

SOMETIMES YOU CANNOT SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

I had a new experience in September. While I have directed a variety of Intermountain District camps and retreats over the years I experienced being the director of an outside guest group - similar to the over 60% of our rentals at Trinity Pines. The group was Liberty Ministries Mountaintop Retreat. It was the first time Liberty Ministries had ever sponsored a retreat. We had around 85 in attendance coming from nine different states and one attendee from Canada. Many of you know our office coordinates this ministry so it made sense we would direct this retreat.

What happened, however, was not what I was expecting. All publicity had listed the location and host facility at Trinity Pines Camp in Cascade, Idaho. I guess that draws many assumptions in the minds of people when they hear the word camp. As people began to arrive, some staying in the RV Park, cottages, or lodges, they did the usual check in, picked up a map and headed off to their pre-arranged housing location. That is when the fun began. As they returned for lunch after check in I overheard their comments:

- I thought they said this was a camp - this is not like any camp I ever attended.
- If I had known the accommodations were this nice, I would have brought some friends with me, but they were nervous when they heard the word camp.
- With this type of facility, I can only imagine what we are in for going forward.

By the end of the retreat, we heard comments about the quality of the food, customer service of the staff, meeting locations, beauty of the area, layout of the camp ground, how well planned it was and how truly relaxing and refreshing the experience had been at Trinity Pines. I thought to myself. "I have been here hundreds of times in the last twenty years and I never noticed some of the things that they commented on. I sure was not aware of how we stacked up against other locations." The group agreed that they would love to have the retreat again next year in the exact same location. They said, "This is just a little bit of heaven on earth."

I felt a real pride and a renewed spirit in what had been accomplished. I was also ashamed that maybe I had become too complacent with the true gift Trinity Pines is to people. Had I missed the blessing always thinking about staff needs, budgets, paying bills, raising money and the next building project? Did I only see equipment needing repaired, paint that needed to be done and roofs beginning to show their age? I did not see the forest for the trees. My heart was thrilled, my spirit renewed and my passion deepened for Trinity Pines. I kept hearing their comments for days to come as I left the retreat. I made many new friends, heard great music, tasted wonderful food and enjoyed great times of fellowship. However, I also had a new appreciation for the work of hundreds who have supported generously the dream and development of a "little bit of heaven on earth." As I have reflected on that experience, I keep praying, "Lord, help me never to take for granted the blessings that come from Trinity Pines even amidst some of the challenges." Thank you to everyone reading this Camp Monthly for your role in helping to bless the work of the camp.

Rick Waitley, *Executive Director*

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Oct 4-7	Stitch N' Snip
Oct 8-10	S. Idaho Assemblies of God Women's
Oct 11-14	Stitch N' Snip
Oct 14-16	Eagle Christian Women's
Oct 18-19	IMD Pastors Prayer Summit
Oct 22-24	Calvary Chapel Buhl Women's

TRINITY PINES CALENDAR "AT-A-GLANCE"

CAMP MONTHLY

TRINITY PINES CAMP + CONFERENCE CENTER

CASCADE, IDAHO

OCTOBER 2021

SHARE THE DREAM

The 15th Annual Share the Dream is scheduled for December 2 at Valley Shepherd Nazarene Church. The doors will open at 6:00 PM with the program starting at 6:30 PM. Plan now to join us for the evening. You may reserve a table for up to 8 people by calling Cindy at 208-888-0988. Take this short quiz to determine if you should attend or not.

1. What was the mission project at summer camps and how much was raised?
2. How many total volunteer hours were invested at Trinity Pines from 10/1/20 - 9/30/21?
3. Who is being named to receive the Schmidt Volunteer Service Award?
4. What will be the goal for Share the Dream for the coming year?
5. Name 3-4 projects undertaken at Trinity Pines this past year?

If you do not know the answers to these questions, then yes, you need to be at Share the Dream along with friends and hear the answers and a whole lot more about Trinity Pines operation this past year.

A special dessert fellowship will be part of the evening. All full-time staff and many of our summer volunteers will plan to attend. It will be like a big reunion of people who love Trinity Pines. Call today and let us know you are planning to attend.

SPECIAL THANKS:

- Thank you to Rev Rick and Jeanne Jorgensen, Valley Shepherd, who responded to our request last month for a utility trailer. It came complete with ramps and they included a gas-powered weed eater. Thanks for blessing the camp.
- Thank you to NNU Basketball team for showing up this fall and helping to take down the worship tent. There were also a number of other projects were completed by the team and coaching staff. While they were there, they enjoyed some fun time on the Challenge Course.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Manager Tyler Luschen is making inroads into the community of Cascade by helping to coach basketball at the school. Tyler is assisting Josh Hurley, who pastored the church at Smith's Ferry and has been teaching at Cascade High the past couple of years. Recently, Tyler agreed to coordinate the effort on behalf of Operation Christmas Child for the greater Cascade community. Many of you are familiar with this program where shoeboxes are filled with items for a boy or a girl. Trinity Pines will be a drop off location to collect the boxes, process them and get them to Boise for final shipping.

THANKS: When you enter the front lobby of the camp office, you will see a new metal Trinity Pines logo on the face of the front counter. A family who has requested to remain anonymous donated this to Trinity Pines. It is a great addition to the office area and very inviting to guests who come to the office.

STEVE & CAROL LODER



Friday, September 17 was the last day of employment for Steve and Carol Loder. The Loder's were originally planning to relocate to a home in Arizona but some plans have changed and they will be moving to Donnelly where Steve will be engaged in managing the recycle center for Valley County. They seem to keep failing this effort called "retirement."

MURDOCK FOUNDATION: Trinity Pines hosted John Franklin, from the Murdock Foundation, who flew in for a visit to the camp to see the size and scope of the paving project. Murdock has given the go ahead to spend the funds that were collected in the spring of 2021 to meet the \$130,000 match. An additional amount was given and four of the designated eight phases are scheduled to be paved starting October 15. This will make snow removal and navigation on the campground much easier this winter.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE RV PARK: We finished out the season with Steve and Cheryl Haney, Euclid, assuming the role of Second Wind Staff coordinators and working with other volunteers who offered short-term service on weekends. Ray and Star Gartman, Nampa First, agreed to step up and serve as RV host to complete the 2021 camping season. We have received word from the Swartzentruber family that a memorial service for Marilyn is being planned for the spring of 2022.

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE: In the August Camp Monthly, we challenged our camp partners to a new campaign, Crossing the Finish Line - for 75 units to pay \$1000 before December 31 to help us across the finish line for Trinity Pines operation. Thanks to those who have responded since the announcement. A list of names is included in this Camp Monthly as well as the total amount that has been received toward the \$75,000 goal. While we have celebrated having the camp open for most of 2021, we have experienced less than full capacity in reservations but of course, the expenses remained the same and are increasing each month with higher costs in food, wages and services. Pray about your involvement in helping us in Crossing the Finish Line. Updates toward the goal will be presented in each Camp Monthly.

2022 SUMMER CAMP DATES: Grab your calendar and get these dates on your schedule for summer camps sponsored by Intermountain District for children and teens. We look forward to you joining us at one of the summer camps - an added blessing to any summer for a child or teen in your family:

Genesis Girls Camp	June 6-8
Genesis Boys Camp	June 8-10
Senior High Camp	June 13-17
4th-6th Grade Boys Camp	June 20-24
Middle School (7th-8th Grade)	July 11-15
4th-6th Grade Girls Camp	July 18-22