



Mt. Morris Retreater

Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center

Newsletter from
Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center

Volume 3, Issue 6—Winter, 2008



What We Stand For! - Joel Jarvis, Executive Director

Mt. Morris, throughout its 44 year history has served many people—for a variety of purposes—providing a summer camp experience, a local church retreat, a congregational or denominational training event, a not for profit organizational educational experience, or perhaps a venue for family or church celebration. The common thread for all these experiences has been that the “venue,” - Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center, be a place where individuals and/or groups feel well cared for, and treated with the utmost attention to quality guest services.

“Guest services” is a term used more and more widely to encompass all those things a place of hospitality offers those who use the facility for their event. At Mt. Morris I hope we offer wonderful quality guest services but I hope that what we offer goes much deeper than that and that campers, guests, and visitors sense a presence of our Maker. Mt. Mor-

ris Camp and Conference Center is very blessed to have had founders who sought a physical property that included many “ingredients” of a natural environment, where guests could encounter God in a magnificent setting. So, what does Mt. Morris Camp & Conference **STAND for?** I hope **QUALITY FIRST!** We want our campers and guests to feel comfortable, warm, and quite able to offer program in a setting that is conducive to that program. I hope, secondly, that we stand for integrity! We honor and value our guests—and if an event passes whereby our guests felt uncared for, we failed in our mission. Thirdly, we stand for a place that acknowledges God at work in the lives of those who visit. We hope you’ll visit often, and that you’ll feel well cared for, honored and valued



Savings Special For Families At Mt. Morris

A special “savings” program has been initiated at Mt. Morris to encourage families to enjoy a family “retreat” at Mt. Morris. No minimum is necessary for a September through May, Tuesday through Thursday night stay in Black Oak Lodge or Aspen



Cabin. Black Oak offers comfortable rooms with private baths. It also includes a spacious great room with corner fireplace and the view is out of this world! Kitchen includes an automatic dishwasher as well. If you’d like to consider a family mid-week getaway, please call Nancy at 888-mt-morris. **We look forward to hosting you!**



Inside this issue:

- “Refresh-A-Pastor” 2
- Quilters, Scrappers, & Stampers Abound! 2
- Message from New President, Tom Pinney 2
- Wanted: Volunteers! 3
- The Writing of Our Story—Paul Graf 3
- Message from New President, Continued 4
- Order Form: New Book by Rev. Paul Graf 4

Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center:

PO Box 676

W6016 Blackhawk Road

Wautoma, WI 54982

920-787-2861

920-787-0072 (Fax)

888-mt-morris

mtmorriscamp@centurytel.net

www.mt-morris.org

Refresh Your Pastor!

“A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.” Wm. A. Ward

Perhaps the above quote makes you think of your pastor? When Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center was established in 1964 it was an important premise that the Center would be a place of strength, support, and respite to local church pastors. With that in mind, the Mt. Morris Board of Directors approved a program called “RE-FRESH

A PASTOR!” The Board hopes that local church congregants, or organizations within the church might choose to provide a get-a-way for its pastor as a way to refresh him or her. For \$85 an individual, family, or congregation can Refresh It’s Pastor by providing a 3 day/2 night stay at Mt. Morris in beautiful Black Oak Lodge. He or she will also be provided two evening snacks and two continental breakfast. A two day/ 1 night stay, including an evening snack and 1 continental breakfast costs \$43. Refresh-A-Pastor is available Tuesdays through Thursdays, September through May. We hope you will say

“thank you” to your pastor by considering this respite program. According to one recent pastor: “I was physically exhausted and spiritually drained when I came to Mt. Morris for a get-a-way. God used the incredible beauty, comfortable accommodations, great food, and the tranquility to strengthen me through a personal retreat.” **Call the Mt. Morris office for registration information.**



Scrapbookers, Stampers, & Quilters Abound!

Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center is proud to be a host facility for scrapping, stamping, and quilting groups. Over the past several years we’ve seen an incredible growth in those “hobby” type groups. Depending upon the group size, we make a “match” of the appropriate facilities to allow plenty of room and tables for scrappers, stampers, and quilters to cut, stamp, or sew! Because the facilities at Mt. Morris are relatively new we are able to have a large number of electrical outlets and wonderful, warm fa-

cilities for these groups. What a joy to see and hear the buzz of a group of women who enjoy fellowship, their hobby, and a week or weekend away. It’s not uncommon for these groups to work very late into the evening (or should we say morning!) enjoying the comfort of Mt. Morris. If you are part of a group like this and would like to receive information about a scrap booking, stamping, or quilting retreat, give Nancy a call at Mt. Morris 888-mt-morris.

Visit the Mt. Morris Website to learn more about us:
www.mt-morris.org



A Message from New Mt. Morris CCC Board President, Tom Pinney

As your new President of Moravian Mt. Morris Center, Inc. I would like to publicly thank Judy Kaaua for the great job she did as president.

It is important to know that Judy brought the Board of Directors to a high level of fiscal responsibility and understanding through her detailed accounting skills and educational efforts. Joel and she have led us to think seriously about how we can adequately fund our facility in the future. Mt. Morris is able to cover operating expenses through rental income and donations. This revenue stream will not

cover the so called “below the line” costs such as principal payments to the Western District Executive Board and to a financial institution for purchase of the Thorstad property. Neither will it fund any capital improvement or major repairs. A Fund Development Study Group was formed in 2007 and made several recommendations that were Board approved. Summarized, those recommendations called for consideration of Mt. Morris hiring a 1/2 time person to nurture donations and other sources of fund development. Also recommended was consideration of Mt. Morris forming a foundation

specifically to help fund the operation. An annual fund appeal was approved and was initiated in late, 2007. Rev. Jane Harberg has agreed to serve as chair of a Fund Development Implementation Committee which will consider these and several other recommendations by the Study Group.

I would like to share some of my personal thoughts. Many local congregations are struggling with how to react to challenges presented by our dynamic 24/7 society which seems to swirl at an ever increasing speed. I can appreciate

Continued Page 4

The Western District Moravian Church and Mt. Morris CCC's many guests and friends have been wonderfully supportive over the many years that we've offered hospitality ministry. While the majority of Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center's costs are supported from user fees and Western District support, we rely also on financial support from our many friends. The Mt. Morris Board of Directors work diligently to balance the stewardship of the property, its finances, and its commitment to fees that are affordable. As Mt. Morris looks to a future of growth, continued improvement of its facilities and surroundings, it is clear that we will continue to encourage and appreciate direct financial support from our thousands of friends. We pray that you will consider continuing your financial gifts or make your first donation to Mt. Morris. Hundreds of lives have been touched by an experience at Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center and we look forward to many more years of offerings quality guest service.

Many friends who feel deeply about Mt. Morris volunteer their services each year through a variety of avenues. Our summer camp programs recruit volunteer kitchen help that, without that service of volunteerism, would surely need to be offset by a higher camper fee. These kitchen volunteers help with food preparation, delivery, and clean up. Many of these volunteers have served for many, many years. Mt. Morris Food Service Director, Joy Witkowski, has formed friendships with our summer kitchen volunteers and always look forward to their return. Each volunteer brings new energy, new ideas, and new enthusiasm to their week of volunteer camp service. Mt. Morris also appreciates the hours of volunteer help with wood cutting, trail clearing, and general camp maintenance help. If you, or a group you are involved with would like to volunteer for some form of service at Mt. Morris, please contact Joel Jarvis. **We'd love to host you!**



The Background Story of "Homecoming For a Wandering Camp Ministry" - P. Graf

No one knew where this would lead that hot summer day in 1964 when a group of clergy families mainly from around Wisconsin gathered at an old farm near Mt. Morris, the newly purchased 164 acres of woodland, stream, open prairie dotted with a cluster of buildings, barn, house, windmill, chicken house and outhouse. Towering white pines just north of the residence sheltered us from the mid-afternoon sun. Here the dreams of our own district camp facility began to simmer and percolate. Around the table enjoying a pot-luck picnic, conversation focused on all the possibilities God could have in store for our church.



Crane in flight. The comment was made, "Someone needs to write a history of Mt. Morris." Since I had been around from earliest times (age does count for something), having served as the first work project "chairman," treasurer of CSDA (you have to read the book to learn what that stands for), president of MMDA (also in the book), and more recently president of the board of directors of Mt. Morris Camp and Conference Center (M2C3) throughout the construction years, now serving on the board as chairperson of the personnel committee, I seemed to be the likely writer.

Fast forward to a board of director's meeting at Arrowhead Center in 2004 where we now sat back to appreciate the blessing and gift of a full-service camp facility. Several fund drives later we now held in trust 190 acres (soon to become 193) with lake, stream, cabins, lodge, program-dining center, pool, tent and trailer site, the original renewal center, primitive camp, maintenance building, soccer field, high ropes course, barn, residence and the windmill that still stands and croaks like a Sandhill

It soon became apparent that the Mt. Morris story is but the culmination of a much larger story of church camping in the Moravian Church, Western District. I further realized the need to hear the collective story of those who initiated the dream of having our own camp facility way back in 1925. Fortunately, a number of those folks were still around. I sent out a questionnaire to everyone I could think of plus those whose names were passed on to me, asking for input; many responded verbally in interviews, phone calls, and by letters/notes. People sent photos, some from the original gathering of Moravian youth in 1926. Amazingly, I discovered that my mother's family was integrally involved in what would become known as the

Moravian Young People's Conference.

The gathering of materials for the book, including boxes of archived records, sorting through photos and the writing occurred over a three year period. There were moments when the printed pages flowed out of the keyboard to the screen, and there were moments of procrastination, of letting the manuscript remain dormant in a flash drive. Finally, the 19th manuscript was handed out to wise-readers, folks closely connected with church camping in the district, each at difference segments of the story.

Several things became clear to me whether it was in the research or in the writing. First, this is God's story, of taking the prayerful dreams of our Moravian sisters and brothers and bringing them to fulfillment. This is also the story of a long line of saints, those faithful members of our church who pursued this dream. Many of them have been received into God's immediate presence and thankfully some still share the faith walk among us. Finally, open places in the line of march continue to be filled throughout the story and into the present with individuals whose own lives have been significantly touched and affected by church camping ministry in the district, and specifically at Mt. Morris.

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Wautoma, WI
Permit No. 29

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center
PO Box 676
Wautoma, WI 54982-0676

ORDER FORM: Homecoming For A Wandering Camp Ministry

Continued from *Message From New President Page 2*

this as a former business owner who struggled to keep ahead of the ever moving curve of change. I feel that Mt. Morris Camp and Conference Center, Inc. must be a part of the solution by providing into the future, a stable venue where **God and His people** can focus on communications and relationship building—a place to dream and vision solutions to the challenges we face and garner strength to act.

God is our creator and in His great plan He has given us the freedom of choice. This special place we call Mt. Morris is His, in which He has enfranchised it to us for His use. It is an awesome place to commune with our Creator. May it be your choice into the future.

For a Complete List of the Recommendations from the Fund Development Task Force, please contact the Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center Office.

Complete and return this form to purchase your copy of Rev. Paul Graf's new book "HOMECOMING FOR A WANDERING CAMP MINISTRY"

Send to: Mt. Morris CCC; PO Box 676; Wautoma, WI 54982

Your copy will be sent immediately—first class.

- 1—2 copies \$10.00 Each Plus \$1.50 S/H PER BOOK
- 3—5 copies \$9.00 Each Plus \$1.50 S/H PER BOOK
- 6 or more copies \$8.00 Each Plus \$1.00 S/H PER BOOK



YOUR NAME _____ PHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

of Copies _____ X \$ _____ Each = \$ _____

Add appropriate S/H per above schedule \$ _____ TOTAL: \$ _____

Check _____

Credit Card (Please Circle)



Signature _____

_____ Expiration Date _____

We're on the Web:
www.mt-morris.org
www.mt-morris.org