

## St. Andrew's Camp 2021 Annual Report

St. Andrew's continues to serve the diocese for both youth and adult programs.

This year St. Andrew's Camp provided their 64<sup>nd</sup> year of Orthodox Christian camping program. Matushka Tamara Cowan, assisted by Kristy Zaitsev, provided the leadership, and they were able to maintain an exciting, diverse activities program (through many weather challenges). The program was framed with a meaningful liturgical and Christian learning experience assisted by diocesan and other interested clergy and volunteers. This included a core of counselors- Kaedon Campbell, Alain Liebaucher, and Del Clement who remained the entire summer as well teachers and other talented youth workers who came in for one to two weeks. A total of 109 camper weeks, **up 30% from our last full season in 2019**, were enrolled for our 5 weeks. 88% of our campers are from this diocese, but another 5% are from other OCA dioceses, 2% from ROCOR and 5% from other churches.

In addition to daily Matins, Vespers religious education sessions, and weekly Liturgies the program included crafts, Pysanky, archery, ukulele, guitar, vocal and percussion experiences, nature study, dancing, horseback riding, swimming, kayaking, astronomy, sports and field trips to nearby state park beaches, Thousand Islands Boat tour, water parks and animal discovery parks. During our Teen week we explored many of our youth's talents and formally broke ground for our new dining Hall. Please check out our web page for photos of these special weeks!

Our full liturgical life and the daily Christian life classes, together with the fellowship that includes sharing life experiences and building up each other and forgiving each other, are the important reasons the camp exists. The nurturing of the young- and older- Christian soul and mind is sorely needed in our diverse culture with the stresses and temptations of modern life. Most importantly our Archbishop Michael is present- really present- each week for the weekday Liturgy, for question and answer sessions and to smile upon the horseback riding, the kayaking, the campfire singing and s'more making that he is part of each week. We are grateful to Fr. Jason Vansuch, Fr. David Cowan, Fr. Joel Brady, Fr. John Malcom, Fr. Matthew Markewich, Fr. Martin Kraus, Fr. Ignatius Gauvain, Fr. Ambrose Inlow, Fr. Terry Baz and Fr. Vasile Dubee for their presence and contributions to our program. It is this Orthodox Christian focus that this NY/NJ Diocesan Camp provides. Quoting our director- **"If we don't step in and provide for the shaping of young minds, modern culture will do it for us."** We look forward to more pastors encouraging an Orthodox camping experience for their youth.

The camp is funded by the tuition and most importantly the donations of those who support this mission. Every year we need these contributions- both in the form of volunteer workers and monetary gifts to continue this mission. Our full tuition only covers half of the actual expense per camper for the program and seventy five percent of our campers receive some kind of scholarship. We are particularly grateful to parishes that provide scholarships themselves for their campers, those parishes that donate even if they have no campers at camp and to those parishes that do both! Our on-site Bike Ride and Baba's Attic sales continue to enjoy patronage from past and new supporters. The annual fund raisers, separate from those recent special fund raisers for the building fund, are critical to our operating budget. We are grateful for the sacrifice of time and energy given to organizing and executing these fund raisers as well as to those who have earmarked St. Andrew's Camp in their wills or as the focus of memorial donations.

We were blessed this year to meet, and even exceed, our goal for funding the building a new kitchen and dining hall/multipurpose room. Our older building has suffered much weather/climate damage and cannot sustain continued use. The new building will have heat and air conditioning that will provide us with a sister facility to the main dorm both of which can be used year round. Kitchen volunteers will appreciate the less stifling kitchen conditions and campers will have an area to enjoy activities when our temperatures and humidity are wearing them down. We continue to accept building fund donations to enhance our basic plan for this new building and to meet the "Covid related" increase in building materials cost.

We are building up our rental incomes to offset the year round costs of our facility. This year we have 3 separate groups renting the facilities of the camp. Additionally we have been offering our small cabin for year round rental and this has grown to having bookings there almost weekly out of the camping season months. This income is allowing us to keep up our basic operating costs and is essential to our budget. However, more importantly, use of the facilities year round is a goal as the property offers a simple, but peaceful, nurturing environment for refreshment and reflection as well as waterfront and nearby interesting sites. Our website has more information on rentals for families, retreats or meeting groups and other camping programs.

Another great gift to the camp is the gift of time and talents that our many volunteers have provided. It is reported they all enjoy their time at the camp while offering these and we definitely benefit from their labor. Again the Camp would not be what it is without these special people!

We enjoyed a friendly Paschal open House on Bright Saturday, with Paschal Liturgy and Agape meal and hope that more will join us for this annual **casual festive celebration on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

Next year we plan to continue with a five week program including horse weeks, mishmash week (multi-focused camp program with elements of the arts and ecology) and teen week. We also hope to continue a form of Family Week. Our open meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon (see the diocesan web site and our web site for details, welcomes inquirers about the camp, its programs and persons who may be interested in sharing their talents with us. Please call 315 675-9771 or 315 383-2686 or email [saintandrewscamp@aol.com](mailto:saintandrewscamp@aol.com) for more details about the 2022 camping program, meetings, volunteer and camp staff opportunities and other events at the Camp.