

ONE OF THE ORIGINAL PILLARS

In the early days of developing Trinity Pines, I remember a phone call I received from our then District Superintendent Ron Kratzer. He stated to me, "I have hired a "Dollar a Year Man" and I want him to come alongside the Development Committee as you discuss the future of the camp." This was my first introduction to Pastor Chuck Wilkes. I learned that Pastor Chuck had spent his career as a Pastor but most recently had been in Kansas City at the Headquarters for the General Church and decided to retire to Idaho. Our first meeting took place at Elmer's Restaurant on Fairview Avenue and Chuck asked many questions and even had some ideas of how we might generate funds for developing the camp. One thing led to another and soon Chuck was not only a regular member of the committee, but he and his wife, Lois, stepped up to champion the development of the RV Park at Cascade. Chuck's idea of an RV location where retirees could reside and provide volunteer labor as the camp grew, turned into a Murdock grant application for pouring of cement pads, installation of electricity, planting of trees, securing picnic tables and, eventually, building a community restroom and laundry facility. For several summers, the Wilkes were residents at the camp, Chuck working with fellow volunteers on many construction projects and Lois in the kitchen and laundry.

In the beginning, the City of Cascade welcomed Trinity Pines as a new addition to their community but then elections took place and differences of opinion caused some division between the City and the camp. Chuck undertook, as a personal mission, the goal of winning over the Mayor - a task that most people would have avoided at all costs. But Chuck was persistent and his calm, gentle, firm manner eventually won the friendship of a very interesting individual. The Mayor had a hard time communicating without using many four-letter words. Chuck taught me a valuable lesson. He looked past all of that, and would tease the mayor about his abuse of language but would turn around and sit with him for a cup of coffee to talk about the relationship with the camp and the city. One time, Chuck convinced me to have the Mayor stop in during Senior Adult Retreat, bring greetings, and have lunch with them. He warned the Mayor, "If you come, you can talk for 30 minutes, but I don't want you swearing at these nice Nazarene folks." The Mayor agreed and was introduced by Chuck to the group and then began sharing. He was doing well and I could tell that Lois was anxious about what might come out of his mouth. He was about 25 minutes into his presentation and he looked at Chuck and said, "I know I promised you but I just can't do it." Then said one of his favorite words. Chuck, of course, had a response when he thanked the Mayor, then prayed with him and invited him to join us for lunch. The man was not a long-term player in politics for obvious reasons and probably one of his closest friends was Chuck Wilkes, who befriended him in Christian love.

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2020 IS JUST SIMPLY STRANGE:
While we have dealt with the pandemic, economic crisis, record unemployment and now protests and daily interruption of our lives, we are now dealing with Mother Nature. Sunday, June 7, temperatures at camp fell to below freezing and snow began to fall. It snowed most of the day and accumulation was around 1-3" in various areas of the Cascade community. Every day in 2020 seems to bring a new adventure.

CAMP MONTHLY

TRINITY PINES CAMP + CONFERENCE CENTER

CASCADE, IDAHO

JUNE 2020

I remember one day, I was helping to pour the cement pads in the RV Park. I noticed how hard the men were working on this project - all sweating, bending and lifting during various parts of the job - Chuck was one of them. The conversation changed to the discussion of age. It was during that time that I learned all of the individuals helping were nearing the age of 80 and working like dogs. I was impressed and a bit overwhelmed with deep gratitude that these men who had many miles on their bodies were working as hard as they were. Chuck was their leader and motivated the crew to complete the task with many stories, teasing and a lot of laughs.

Sunday, June 7, Pastor Chuck passed from this earth to the campground in Heaven at the age of 92. While Rev. Ron Kratzer displayed excellent leadership for Trinity Pines during his tenure as DS, his assignment of the Dollar a Year Man - Chuck Wilkes, to the camp development project was a very wise decision that paid unbelievable dividends. With all the confidence in the world, I know that Chuck heard on his arrival, "Well done my good and faithful son." Thanks Chuck for your dedication, dreams, hard work and legacy that you leave at Trinity Pines. You truly were one of the original pillars to make it all happen.

Rick Waitley
Executive Director

OPENING UP FOLLOWING COVID: The Camps Board Executive Committee has met weekly for the past few months to examine, evaluate and determine the best course forward related to closures, cancellation of rentals and environment surrounding COVID-19. The decision has been made to open the camp to outside rentals with a target date of **July 17**. There may be some rentals between July 1-17 but they will be very small numbers and will allow us to implement and fine-tune our procedures.

MODIFIED WORK WEEK: We will hold a modified Work Week the first part of July. The specific dates have not been decided at this time. The Work Week will be for two nights and we will concentrate on setting up and arranging the worship tent for outside meeting space. The following are the criteria for this modified week:

- No children due to the current environment
- Ages 16+ may attend accompanied by an adult
- Housing and a modified food service will be provided (grab-and-go breakfast/lunch) and dinner on the patio (no conference room dining)
- There will be other projects but not near to the scope and size of the traditional Work Week
- Attendance will be limited to no more than 20 adults
- Prefer adults that are not at health risk since we will be coming from many different locations

PROTOCOLS FOR OPENING CAMP: Anyone interested may see the most current listing of the protocols, rules, and regulations for opening Trinity Pines by visiting the website at www.tpines.org. The policy will be updated with changes or adjustments as we progress through the season.

NEW WAIVER REQUIRED: All of the rental groups that will be considering a contract with Trinity Pines will be required to complete a new waiver. This is an addendum to the current rental contract that deals specifically with the issue of COVID. The waiver was written by the Intermountain District Attorney, reviewed and approved by the Camps Board Executive Committee. A copy of the waiver can be received by contacting the camp office in Cascade or Meridian.

NEW CAPACITY SET: One of the major steps in reopening the camp was to establish a rental capacity. That number was arrived at on Saturday, May 30. The capacity from now through December 31, for Trinity Pines will be 190 participants. This number can be exceeded if guests select to stay in tents and RV's.

RV AND TENT CAMPING: Rental space is available at the RV Park for self-contained RV's. The Stickney Tent Camping area is also available. Advance reservations must be made by contacting Marilyn Swartzentruber at 208-989-9620 or rvpark@tpines.org. The current regulations/fees related to RV spaces and tent camping at Trinity Pines apply.

The community restroom, shower and laundry facility will be sanitized daily. We ask for your cooperation in using your own self-contained facilities as much as possible.

There will be no food service provided during the month of June/July and we ask all RV and tent camping guests to refrain from going beyond the designated posted boundaries when at the camp. You are free to move about the RV park, trails and Cascade area adhering to any other local guidelines that might be in place.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Due to protocols for cleaning and food service, we know we are going to need an increased number of staff members to handle guest groups. We have set aside two of the cottages to house volunteers who may not have available housing in an RV or trailer. However, there are some new requirements for volunteers:

- Primary responsibilities are food service and sanitation/cleaning
- All volunteers will need to adhere to the safety and health regulations set by the management: masks, gloves, specific cleaning supplies, procedures, etc.
- Housing provided in 2 cottages
- No children or teens under 16
- Ages 16-18 can volunteer, if with an adult
- Must be able to work 8-10 hours a day with short breaks
- Must be able to lift 25 lbs
- Requires AT LEAST 2 hours of training before food prep begins

NOTE: We are collecting names of individuals and couples who would be available. Until we get confirmation of rental groups on the calendar and know the size of groups, we will not know how many volunteers are needed. You can place your name on our volunteer list by contacting Rick Waitley at 208-888-0988 or by email at rick@amgidaho.com.