

Annual Report 2024 – Sheldon Calvary Camp



Sheldon Calvary Camp Staff 2024

“It is so renewing to be in this special place, even for these few days”. “Calvary Camp began my spiritual journey and helped set a spiritual foundation on which I have been able to build throughout the years” “I feel peace here.” Whether from a family who traveled many miles to Labor Day Camp or a former staff member returning after fifty years, or a first-time camper, these words reflect the depth of Christian community and service offered by Sheldon Calvary Camp.

In summer 2024, the camp served 652 individual campers, many for more than one camping session. Ten percent of campers received financial aid to attend this year, and the Executive Director and camp board strive to keep camp tuition affordable. The overnight camp schedule was adjusted as part of an ongoing plan to be attentive to what works best for camper families and for staffing. There were two weeks of Family Camp and an overflowing crowd for Labor Day Camp. Beyond these central summer activities, Calvary Camp also invited folks to spend the day

of the solar eclipse at camp, directly in the path of totality. Over two hundred adults and children journeyed to Conneaut to share this experience of awe and wonder.

At the heart of the summer camp experience is the work of the young adults who make up the camp staff. This year's group of fifty-six staff members, ages 17-21, was exceptional. They embraced the 24/7 responsibility for campers with unity, compassion, and selflessness. Their talent, kindness, and goodness were evident in everything they did. Working at camp involves learning to use many different abilities in guiding campers, organizing strong programs, and working with a common purpose. A significant part of the work of the camp directors is helping staff members with their professional, personal, and spiritual development. It is a great gift to have these young people choose to work at camp and to grow year by year in the unique camp setting.

Year-round use of the Dining Hall welcomes people for many different celebrations – weddings, graduations, birthdays, class reunions – and provides space for non-profits to gather as well. Each person who spends time at camp encounters care and hospitality extended in the name of Christ.

Looking forward, plans are well underway for new lodging at Calvary Camp, in fulfillment of the goals of our capital campaign. This new year-round living space will provide accommodations designed for both summer camp staff and retreat participants. It is wonderful to be living into the possibilities for greater all-season use of the camp, creating more opportunities for people seeking community and calm, peace and hope, to enter into this spiritual home.

We continue to appreciate the support of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh in the mission of Sheldon Calvary Camp. Bishop Solak's annual visit during staff training brings joyful encouragement as the work of the summer begins. Clergy from the Diocese joined us for chapel services: thanks to the Rev. Erin Morey, the Rev. Sara Irwin, and the Rev. Noah Evans for sharing generously with us.

As always, we invite you to visit us on the Lake Erie shore, where you may also find God's spirit and God's peace.