

The Beech Tree



Summer Camp 2011 Theme – The Jesus Creed: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Matthew 22:37-40

A Volunteer's Perspective: "Summer Joy"

by Nelle Howard

There is a certain joy that accompanies being an adult volunteer during summer camp at Bluestone. It is different from the joy of being a camper or a counselor. It is much less intense—a calmer sort of joy.

This summer was my first time taking part in the camp program since my, now adult, children were in grade school. It was good to be back. Bluestone soon stepped into its role as my "thin spot," that place where I feel especially close to God. Now, that isn't God's fault, it is just that I seem to pay better attention when I am up there on that mountain.

Mornings were spent in small groups learning what it means to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength as well as how God wants us to love our neighbors. After lunch, I prepared for the next lesson and then hit the trails. My heart leapt as I came within sight of the beach tree and thought of all the campers who had walked this same path; my middle-aged legs ached as I climbed to the counselor's chapel and my soul felt Sabbath rest as I walked the labyrinth.

I spent evenings with fellow volunteers, either taking part in camp activities or, more likely, on the porch with our chairs facing outward while we talked about our day and soaked in the sounds of campers as they played, laughed and built lifelong friendships.

My week as a volunteer brought me closer to God and God's children. Now I must wait a whole winter and spring as I look forward to next summer and another week as an adult volunteer at Bluestone. ✦

Nelle is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Williamstown, WV.

Since 1953, Bluestone has been a place apart where thousands have heard and learned about Jesus Christ, his church, and his promise. It is sacred space where people have forged lifetime friendships as they become part of the Bluestone family. It is our belief that Bluestone is a blessed place, where the magnificence of God's creation is equaled by the exemplary community of faith that is created there.

Friends of Bluestone is a West Virginia Non Profit Corporation organized solely to support the ministries of Bluestone Camp & Retreat. Our purpose, as Friends of Bluestone, is to raise funds for the maintenance and upkeep for this special place, thereby enabling and advancing Christ's ministry ... with faith and in the great hope that God will bless many, through Bluestone, for years to come.

We invite you to join our cause to provide and invest in Bluestone's future by giving generously and faithfully. All donations are tax deductible.

We will gladly receive any amount of money in support of our cause. Please send your donation to the address listed at the bottom of this page. Checks may be made payable to: Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

We welcome as well your abilities and talents as we endeavor to support Bluestone's ministry. We are currently seeking ambassadors from congregations across the state to help us fulfill our mission. Please contact us at bluestone.friends@gmail.com



Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

P.O. Box 827 • Charleston, WV 25323

www.bluestonecamp.com/FriendsofBluestone.htm

Friends of Bluestone Update

The Friends of Bluestone (FoB) Board of Directors is not short on ideas, but they need your prayers and support to help implement them! Please let us know if you are interested in helping in anyway, we'd love to hear from you!

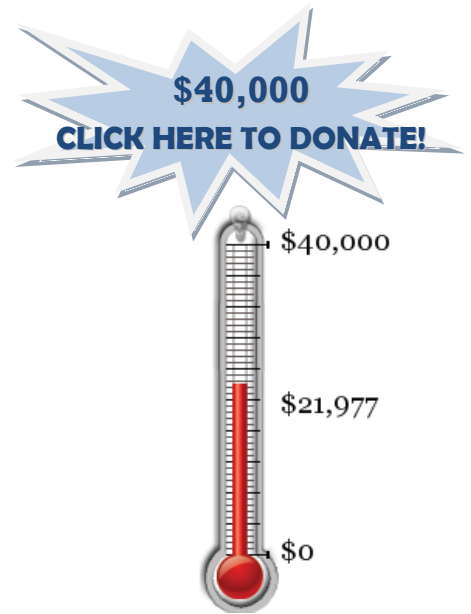
Summer Camp. Summer camp has come and gone. Enrollment reached 290. 25 summer staff resided at Bluestone throughout the summer and served as counselors and counselors-in-training. In addition, a volunteer staff of 36 from around the Presbytery of West Virginia helped with Summer Camp. FoB would like to thank all summer staff and volunteers for their service to Bluestone's ministry. A special thank you to all the campers, parents, youth leaders, etc. who made the trek to Bluestone! Thanks to you we can count the summer of 2011 as a successful camp season. We hope you were blessed by your visit to the mountain – please come visit Bluestone again!

Fall Retreats. The Presbytery of WV had its fall stated meeting at Bluestone on September 13th to kick off the fall retreat season. There were about 130 who attended, and much appreciation was expressed for the good food and hospitality. A few days later Bluestone hosted 117 children and adults who came out for the Elementary School Retreat. The fall retreat season will pick up again mid-October and run through the first weekend of November. 2011 has been a tough year for Bluestone as there have been many vacancies and cancellations on our calendar. The 2012 calendar is still wide open and we're taking reservations. If your church or anyone you know is looking to have a retreat event of any sort, please encourage them to consider Bluestone as a venue. We will be glad to receive any contact info that might lead to a group reservation.

Bluestone News. The Presbytery of WV has formed a subgroup to the overarching Jeremiah 29.11 Mission Study Group. This subgroup will evaluate and make recommendations regarding the path forward for Bluestone. Consultants plan to visit Bluestone during September, look for updates in future Beech Tree newsletters. For more info on the Jeremiah 29.11 Group, please see the Presbytery's website.

We need your support! Please consider supporting the Bluestone Ministry and help us reach our goal of \$40,000 by the end of the year. You can donate electronically through PayPal on FoB's website – [check it out!](#) Or you may always mail donations to the address listed at the bottom of the first page.

Looking for feature article authors. If you would like to assist us by writing a feature article for the Beech Tree, please email us!



As per the Covenant between Friends of Bluestone and the Presbytery of West Virginia, our goal through December of 2011 is to raise at least \$40,000 in total receipts. Through the end of August, \$21,977 has been raised.

Thank You!

We continue to work hard to provide needed funds to support the camp facilities and ministry. Please consider supporting the Bluestone ministry in addition to your regular donations.

We would like to recognize our donors by name and donor category in an upcoming Beech Tree. Please contact FoB if you wish to remain anonymous.

Board of Directors

- Scott Adams, *President*
- Ed Pettus, *Vice President*
- Valerie Cowley, *Treasurer*
- Allison Westlund, *Secretary*
- Kristin Eagan
- Tom Hastie
- Chris Rogillio
- Mark Miller, *Ex Officio*

The Youth Council of the Presbytery of WV Presents:

IT'S FOR YOU!!!

OLDER YOUTH RETREAT
November 4-6th

Bluestone Camp & Retreat



Click here for more info!

» **Camp Retreats @ Bluestone** «

Bluestone Camp & Retreat would welcome the opportunity to host your group or organization. Located in the Appalachian mountains of Southern WV, Bluestone makes a perfect destination for a fall retreat.

Please [click here](#) for more info or call (304) 466-0660 to check available dates or to make a reservation.

Donor Funded Project Expense Report Updated for 2011

See how *your* donations have helped maintain and improve Bluestone!

CLICK HERE

Be sure to click the link at the bottom of the page to see the updated report.



This newsletter is intended to be viewed digitally, please visit our website for the electronic copy:
<http://www.bluestonecamp.com/TheBeechTree.pdf>



SUMMER 2011 PROJECT PICTURES



Before



Cabin 15 Renovations



After



Upper:
Land Clearing in Action



Lower:
Land Clearing Complete

Special thanks to our many volunteers and donors who made these projects possible. For more info on projects around Bluestone, see the 2011 donor funded project expense report,

[CLICK HERE!](#)



Cabin 7 – Phase 2 Shower Renovations Underway



Cabin 6 – Phase 2 Shower Renovations Complete