



April  
2017

# Little Eden Echoes

## The Ministry of Little Eden: *Families, fellowship & faith*

**F**or almost 75 years, Little Eden has been impacting the lives of campers who attend during the summer. From the very first years of Little Eden, we have seen and heard this through both **youth camps** as well as **family camps**. Here are two stories from young adults, who have attended Little Eden for many years and now are serving on summer staff, of how camp changed their lives.

**Delaney Nofziger**, a fifth year summer staffer (two years youth camps only and three years youth camps and family camp staff) writes:

*"My faith journey began when my parents decided to dedicate me when I was a baby. I have grown up in a Christian home all my life, and I am so blessed to be able to say that.*

*My relationship with Little Eden is one that makes up more than half of my life. I first came as a camper to kids camp, then junior high camp and onto high school camp. I have also had the privilege of counseling for two years, as well as enjoying [two additional] summers of both working and counseling at Little Eden.*

*I accepted Jesus during my 7<sup>th</sup> grade summer. This happened while at Little Eden and while having a remarkable counselor who encouraged my growth during that week. That week helped me grow and made me want to change how I lived my life.*

*This affects my daily life. I spend time with the Lord on a daily basis and pursue friendships with others who challenge me in my faith. Looking over the past few years since graduating, I can see how God has worked wonders in my life and how He continues to challenge me on a daily basis. I am forever grateful for His grace and love and how Little Eden has been a part of me realizing and experiencing that."*



**Delaney with a camper**

And **Megan Graber**, a second year summer staffer, writes:

*"I have been going to Little Eden's kids camp since I was in the third grade. Before that, I had vacationed there for two summers with my family, and I fell in love instantly. Little Eden holds a very special place in my heart. Before going to Little Eden, I knew that I applied the title, 'Christian' to myself, but I don't think I really understood what that meant until I went to my first year of kids camp.*

*As a third grader at camp for the first time, I learned what it was really like to have Someone who loved me greater than I could imagine, Someone who loved me enough to die on a cross to save me from sin. When I came back, I told everyone anything I could about how great Little Eden was and what I had learned.*

*I continued to come back to camp every year. Every summer, Little Eden was the fresh start for me. I would come home with more love for others, and over the years, my relationship with Christ grew. I slowly became more and more used to the idea that Christ was with me. Christ is now an extremely important aspect in my life. Knowing that He is always with me helps me a lot in my decision making."*

Stories like Delaney's and Megan's exemplify why the founding fathers of Little Eden were motivated to purchase the camp and have a ministry for both families and youth alike. They wanted a safe, Christian environment for children and families to gather for vacation and to grow spiritually.

And over the years, a legacy involving families, fellowship and faith has flourished. It is that desire to continue the Little Eden legacy that motivates our current camp board to move forward with future plans (see **Proposed Master Site Plan Update** on page 2).



**Megan Graber, rock climbing on a staff outing**



# Proposed Master Site Plan Update

As mentioned in previous *Little Eden Echoes* publications (available at [www.littleeden.org/newsletters.html](http://www.littleeden.org/newsletters.html)), in the fall of 2014 the board of Little Eden appointed a task force to look at the needs of the camp, including the more than 500 families on the waiting list, to develop a Master Site Plan to address those concerns. Over the past two and a half years, the committee has been diligently working on a **Proposed Master Site Plan**.

## The process.

In September of 2016, the board approved an initial proposal (shared in the *November 2016 Echoes*) to submit to Onekama Township to open dialogue with them regarding what they might be willing to consider as an amendment to our special use permit. The township is currently reviewing the plan and although they have not given us any indication of what they are thinking, we are hoping to hear something back from them

## Dream Haven Improvements

Each winter, we have the opportunity to make needed improvements to camp facilities along with many smaller projects. This winter it is **Dream Haven's** turn to be improved.

An insulated ceiling is being added to finish dividing the rooms and keep the cabin cooler. The interior walls are also being insulated with new wood installed. The electric and plumbing are being upgraded as well as the bathroom and the kitchen improved. And the floor is being refinished. With the camp having its own facility staff to complete this project and having some of the material donated, the out-of-pocket cost will only be \$3,000.



**New drywall in Dream Haven**

Many families have been able to use this cabin over the years and still enjoy it. If you or your family have been blessed by being able to use this cabin in the past or are one of the lucky ones that still get to enjoy it, I would ask that you consider helping cover the cost of this project through a gift. We are sure that this cabin, like others which have been improved in the past, will continue to be a blessing to families and our youth camp program in the years to come.

**And thank you to all of the many faithful friends of Little Eden who have and will help make this improvement and all the others possible!**



by the start of family camps this summer. If we get some response from them by summer, we will give an update to families at camp each week.

As previously noted, *what we have given the township is only a proposal*. It is fluid and subject to change. It is not a final plan. Depending on the Planning Commission's feedback, along with camper feedback, the camp board and the Master Site Plan task force will continue to shape what the final plan will look like.

## Please pray.

We ask that you keep praying for the township as they review the proposal and for our board and task force throughout this process that God will guide the camp in His will. And please, if you have questions or comments, contact us. We value your feedback and support.



*If you enjoy Little Eden, consider coming back a second week during a slower time of summer:*

- R & R II
- Lifetime Activities
- Golf & Fellowship Week
- Quilt Weeks



*We also have RV sites available most weeks of the summer!*

## Spring Work Weekend: May 19-21

Each spring, volunteers help get Little Eden ready for its summer season. This year, our **Spring Work Weekend** is scheduled for **May 19-21**. You are invited to join us for the weekend! Housing and meals are provided Friday breakfast through Sunday breakfast for those volunteering. You may arrive as early as Thursday and stay through Sunday.



**All ages welcome!**

Projects will include completing Silver Creek's deck, building a retaining wall along the creek by Mo-Z-Inn, stripping and re-shingling the Upper Room, building seating around the fire ring, painting/staining some smaller buildings, outdoor clean up, indoor spring cleaning, splitting wood, putting picnic tables and benches around camp, putting in the dock and other projects.

Please call the camp to let us know if you will be coming and what meals you will be here for so we can plan for your attendance. **Any and all help is greatly appreciated in preparing camp for the summer season!**



# Little Eden Family Camps, Summer Programs & More

## Work Weekend: May 19 - 21

Help with spring cleaning, building projects and repairs as we prepare for the summer.

## Youth Camps:

**Junior Youth Camp: June 11 - 16**

**Boys & Girls Camp: June 18 - 23**

**High School Camp: June 18 - 23**

## Genesis Week: June 24 - July 1

John McFarland of New Carlisle, OH

## First Family Week: July 1 - July 8

Justin Graves of Tulsa, OH

## Christian Fellowship Week: July 8 - 15

Tim Miller of Naubinway, MI

## Home Builders Week: July 15 - 22

Dave Elkins of Archbold, OH

## Christian Business/Prof. Week: July 22 - 29

Jeff Reichanadter of Indianapolis, IN

## Second Family Week: July 29 - August 5

Cal Emerson of Owosso, MI

## Farmers Week: August 5 - 12

Bill Holsopple of Archbold, OH

## Rest & Relaxation Week I: August 12 - 19

Jeff Polen of Apple Creek, OH

## R & R II/Home School Week: August 19 - 26

Ned & Debbi Wyse of Camden, MI

## Lifetime Activities: August 26 - September 2 - Biking, Hiking, Relaxing, Fishing, Beaches

- No food service, resource person or camp program.

Enjoy any of the above activities or just come to enjoy Little Eden during a quieter week of the year.

## Golf and Fellowship Week: Sept. 2 - 9

Randy Detweiler of Wakarusa, IN

## Quilting Weeks:

**Week 1 - September 10 - 15**

**Week 2 - September 17 - 22**

Carolyn Snyder of Archbold, OH

Enjoy quilting either quilt weeks or just come to enjoy Little Eden in the beautiful fall.

## Fall Work Weekend:

**October 20 - 22**

Annual Member's Meeting  
on Saturday at 8:00 pm

## Fall Scrapbooking Retreats:

**October 26 - 29 and November 2 - 5**

We still have room for you! Download a brochure  
at [www.littleeden.org/scrapbook-retreats.html](http://www.littleeden.org/scrapbook-retreats.html)

## Victorian Sleighbell Weekend: Dec. 1 - 3

Call to book a cabin.

*To help keep our operational costs low, we ask that you please consider paying your summer camp bill with cash or a check. Credit cards are accepted but increase costs for the camp.*

## Quilt Weeks

This year's **Quilt Weeks** are **September 10-15** and **September 17-22**. Led by Carolyn Snyder, the quilt pattern will be **Flowers around New York**. Whether you're an accomplished



quilter or a beginner, you won't want to miss this week of fun, laughter, sewing instruction, and dear time with friends or soon to become friends.

We have room in both weeks, so sign up today (*and invite a friend while you are at it!*) by calling 231-889-4294. For more information, visit our website at [www.littleeden.org/quilt-camps.html](http://www.littleeden.org/quilt-camps.html)



## Golf & Fellowship Week

If you enjoy golfing, you need to check out our golf week! Come to golf; come to enjoy the fellowship. Even if you don't golf or only want to golf one or two days, there are things to do all week in the beauty of Northern Michigan in the fall.

Our **"Invite a Friend" Special** is new this year. If you invite friends who haven't been to **Little Eden's Golf & Fellowship Week** before, they will **receive half off the already discounted lodging price** for their stay! For more information, call 231-889-4294 or visit our website at [www.littleeden.org/golf-camp.html](http://www.littleeden.org/golf-camp.html)



# Youth Camps 2017: *There's still room for you!*

**T**here is still room to sign up for any of the three weeks of **Youth Camps 2017**. Need additional registration brochures? Download them at [www.littleeden.org/youth-camps.html](http://www.littleeden.org/youth-camps.html)

## Boys & Girls Camp: *Sunday, June 18 – Friday, June 23*

- For those completing 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades

## Junior Youth Camp: *Sunday, June 11 – Friday, June 16*

- For those completing 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades

## High School Camp: *Sunday, June 18 – Friday, June 23*

- For those completing 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> grades



***YOU won't want to miss the great memories made at Little Eden!***

### Inside this issue:

The Ministry of Little Eden: <i>Families, fellowship &amp; faith</i>	1
Proposed Master Site Plan Update	2
Dream Haven Improvements	2
Spring Work Weekend: <i>May 19-21</i>	2
Family Camps, Summer Programs & More	3
Quilt Weeks	3
Golf & Fellowship Week	3

## Not coming to Little Eden this summer?

Be sure to mail in your **\$35 Membership Fees** for 2017 before September 30<sup>th</sup>. And if you've had an address, phone number or email change, please be sure to notify the camp office. *It is your responsibility to let the camp know of any contact information changes.*

**Quilt needed for  
Quilt Raffle**

Many summers, Little Eden has raffled a quilt during the summer. The proceeds of the event go to the **Friends of Little Eden Fund** which helps underwrite improvements to the camp's facilities.

This year, we don't yet have a quilt. The camp would like to challenge those who quilt to think about donating one for this year's raffle. Some years, the Quilt Raffle has raised as much as \$2,100. If you would like to donate a quilt to help the tradition continue, please contact Wayne at the camp office.



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

3721 Portage Point Dr • Onekama, MI 49675  
www.littleeden.org • 231-889-4294

**LITTLE EDEN CAMP**

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Onekama, MI  
Permit No. 35