

Praise:

- ◆ 2013 was another good year of ministry at Camp Ray Bird
- ◆ Money and a break in retreat groups allowed us to renovate the upstairs boys bathroom in our lodge. We are thankful to be able to bless our campers and other guests with a nice play to stay.
- ◆ The spring calendar is filling up nicely with retreat groups.
- ◆ God’s provision of generous donors. For the first time since 2008 Camp Ray Bird is on budget (we have been running a little behind since the recession began).
- ◆ Mike Houghtaling has been employed by Camp Ray Bird for almost 13 years and served as the director for 10 of them.

Prayer:

- ◆ That God will reveal Himself in a special way to the campers who will be attending winter camp January 31—February 2.
- ◆ For guidance as our board hires a new director. This will only be Camp Ray Bird’s 8th director since 1919.
- ◆ For Mike as he transitions to a new job and a new residence (he currently lives in a home owned by the camp).
- ◆ Another summer is coming. Please pray for us as we face the challenge of preparing for another season (planning, hiring staff, recruiting volunteers, inviting campers, raising funds).



Ray Bird Ministries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors including: Linda Burrell, Bob Foegley (honorary), Michelle Helmkamp, Phyllis Hueni, Jeff Korhorn, Randy Meert, Kevin Mitschelen, John Rader, Tom Thompson, and Myrtle Wilson. **The mission of Ray Bird Ministries** is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with Michiana children and teens, nurture those believers, and prepare them for participation in local churches. Ray Bird Ministries specializes in serving families who could not otherwise afford meaningful camping experiences.

Attention Scrap Bookers



Are you a good scrap booker who would be willing to volunteer your time? Camp Ray Bird has some very old photos and newspaper clippings we would like to have arranged. If interested, please contact Susan Titus. susan@raybird.org 574-232-8523



The Potter's Wheel

A publication of Ray Bird Ministries "God's Hand Shaping Young Lives"



Photographer: Matthew Clark

We all know what Camp Ray Bird does during the summer time. But what happens the rest of the year?

Donations were made...

In memory of Thayne Garberick
(from Diane and Ray Ritchie)

In memory of Dr. Robert Parsons
(from Douglas and Pamela Callantine)

In memory of Oliver Cunningham
(from Chuck and Sharon Nelson)

In honor of the Tesavro family
(from Jeff and Joan Vana)

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What happens when it isn't summer?

For years people have asked, "Do you have a second job you work after the summer ends?" It certainly is a reasonable question but the answer is no. Even though campers and staff are here from the end of May through the beginning of August, our full-time staff works year-round.

A long-time summer staff member and regular volunteer asked me to better explain what happens when our campers are not here. The following is a list of things we have been doing since August:

Building maintenance: painted the office exterior, renovated the boys' bathroom in the lodge, working to renovate the final two camper rooms in the lodge.

Hosting retreat groups: Since August we have hosted 20 retreat groups. This always involves cleaning the facilities and occasionally means providing food service.

Managing Snail Mail Bible Correspondence: Campers can complete a Bible lesson series and earn their way back to off-season mini camps in the fall, winter, and spring.

Hosting Fall Mini Camp: 67 campers did their Snail Mail and came back for the Fall Mini Camp.

Meeting with campers: We meet with various campers to check up on how they are doing.

Hosting staff reunion: Right around New Year's we host a staff reunion. This is a time for the summer staff to catch up, be encouraged, and hopefully a time to start thinking about what they will do in the coming summer.

Hiring summer staff: It is only January but we have already started hiring staff for the coming summer.

Glimpses of the off-season



Left: Repainting the office.

Right: Boys' shower demolition and finished product. Some of the staff ice skate on Bass Lake at the Staff Reunion. One of our many retreat groups. Apple picking at Fall Mini Camp.

Below: The snack shop awaits another season.



More glimpses of the off-season

