

#CampLife

Serving God, the Church and Our Community

Pine Brook Camp and Conference Center November 2019



Director's Note @KevinWilliams

We have all seen the commercials. An overpaid actor telling us to invest in precious metals. We learn that the price of gold and silver have hit all new highs. We learn that our portfolios would be much safer with precious metals. You know the end of the Stock Market, a Meteor hurling towards Earth and your investment in gold will save the day. We see the commercials, but is it true? Will our investment in precious metals really matter?

I'm not suggesting that we shouldn't exercise good judgment when it comes to our financial investments. However, God's economy is quite different. The good news is, God's Economy is the one that matters in the end! With that in mind we should all look at how we are investing.

I would contend that we are at a crucial point in history; where the need to invest in our youth has never been greater. As society moves further from godly values and biblical truth we must reach this generation with the truth of God's love, His Word and His plan for His children. We are also at a time when we are fighting for the attention and the ears of our young people.

This is where camp becomes a blessing. Camp is a place where children and teens slow down and hear God and what His Word says. They have the time to reflect and learn how to apply Biblical truth to real life. This is also a time where they are encouraged to engage in healthy relationships with peers and adults. Camp provides an opportunity for purposeful engagement with spiritual life.

Investment. Is this generation worthy of investment? The obvious answer is YES! We must invest in this generation or we risk losing them from our churches. We risk having a group of young people that follow the world instead of Christ! In New England less than 3% of the population regard themselves as Christians. We have an opportunity and an obligation to reach this generation for Christ. Please invest in our youth.

One of the greatest effects a church can have is upon its children. One of the greatest impacts we can have on our community is to influence the children living in that community. The question arises though, "How do we invest as ministries or individuals in reaching children for Christ?"

I have spoken with many pastors that are dismayed by the lack of youth in their churches. They have expressed concerns that their church will "die out" if young people don't start attending or participating. This should be a concern to all of us.

At Pine Brook we have seen a shift in the last 10 years, from "churched kids" making up 65-70% of our campers and "community kids" making up 30-35%. Today we see the complete opposite and more are coming from the community at large. This shows not only an opportunity to bring the hope of Christ to our communities, but also an opportunity to partner with the local church to assist in bringing youth back into our churches. It is Pine Brook's desire and mission to partner with the local church to build the Kingdom of Christ. We need your help to do this!

This year has been challenging financially and we have been left with a \$20,000 deficit in our budget. We are looking to our supporters for help. Would you consider a year-end gift and help us bring hope and truth to our young people and their communities?

Thank you in advance for blessing us!

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Max's Story @Lori Brink

Max has been attending camp for 4 years. He was nervous at first, not knowing how he'd be accepted and if he'd be able to fully participate in the activities. He said it was for nothing, because everyone was very welcoming and kept finding ways to keep him involved!

This past summer was a special experience for Max. His youth leader was his counselor. Between the messages during service and his counselor's conversations with him he decided he needed to make some changes in his life.

His counselor was able to lead him to a decision to accept Jesus into his life. Even though he had been raised in a Christian home, Max says, "I needed to make this choice for myself."

He says, "Camp is a place you can go and find acceptance, the campers and staff are like family."



New Staff @Lori Brink

We are excited to welcome Carolyn Gilmore as our Director of Food Service!



Carolyn is no stranger to Pine Brook! She has been a camper and a counselor for the last 6 years until 2 years ago when she started working in the kitchen! Carolyn has grown up in Orange, MA and has 6 siblings, 3 of whom are adopted. She says opening their home is a way her family lets God's love work through them.

She has been impacted by camp and the tranquil escape it has provided as she has navigated her way through life to find healing, forgiveness and God's love for her. Camp has been a safe, home away from home for her through the years. She is currently attending Mount Wachusett Community College, pursuing a degree in legal studies with an anticipated graduation date of May 2020.

Her desire is to bring Camps' kitchen back to its old roots, by creating an environment that is organized, safe and efficient, while putting out the yummy home cooked food that our guests have become accustomed to!

Please join us in welcoming Emily Clough as our Director of Social Media!

Emily recently graduated from Gordon College with a BA in Communication Arts. She grew up in Northfield, MA with her parents and younger brother.

Emily has been involved with Pine Brook Camp since she was 14 years old! She has been a camper, counselor, CLIME team member and more recently the CLIME team girl's leader this past summer. Emily says that camp has been an important part of her life and become a place where she has grown spiritually and formed intentional Christian community.

She is grateful to minister here and move camp's social media and marketing efforts to be more interactive and engaging for our camp family.



Fundraising Events @Emily Clough

As you all know, camp is supported through the generosity of our supporters! We have several ways in which people donate to our ministry! This fall has been packed with several fundraisers that have brought in much needed funds but also provided a great time of fellowship and community!

Our first event was the **Swing for Hope Golf Tournament**. It was held on October 12th at the East Mountain Country Club in Westfield. It was a beautiful day! We had 7 teams participate with several new participants! We received more donations for our raffle table this year and they were a big hit! As always, East Mountain provided a wonderful meal!

The Pigskin Classic, our flag football tournament was back for a third year! This took place on October 26th at Turners Falls High School! With a turnout of 5 teams from area churches! With family and friends as spectators, it was the largest Pigskin Classic yet! We were glad to see so many new faces amidst our camp alumni and area church groups. We hope that you can join us next year whether it's to play or fellowship around the field and enjoy a barbecue lunch.

More recently, on November 10 we held our first **Pine Brook Trivia Night**, hosted by Tyler Bourbeau! We had 6 full teams that competed and showed off their trivia knowledge! We also had some great food prepared by Mandy and Jacob Shute! What a fun and exciting evening! *So what's next?*

On December 3, 2019, Pine Brook Camp is participating in **Giving Tuesday**. Started in 2012, Giving Tuesday is a now global movement helping nonprofits to raise money and awareness for their cause! Pine Brook is very excited to participate once again during the 2019 campaign. We would love for you to get involved and participate alongside us. Keep an eye out for our **#GivingTuesdayPBC** posts on social media and consider giving on December 3rd.

We are also busy planning several other fundraisers for the near future! We would love for you to partner with us in this or any of our events, at any time! If you would like to be involved in anyway please call the camp office and let us know! Keep your eyes on our calendar – there are many more things to come!

Fall Fest Highlights @Lauren Sullivan

This year's Fall Fest was action packed, as always. We interacted with our teens through a blessed time of worship, learning about God's word and a variety of new games and old traditions.

We were blessed to have our speaker, Eric Mosher and his family with us for the weekend. We enjoyed listening to how God has changed his life. Worship was led by Rachel Ainsworth and her team from Faith Church and as always was a wonderful time!

Some of our events included teams racing against the clock in the Pumpkin Relay, to hurl their pumpkin over, under and around obstacles, while shooting arrows, scooting and shuffling along the course. This was followed up by Pine Brook's own gauntlet type game. This yet to be named game, had teens sprinting through a minefield attempting to collect objects, only to score if they could avoid balls coming at them from all sides! After lunch we had our time-honored tradition of good 'ole Flag Football! This was a great way to get teens of all ages, abilities and interests to rally together!

Our day then rounded out with a fall celebration, complete with bobbing for apples, pumpkin carving and lawn games. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun!

If this sounds like your type of fun, we hope to see you at the Winter Whiteout (February 7-9, 2020) for more of the same!



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 3	Giving Tuesday
December 6	Christmas Dinner
January 17-20	Scrapbook Retreat
February 7-9	Winter Whitout
March 20-22	Ladies' Retreat

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER—You are invited to an evening of fun and celebration! Bring friends and the whole family to Pine Brook's annual Christmas dinner and brown bag auction! Bring gifts of any size, shape, and value in a bag that keeps its contents hidden. Children can bring their own gifts as well. Proceeds from the auction will benefit camp! We can't wait to see you there! Please RSVP by December 3rd: 413-367-2643 or office@pinebrookcamp.org

UPCOMING EVENTS  @Janet Williams



Are you handy with tools? Like to fix things? Uncle Bernie has been doing most of our maintenance for 31 years! It's time for him to have some help! We are looking for someone willing to work alongside him and learn what it takes to keep this place looking sharp! This can be customized to fit **YOUR** schedule and can be day or night! If you are interested in this important ministry, please call the camp office!!! 413.367.2643

HELP WANTED  @Loft Brink