



PARTNERSHIP DAY CAMP!

Along with our residential on-site program, Highlands also facilitates Partnership Day Camp at more than 15 churches in Colorado and Nebraska! Highlands Staff brings curriculum, energizers, crafts, Bible Studies, games and more (including our new inflatable Gaga Ball pit) to lead Partnership Day Camp. These teams of young adults also spend half of each day on community and church ministry projects. It was an absolute privilege to serve in this way. Many of the churches we served also collaborated with other congregations in their local communities. What a beautiful sight it was seeing denominational lines crossed and the greater Body of Christ come alongside one another to minister! Because of Partnership Day Camp and the cooperation of churches, Highlands staff, and friends of Highlands, we were able to minister to over 360 children! Praise the Lord!

We are deeply grateful to the Presbytery of Denver, Presbyterian Church of the Covenant and individual donors who make this program possible for congregations!!

Are you interested in Partnership Day Camp for 2020. Applications will be available on our website in October and are due by January 15, 2020. Plan now for an amazing partnership!

Week 1

- Rankin Presbyterian Church/United Presbyterian of Fort Morgan: 7
- Wheat Ridge Presbyterian: 22

Week 2

- Strasburg Presbyterian: 30
- Church of the Eternal Hills, Tabernash: 17

Week 3

- First Presbyterian Gordon, NE: 33
- St Paul Presbyterian, Aurora: 16

Week 4

- Peoples Presbyterian, Denver: 7

Week 5

- First Presbyterian, Brighton: 62
- Kimball Presbyterian/1st English Lutheran in Kimball: 20

Week 6

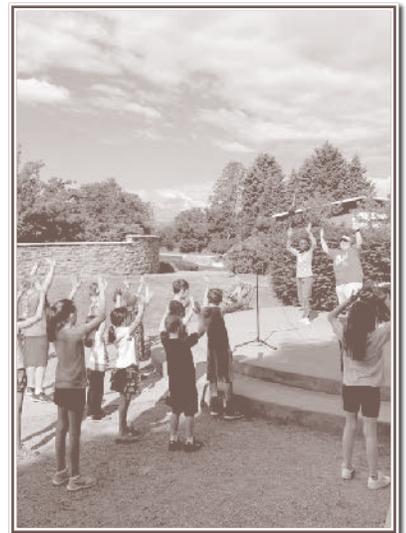
- First Presbyterian Church, Aurora: 14

Week 7

- Nederland Community Presbyterian: 34
- Weldon Valley Presbyterian: 24
- Light Memorial Presbyterian, Sidney NE: 11

Week 8

- Westview Presbyterian/ Central Presbyterian, Longmont: 52
- First Presbyterian Church, Berthoud: 29



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In American's Holy Ground . . . 61 Faithful Reflections on our National Parks Brad Lyons and Bruce Barkhauer write about Rocky Mountain National Park:

Mountains have a sense of the sacred about them. The faith traditions of Moses, Jesus, and Muhammed each have stories of Divine encounters related to specific high places, fixed points of geography to mark mystical experiences that defy temporal definition. Mountains are places of radical change, new perspective, and heightened awareness. There is a universal acceptance of this concept that the mountaintop is synonymous with a life-altering experience in how we see this world or the next. . . . Such a perspective is a method of reorienting life around the Why? and What matters most? sometimes begging the essential questions Who Am I? and What am I supposed to do? Mystics refer to these moments and places as the thin spaces where we can draw closer to that which is greater than ourselves.

Rocky Mountain National Park offers plenty of things to amaze, but whatever inspires you will be meaningless without application, which is always done down the mountain.

Pages 193-195

At Highlands, we know the truth of these statements. Both the awe inspiring views and the life-altering experiences. Every day at Highlands, people experience being drawn closer to God. Summer Camp is filled with stories of memorable hikes to Three Crosses for the sunrise and new perspectives. And thousands of guests come to Highlands each summer for church retreats and family reunions and the opportunity to connect with what is most important.

The pond is becoming one of my favorite spots at Highlands. It's a great place to spot a moose in the early morning or evening. I love our new pedal boats and floating dock. And on Thursday nights, summer camp gathers at the pond for closing worship . . . it's the beginning of the time when we get campers ready to go home. Lyons and Barkhauer are right. . . "whatever inspire you will be meaningless without application, which is always done down the mountain." And so we help children and youth think about this. This year . . . it was lighting led candles (they don't blow out!) and (respond "Si', se puede", "Yes, I can" to a series of questioning. . .)

Can you love God with all of your passion, prayer, intelligence and energy?

Can you love yourself?

Can you love others?

Can you love someone who is different from you?

Can you read God's word?

Can you ask God hard questions?

Can you care for others?

Can you give generously to God?

Can you serve God boldly?

And campers enthusiastically responded . . . "Si' Se Puede!"

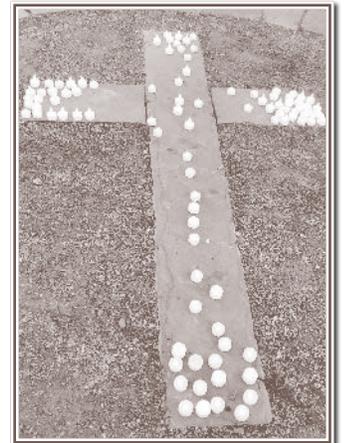
This is what I love about the ministry of Highland. . . We are a thin space . . . People grow closer to God here. . . And people go home . . . changed and inspired, with a new perspective to take that new conviction into their family, their church, their community! Yes, we can!!

Thank you for the time, financial resources, passion, prayer, intelligence and energy you give to the ministry of Highlands!! You make this possible!!

Grace and Peace,

Maria

Maria Shupe, Executive Director



SUMMER CAMP 2019: A SEASON OF EXCHANGE

by Dorothy "Dot" Strickland, Director of Summer Camps

As Highlands entered its 2019 season of summer camp, it became quite clear that our curriculum, "Peace Works" (a collection of words from cultures all over the world and related Bible stories depicting components of Peace) was very appropriate for us. Why? We were entering a season where 10 of our 17 Program Staff were internationals from countries such as Mexico, Columbia, Ireland, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Australia. Here at Highlands we had a cultural mixing pot and an organic way to show the cultural diversity as seen in our curriculum. It wasn't planned by us, it was orchestrated by God.

Campers were loved on, challenged to grow in their faith, and made meaningful relationships in an atmosphere encouraging faith, friendship, and fun. Several campers left Highlands saying that because of their week of camp, they would go home and "accept people who are different than [them]."

The interactions between campers and staff was heart-warming to see. One teenage adventure camper rated their week of camp as a 10 out of 10 because "the staff was awesome and fun to be around" and they had a "blast meeting new people." Another kiddo, this time from a 3rd-5th grade camp, exclaimed "the activities were endless, the food was great, and the counselors were so nice!"

This exchange of cultures allowed the campers to peek into a world so much bigger than their own backyard. It allowed them to meet and learn from Christians from all over the world. What an experience! The kids also were great teachers for the internationals during their stint in the states, teaching them jokes, exploring the meanings of words in different cultures and teaching American culture.

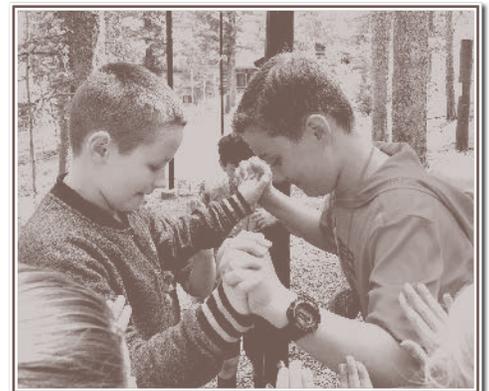
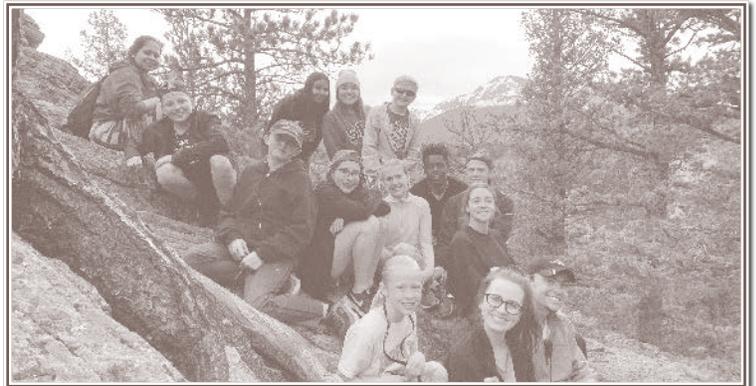
At Highlands this summer, campers digested the messages and by the end of the week were saying "Si' Se Puede" (Yes I can) to acts of service and love towards their neighbors in the world. They will carry this commitment home!

It warms the hearts of the Highlands family to know of the impact we made on the lives of kiddos, both in residential camp and in our Partnership Day Camp programs. It would not have been possible without the hard work and diligence of our staff. Over the summer, they grew in their skills, grew in their faith, and grew in their relationships with one another. Whether it was shouting a repeat-after-me song, leading a Bible study about agape, or having a heart-to-heart chat with a camper who was having a rough time, the staff made this summer of Highlands one we shall never forget.



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS FOR HELPING OUT WITH SUMMER CAMP!

Mark Hutton	Lynn Dillow	Marty Jewell
Annelly Noble	Geoff Noble	Buddy Jones
Sue Spencer	Brittany Bailey	Susan Bailey



UPDATE FROM THE HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MODERATOR

The past several months have been very busy at Highlands and as Moderator of the Camp Committee I would like to give a big "Thank You" to all the staff, both year round and seasonal for their outstanding effort and support. I am also grateful for our outstanding international staff for their efforts and the international flavor they bring to the camp.

In addition to the many Summer Camp activities, there were many other projects and activities which are required to keep the facility operational. I would like to highlight a few. . . .

Earlier this year we installed **two new domestic water boilers in the Retreat Center**, replacing the original boilers, which had many maintenance issues. The new ones are more reliable and use considerably less propane resulting in a cost savings.



Besides the normal repairs and maintenance activities, projects include the Spring Work Day where volunteers help prepare the camp for the summer activities. A **new boat dock** was installed to facilitate the ease of using the new peddle boats as well

as preparation for building a new storage shed for the canoes and peddle boats. **We are currently in the process of painting and reroofing several of the buildings.** RADON mitigation in the Retreat Center and Antelope cabins is complete. We also had **Staff House #2 repainted** and as part of an Eagle Scout project had a **new Gaga Ball pit** built. What is a Gaga Ball pit? Gaga Ball is a variance of dodge ball that is played in a pit about 15-20 feet in diameter and 3 feet high. The objective is to avoid being hit by a ball thrown by another player and if you are hit from the waist down, then you are out with the objective of being the last player still playing. The summer campers have really enjoyed it!

Because of the water situation (remember all our water comes from springs) and the drought the past couple of

years, along with a leak in one of our pipes, we had to haul in water earlier this year. **A Water Project Group was formed to investigate current and future sources of water.** The first action was to frack two of the wells to see if we could increase their output. This resulted in some improvement, but we have to wait and see what the long-term effect will be. Earlier maps indicated two other wells, and after locating them, we dug down to one of the locations but could not find any water. The other location is in a marshy area and we will be investigating its volume and determine if it is feasible to be able to pipe the water to the Water Treatment Plant. Highlands does own summer water rights from Rock Creek and we are working on the design and cost to transfer this water to the Treatment Plant. Although we don't use water from the pond, there was an exercise to determine its volume for future reference.

I would like to thank all the staff, contractors and volunteers who have helped with these projects. If you would like to help in the future, please let Highlands know. Highlands is a wonderful place to work and experience God's creation.

*Gary Forbes, Moderator
Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center*



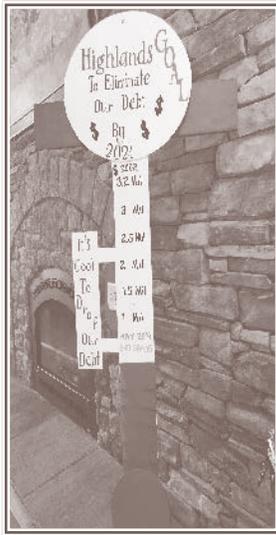
"IT'S COOL TO ELIMINATE OUR DEBT"

On October 26th we will celebrate the 17th anniversary of the dedication of the Retreat Center. The years have flown! In 2018, due to the ministry and partnership of Sue Spencer with congregations and families, we are seeing a growth in guest usage throughout the year. It is a beautiful facility!

In late 2018, the Financial Vision To Empower Our Strategic Plan committed 50% of the gifts received from the estate of Jane Hays to debt reduction. In 2019, two gifts have been received and made it possible to pay down over \$630,000 on our mortgage. **Additional gifts from individuals have enabled us to make further payments, and our current mortgage balance is \$628,254.15.**

We have so much to be grateful for!!

In addition to debt reduction, the balance of the gifts from Jane's estate are also committed to program development and maintenance, allowing us to do many of the projects you will read about in this newsletter including painting, roofs, and new boilers. These gifts also made it possible to have a paid nurse for Summer Camp and new pedal boats and life jackets. **We look forward**



to exploring new program development with congregations and our partner presbyteries this fall.

Our Strategic Plan calls for the elimination of our mortgage debt by our 75th Anniversary in 2021. And that goal is within reach!! With your help, we can eliminate our mortgage. Each month, Highlands receives gifts from individuals and congregations who are committed to the elimination of our debt. Some have been making these gifts for years. Some have recently begun to help us meet this goal! We can do it! It is cool to eliminate our debt!!

Gifts to Highlands are tax deductible and qualify for a Child Care Tax Credit based on the percentage of our ministry committed to children

and youth. Your gift can help us reach this goal!! **This fall we will be reaching out to individuals, congregations and presbyteries asking for your help! We know we can meet this goal by our 75th anniversary. And we have so much to be grateful for!**

If you are interested in helping us meet this goal or would like more information, please contact Maria Shupe at maria@highlandscamp.org or 303-747-2888.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY

Your purchases on Amazon can support the ministry of Highlands!

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. And your shopping supports the ministry of Highlands!

LET'S BUILD A BOAT SHED !!!

Last year we ran an experimental "Go Fund Me" Campaign for a new boat shed to store canoes (and now peddle boats) at the pond! You responded generously---although most of you preferred to just send us a check!! And this summer we are building a Boat Shed. **Join us August 12 to 16. Come for a day, come for the week, just come and help!** We've got rooms set aside for volunteers and we'll be happy to feed you! Join Michael Hanratty, Geoff Noble, Cleve Dixon, Bill McNeill and others . . . and make Highlands an even better place!!!

Stand Up | Speak Out | LEAD

The November Leadership Event for Denver Presbytery and the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks in partnership with the Omaha Theological Foundation.

Advocacy 101

November 8-9, 2019

Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center

With

Rev. Jimmie R Hawkins

Director of the Office of Public Witness

SUMMER CAMP FACTS AND FIGURES

161 Summer Campers . . . Campers came from:

12 Congregations in the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks

14 Congregations in Denver Presbytery

- Through your generosity, Highlands provided \$8,195.00 in scholarships for campers.
- Congregations provided \$7,562.50 in scholarships for campers.
- 2 Mission Work Camp: Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church (Kansas City) and Montview Presbyterian Church (Denver)
- 15 Partnership Day Camps
- Partnership Day Camps reached approximate 360 children and youth.
- Partnership Day Camp was funded by \$8000 from Denver Presbytery, \$10,000 from Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, and unrestricted donations.

Tiered Pricing: 56% of Campers pay Tier 1 rates (a rate subsidized by your donations)
16% of Campers pay Tier 2 rates (these rates are partially subsidized by your donations)
28% of Campers pay Tier 3 rates (which most closely represent the true cost of camp)

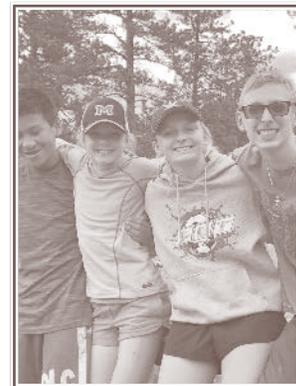
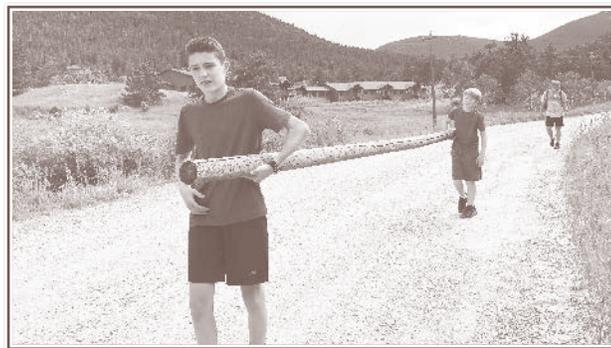
2019 GUEST GROUP FACTS AND FIGURES

- 7 Retreats from congregations and groups related to the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks
- 10 Retreats from congregations and groups related to Denver Presbytery
- 2 Retreats from other presbyteries.
- The Malawi Mission Network
- The Young Adult Volunteer Re-entry Event-for YAV's who have just completed a year of service.
- Highlands' events including: Spring and Fall Work Days, the Middler Retreat, Arts Camp, memorial services, meetings, weddings and special events such as the Mt. Meeker Dinner and Christmas Party.
- 69 other religious group retreats
- 25 Family Reunions
- 15 Education Groups (both students and educators)
- 32 other Non-Profit organizations including ARC, Stroke Survivors, children in the foster system, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Quilters and environmental educators.
- 48 weeks of the year we provide lunch for Senior Citizens in the Allenspark Community in a partnership with Boulder County.
- 8 other groups.

MISSION WORK CAMPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE !!

This year Highlands had two congregations join us for Mission Work Camp. These amazing groups of young adults from Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kansas City and Montview Presbyterian Church, Denver spent more than half of each day working on projects at Highlands. Youth from Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church scraped and painted all of the window and door trim in Horse Lodge. Montview Youth repaired, scraped and painted over a half mile of fence along the main driveway into Highlands. Mission Work Teams also enjoyed morning watch and evening vespers . . . along with traditional camp activities like rock climbing and canoeing! We are grateful that these amazing young adults chose to spend their week at Highlands in Mission Work Camp.

Mission Work Camps are designed for church youth groups with student entering 7th to 12th grades. Projects are selected based on your group's interest and abilities! Highlands' Mission Work Camps are a great introductory work camp experience. Contact Maria Shupe to book your 2020 Mission Work Camp.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER ...



ARTS CAMP !!!

EXPLORING FUSED GLASS, PRECIOUS METAL CLAY AND MORE !!

October 18-20, 2019

Are you interesting is exploring fused glass, precious metal clay and other fun mediums for art? Join us for a weekend of learning new skills, and practicing new techniques.

Both instructional time, and workshop time will provide you with the opportunity to complete at least one project in each medium.

Register online at www.highlandscamp.org

FALL WORK DAY

Saturday, September 14th
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us as we get Highlands ready for winter!

Please RSVP to info@highlandscamp.org and we'll plan a delicious lunch for you!!



SAVE THE DATE !!!
AND BEGIN YOUR PROJECT !!



Annual Highlands Christmas Party & Auction
Saturday, December 7th
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Unique, handcrafted items and gift baskets have already begun to arrive for the 2019 Auction!

We would love to have your work for our Auction!

It is the work of our artisans that make this annual event so successful!



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MISSION

*The mission of Highlands is
to provide gracious hospitality and quality Christian programs
in a majestic mountain setting
and to nurture spiritual renewal and transformation
in a safe and inclusive environment.*

*For more information about
Highlands Presbyterian Camp &
Retreat Center*

Contact 303-747-2888

info@highlandscamp.org ♦ www.highlandscamp.org