \$450,000-\$500,000. The ExtraGive on November 18th added \$35,334 from 129 donors to our already received donations of \$167,472 for a total raised so far of \$202,806. As we plan out the details of this project, we will be looking for additional volunteers and companies that can supply the products needed for the build at a reduced cost, along with donors to help with the remaining funds needed. You can see more of the plans for this project on our website.

General Fund

Donations made to the general fund help support everyday costs and upkeep of camp operations. Food costs were up 13% this year, and utility costs were up 30%. Inflation has definitely been hitting our budget in ways we couldn't anticipate.

Pathway to Our Future- Finance Initiative

(pay-off past mortgage, which included construction of the retreat lodge and maintenance barn/apartments) On May 13th, we will host our 10th Gretna Gritty Mud Run. This event was an idea from a volunteer, and in its 10th year, we believe we can pay off our mortgage, which is why we initially started this event. In April 2012, we announced an initiative to pay down our remaining \$620,000 mortgage. As of today, we owe \$38,288.64. Along with the monthly donations from designated gifts and the mud run fundraiser, we believe we can celebrate this payoff at the end of the mud run event in 2023. What a blessing that will be!

Planned Giving

Deciding to add Gretna Glen to your planned giving is vital to the long term operations of this special place. There are many types of gifts that fall into this broad type of support. Endowments and legacy gifts are but two categories of gifts that can help sustain and grow this vital ministry. Simply put, an endowment is a gift that is set up in a fund and is used as directed by the donor. A legacy gift or bequest is a planned donation that occurs after a donor's lifetime.

Retreat Scholarship Fund

We are blessed with a great summer scholarship fund that provided financial support for camp to 188 kids this summer. For 2023 we will work to raise funds for our retreat scholarship funds. As prices have continued to rise and we need to raise our fees, we must have opportunities to help our groups come on retreat when finances are a concern. This fund will support that effort.

Ways to give to Gretna Glen

Donations to Gretna Glen can be made in a couple of ways. First, checks sent to Gretna Glen are always welcome. An envelope is enclosed if you choose to use it. We can also process credit card donations through our office. You may call us with card information if that is preferred.

Online donations. Our website has links that can help you to send a one-time donation or setting up monthly donations. We are grateful for one-time donations and greatly appreciate our donors' support that can help us monthly. Funds can be designated to any area: General, Carrie Lodge, Maintenance, Program, or Scholarships.
<https://gretnaglen.org/give/>

If you have any questions about giving, please let me know. I am more than happy to share additional information. ~ Apryl