

# THE HERALD

YCL Ministries | 6750 W 900 S | Claypool, IN 46510



Hillside Chapel in 1938  
(Photo courtesy of Beverly Telfer)



Construction begins



First concrete pour

## HILLSIDE WORSHIP CENTER REBUILT

Dr. Robert and Naomi McCurdy had a dream that a hillside worship center be built on the same sight as the one constructed in 1938. Their dream became a reality through generous individual donations.

The project was designed and supervised under the watchful eye of Jim Mitterling from the Akron Church of God. Construction began July 4, 2016. The worship area was completed on July 20, 2016 (see below) and dedicated at 4:00 pm on Saturday July 30, 2016 as part of the annual Indiana North Camp Meeting. Rev. Dr. Bonita Laudeman planned and coordinated the dedication service. The YCL Board of Directors voted that the new worship center be known as the *Dr. Robert and Naomi McCurdy Hillside Chapel*.



Handrails are currently being fabricated by Craig Welding. These are to be installed soon. Further landscaping and installation of LED lights along the east aisle are in the planning stage.

## 2016 Youth Camps Update

Yellow Creek Lake Campground was “abuzz” with activity during the month of June, as campers from 17 Indiana North congregations participated in this summer’s youth camp program. Those camps were coordinated by Diana Graves, who relied on the following capable directors of the individual camps:

Tadpole Camp: Marge Harvey

Kids Zone: Sherlyn Rensberger

Camp Blast: Nora Drake

Junior High: Sam Mills

Senior High: K.C. Graves and Jon Osborne

Campers worshipped daily, enjoyed good food prepared by Michal Rensberger, swam, and participated in team-building activities.

One popular activity was playing in the new Gaga Ball Pit that was constructed at Senior High Camp under the supervision of Jon Osborne. Gaga Ball originated in Israel and is a safe form of dodge ball. The word “ga” means “hit,” so “gaga” means “hit-hit.”

Sometime during each camp, Kosciusko County Sheriff’s Deputies conducted water-safety training with the campers (see below). Words cannot express our thanks for the generosity of these men who work so hard to serve and protect.



Camp Blast 2016



Gaga pit was quite popular



Kids Zone 2016



Senior High 2016



Please encourage the youth of your church to attend one of the 2017 Youth Camps. Lives are often changed at such camps.



Painting bathhouse



Baptism service at beach



Preparing Well House for painting



## YOUTH PRACTICE MISSIONS LOCALLY

Approximately 60 Beaver Dam UMC youth spent July 6 through July 10, 2016 working, playing, and worshipping at YCL. Teams of youth and adults spent four hours each morning, Wednesday through Saturday, working to improve the camp. One power-washed and painted the storm shelter in the basement of the Multipurpose Building (see above) while another scraped, pressure-washed, primed and painted the bath house (upper-left). Other activities included painting the trim on the Well House after pressure washing the exterior (lower left), cleaning up debris in various areas of the camp, removing electrical wiring and boxes from telephone poles that had been removed throughout the grounds, and preparing recyclables for transport to a local metal recycling center.

Dave Feldman brought his tractor over one day and used it to clean up areas near the burn pile in the north end of the recreation field. He also spent several days removing the exterior restroom doors of Sleepy Hollow and replacing them with new doors and hardware provided by the Beaver Dam UMC.

The retreat concluded on Sunday with the church holding its morning service in Slaybaugh Auditorium. A baptismal service at the beach followed (middle left).

**THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!!**

## CAMP MEETING 2016



Jamie Conkling leads worship



Stuart Kruse speaking



Westward Road in concert

Believers gathered at the YCL Campgrounds from July 29-31, 2016 to worship the Lord, renew, reflect, refresh and fellowship. The speaker was Rev. Stuart Kruse (County Line COG, Auburn, IN), who used the theme “Go and Tell...” based on portions of Matthew 28: 18-19. Rev. Jamie Conkling (Decatur COG, Decatur, IN) was the Worship Leader.



The Saturday night service featured a joint choir comprised of members of the North Webster and Decatur Churches of God, along with other volunteers who felt led to participate. A concert by *Westward Road* followed the service

Youth activities were coordinated by Diana and KC Graves and children’s activities were directed by Sherlyn Rensberger.

On Saturday, Rev. Kathy Nelson (Akron Church of God) led the 9:00 am conference. The 10:30 am Saturday conference was led by Jeff Jenness (Servanthood Solutions) and Dr. Jerry Fox (Anderson University). Rev. Dr. Bonnie Jo Newell led the Saturday afternoon Christian Women Connection conference.

Rev. Dr. Bonita Laudeman led the dedication service for the new Dr. Robert and Naomi McCurdy Hillside Chapel at 4:00 pm on Saturday.

2017 YCL Activities  
(Tentative)

**May Workdays**

- Saturday, May 6
- Saturday, May 20

**Training Dates**

- Staff Training: May 26-27
- CIT Training: May 28-29

**YCL Youth Camp Dates**

- Tadpole Camp: June 5-6
- Kids Zone: June 5-8
- Camp Blast: June 12-16
- Junior High: June 19-23
- Senior High: June 26-30

**Youth Camps Theme**

*CONSUMED*



**Hebrews 12:20 (ESV)**

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, *for our God is a consuming fire.*

**Camp Meeting 2017  
July 28-30**

Speaker: Rev. Mark Shaner  
Worship Leader: Sarah Scarbrough

**GOD PROVIDES!**

After completing the sewer project last season, a simpler, more relaxed environment was expected for the 2016 Season. However, such was not to be. Damage to the 9th pier section on the west side of the swim area had left lower pier posts at a precarious place in the swimming area. On May 23, the Warsaw Police Department Aquatics Unit came to make sure the water trampoline was not drifting too close to those posts. They attempted to remove the posts by attaching inflatable bags used to raise cars out of the water (see below). The posts had been installed so deep in the lake bed that the procedure failed. Warning tapes were placed at the end of the eighth pier until we could determine how to proceed.



A few days later, Lieutenant Donald Wiesehan of the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department came by to make sure the swim area was ready for the season. Recognizing the problem with the pier posts and the safety issues, the officer scheduled June 3 as the day to return with members of the Sheriff's Dive Team (see below). They, too, could not remove the posts using the usual procedures.



**(Continued on Page 6)**

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## Trampoline Rescued

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Near the end of May, the winds from a strong storm pulled the water trampoline loose and carried it several hundred yards to a nearby neighbor's property. When recovering the trampoline, which was hot from the sun, a portion of the underside ripped as it entered the water. It was then towed to the beach area and taken apart.

The rip was about two feet long, making it difficult to repair. When the dive team was asked to install another water activity, Don McCune of the Sheriff's Dive Team noticed the damage and offered to make the necessary repairs. He repairs the wet suits for the dive team and Lake City Scuba in Warsaw. The scuba shop provided the tools and supplies. Officer McCune spent much of one of his days off making the repair.

The water trampoline was new (thanks to a generous donation by Dr. Ben McCurdy). It had only been in use for about a month when the damage occurred.

**Thanks to the Sheriff's Deputy, youth will be able to enjoy that water activity in 2017!**

## (God Provides!—Continued from Page 5)

Lieutenant Wiesehan contacted Crouse Body Shop, Inc (located in Warsaw) and asked if they would bring a wrecker to pull the posts out. The company agreed (see below) and eventually both pier posts were pulled from the lake bed.



God does provide! Had it been necessary to have the company that designed and installed the pier system remove those posts the charge would have been at least \$2500. The Kosciusko County Dive Team, Sheriff's Department, and Crouse Body Shop did the work as a public service. THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED!



Water trampoline after removal from neighbor's yard



Volunteers remove dead tree in center of campground



Redgy Bellman, Daren Laine and Phil Berry work on tree felled during storm



Crane used to prevent further damage to Youth Building.

## Beautification Efforts Continue

Due to disease and ash borer damage, over 40 trees had been marked for removal after all scheduled activities for the 2015 Season were complete. Some trees were removed in September and early October of 2015, but many still stood at the start of this season. As noted in the April 2016 newsletter, the Anderson University Soccer Team helped Don Funk cut down several trees on April 2. Over the next three weeks volunteers including Redgy Bellman, Cal Craig, Kevin Feltz, Don Funk, Bob Hepler and Daren Laine cut down several more trees.

Beaver Dam Tree Service was hired to fell two dead trees adjacent to Farlow and one dead tree just below the main lift station. In the process, a fourth tree (that turned out to be rotten in the middle) had to be removed to prevent one of the dead trees from twisting and falling onto Farlow. The small debris was removed by volunteers and the remainder was taken by a local dairy farmer who heats with wood.

On June 22 heavy winds during a strong storm toppled several shagbark hickories located between Tallen and the Bathhouse. It also destroyed a large tree at the fencerow RV sites and uprooted a basswood tree that fell onto the Youth Building. A black oak was left resting on two hickory trees, but all were toppled a week later during a heavy rain storm. Volunteers worked feverishly to clean up as much of the mess as possible, since June and July are the busiest part of the camp season. However, the damage was too great and the trees were too large. Hilltop Tree Service was hired to cut the trees into manageable chunks and move those chunks to the asphalt pad east of Slaybaugh Auditorium. To prevent the Youth Building from collapsing while taking down the basswood, a crane was brought over from Kendallville. Repair of damage to the Youth Building was recently completed by Kevin Feltz and Nicholas Witwer.

In October, volunteers from the North Manchester Old German Church removed three dead trees near the chapel and one at the center of the camp. They also removed the large chunks of wood that had been temporarily placed east of the auditorium.

Current plans include continuing the removal of the few dead trees that remain and removal of all tree stumps.

## Partners Arrange for Repair of Roads and Parking Areas

Construction traffic and heavy rains over the past several years had played havoc on the roads and parking areas at the campgrounds. Seeing this, Russ Willis, chairman of the YCL Partners Association, proposed that the association fund the spreading of gravel over all camp roads and parking areas. Hunter Hauling and Excavation was hired to deliver and spread gravel of an appropriate size and type.

The week prior to delivery of the gravel, volunteers filled potholes and low spots. All roads and parking areas were sprayed with weed killer to help keep vegetation under control once the gravel was down.

Once the preparatory work was completed the trucks began to roll in. A total of 351 tons of gravel, costing \$6,300 was put down. The change in the appearance of the camp was awesome.

*A big thumbs up to the*



*Partners Association!!*

## Thornhill Chapel

David Leininger was one of the individuals who walked out of the Northern Indiana Eldership of the Church of God (Weinbrennarian) meeting at Beaver Dam, IN in October, 1881. This was the beginning of the Church of God (Anderson, IN) in Indiana. Mr. Leininger became a preacher in the Beaver Dam neighborhood in 1884. He became the pastor of Olive Bethel Church of God (Anderson, IN) in the fall of 1885 and held that position until his death in 1925.

The annual camp meeting held by this young church group was moved to David Leininger's farm in 1892 and held there through 1896. The Leininger cottage located there was moved by snow sled to the Yellow Creek Lake Campgrounds in early 1897. Upon his death, David Leininger's son Oliver became owner of the cottage.



David & Hester Leininger with son and grandchildren at Yellow Creek Lake Campground.



The Leininger Cottage became Thornhill Chapel in 1991 after the efforts of Paul Thornhill and many volunteers.

Oliver Leininger died in 1960. He willed the cottage to Olive Bethel Church of God and the church donated it to the Yellow Creek Lake Campground. The cottage was then used for storage at times or as a location for the sale of popcorn from the front porch.

Paul Thornhill felt the call to convert the Leininger cottage to a chapel that could be used for Sunday Services and a place for small groups to worship. Work began in the late 1980s. A door with stained-glass window was designed, built, and installed by Clyde VanHoose in 1990. The completed chapel was dedicated as the Thornhill Chapel in 1991.