

Phone: 814-497-4100
Email: info@shcm.org
Web: www.shcm.org

Servant's Heart Camp
422 Servants Heart Dr.
Ramey, PA 16671



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Helping you to feel the Pulse of Servant's Heart



A very significant part of our family's Christmas tradition is the reading of Luke 2. Although we read it every year and often a few times in between, the wonder of the story of Christ's birth never gets old. It is exciting to read the story with different thoughts. I would encourage you to sometime read the story and look for some new thought or a part of the story you haven't dwelt on in the past. Other times read the story and picture yourself walking alongside the donkey as you head toward Bethlehem. Or imagine sitting around the campfire like you had done hundreds of times before taking care of your sheep. Just imagine the

wonder and awe of seeing an angel. Now picture the entire sky being filled with angels. Let your sanctified imagination run wild and picture how that might have appeared. Now imagine your thoughts, feelings, and emotions as you quietly walk into the stable and see Joseph, and Mary and the **Savior!** Don't allow the wonder and awe of the Christmas story start to fade.

Your becoming an opossum does not compare to Christ taking on the confines of a human body.

Sometimes we forget what a huge sacrifice it was for Christ to take on the confines of human flesh. Perhaps you have heard me use this example before, but let's consider the opossum. Now I think the opossum is about the ugliest, most repulsive animal that I know. But please think for a moment. If I would voluntarily become an opossum, play dead, and walk and act in all the strange ways that an opossum does, I still would not be making the sacrifice that Christ made when he became a man. We cannot even begin to comprehend God in all his glory becoming a human like you and me. This Christmas will you, with me, ask God to restore the wonder and awe and significance of the Christmas season? Christ became a man to provide salvation for you and me. Wow, what a truth!



Once again, we are moving forward with the lodge. We have signed an agreement with an architect to take the plans to a point that we can get exact pricing on the project. Although we really like what he has done, we have about 25 minor modifications to the building to make it as practical and useable as possible. After we have the layout exactly the way we think will work well, we need to address several other issues. How much can we cut the cost of the building if we eliminate some of the cosmetic features? For example, we love the stone on the front of the lodge, but we could simply put siding. We need

God's wisdom. We also have some regulatory issues to resolve. We do believe that we may need an elevator to meet the ADA requirements. We are hopeful that we will not need the expensive sprinkler (fire suppression) system. Of course, after we have the plans, we will need money to move forward. Please pray with us



Although we would like to be saving money for a lodge, we have identified six projects that we would like to accomplish in the next year or two. Some of these projects will improve safety and security, and others will save a significant amount of time for the camp staff. In this newsletter we will briefly highlight each project, but if you want to know more, please visit www.shcm.org/projects. You may also click on the link in one of the recent posts at the bottom of our home page. Here are the projects.



1. We would like to purchase a new (to us) mower. It takes over 20 hours to mow and trim the entire property. The majority of the mowing is being done with a donated riding mower. You really need to see the picture on our website to appreciate its condition. We would like to buy a used 4-wheel-drive John Deere 24 HP diesel with a 60" mowing deck. The tractor has a three-point hitch and could also be used for some other projects. From our research, we can find a good used John Deere utility tractor for about **\$5,500.00**.

2. Also in the mowing category, we would like to purchase an 8' finish mower to use behind our full-sized John Deere tractor. This mower would have multiple advantages over the bush hog including doing a much nicer job and saving time. A new 8' Agmate finish mower is **\$2,365.99**.



3. Many occasions lend reasons for sitting on the front porch of the cabins. One of these would be for a counselor to have a place to counsel a camper. Many times a significant counseling session has happen on the front porch. These tete-a-tete benches even have a place to put a Bible in the middle. We plan to stain the benches to match the cabins. The cost for the benches is **\$2,650.00**

4. Our playing field is currently about 2,250 feet from the hub of our activities. Each Monday this past summer, we had three games on the playing field, so each camper walked over 2.5 miles to and from the playing field in one day. We would like to add a playing field that is much closer to the hub of activities. We have split this project into three phases of \$6,000.00. The first phase involves removing the trees and stumps. After evaluating the trees, we are expecting this phase to be finished under budget. A church is already raising money for this phase and they have brought a work group to start cutting down the trees before the excavator comes to remove all the stumps. The second phase would be to level the playing field. About five foot of ground would need to be moved from the high side of the field to the low side. The third phase is to strip some of the topsoil off the field at the entrance to the camp and put it on the new playing field. It would also need to be seeded and mulched. Each of these two projects would be about **\$6,000.00**.

5. To get from the parking lot to the lake view area and lodge there is a steep bank to navigate. Unless you are young and agile, it can be a challenge to climb. We have had more than one of our Young at Heart guests fall trying to go up or down this hill. We would like to install a retaining wall that would include steps, a sign, benches and a place for a flagpole. The cost is **\$22,500.00**.



6. We are thankful for the buildings that the Lord has provided. Unfortunately, we currently do not have a way to communicate to everyone on the camp property, to play music, or even to contact an individual cabin. Also, counselors do not have a way to contact a staff member in case of emergency. We would like to install an all-campus PA/Intercom system that would easily expand when we build the lodge. The new system would solve many of the security issues and allow for communication throughout the camp. The quote for this system is \$9,272.50. With incidentals and installation the cost is **\$10,000**.

We plan to do each of these projects as the Lord provides the finances. We are looking to Him for His perfect timing.

Each January, February, March, and April, many teens gather to quiz on God's Word. It is an outstanding time of good wholesome fun and fellowship. In

2019 we had 20 teams join in the quizzing and we are expecting more this coming year. Contact us for more info.



Each winter, we have two teen winter retreats. This is an excellent time for teens to get that spiritual "shot-in-the-arm" midway between one summer camp highlight and the next summers. Why don't you join us? We do have scholarship money available.