

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

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



December 2023

Helping you to feel the Pulse of Servant's Heart



Merry Christmas

I had so many different thoughts as how to adequately wish you a Merry Christmas. Because of my limited ability to communicate, I decided to share the message the angels proclaimed in Luke 2:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Will you, with me, look for ways to bring glory to God this holiday season?

Merry Christmas!

On November 28 we had an exciting board meeting and discussed several significant items. Here I will limit the information to the discussion about the lodge. A friend of the camp and retired contractor from Pittsburgh, Bill Ford, has consented to be the project manager for the construction of the lodge. He has already spent numerous hours on this project. He is doing an outstanding job for us, already making suggestions that have resulted in some very significant improvements to the plans. His leadership will save us many, many thousands of dollars. Bill joined our board meeting by phone, giving us lots of information and exciting us with a timeline for the construction. The chosen excavator is scheduled to start digging in April. We are still awaiting some bids, but the foundation and walls should be poured in May. In June we plan for the steel decking and second-story floor to be installed. July will be a bit of a catch-up month for Bill to work with some local volunteers to prepare for the two missionary work teams he has already organized to come in August and September. One is CLAMP MINISTRIES out of Great Hope Baptist Church, and the other is CLAIM MINISTRIES under the umbrella of Baptist International Missions Incorporated (BIMI). If you would like to be part of these work teams during August and September 2024, please contact us. In those




Lodge Update

months, he anticipates the building to be framed and enclosed. As soon as that is completed, the roof structure would be set in place and covered with tar paper or possibly the entire metal roofing if the money is available. As we listened to his timeline, we realized our years of planning and struggles are turning into reality. I can hardly convey the exciting anticipation developing. Please pray with us as we move forward with this project, and may you catch the excitement of Servant's Heart Camp actually building the lodge. God is certainly doing great things!





Skid Steer



Bill Ford, our lodge project manager, also told the board of our need for a skid steer if we are going to do much of this work ourselves. We will need this equipment to unload supplies, move building materials, backfill the foundation, level stones, and a host of other tasks.

He presented three options for us to consider: to rent, to lease, or to buy. Because of the length of time that we would need the skid steer, he recommended buying one. We would then have it either to later sell or to use for many other projects after the lodge is finished. Bill outlined the features of the piece of equipment that he thought we should have, and estimated the price. Initially, I was blown away by the price of a

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several-year-old skid steer that he described, but the board decided it is needed. After discussion, we decided to make this our end-of-year project. We are presenting this project to you, our faithful friends, with the goal of raising \$60,000 by the end of the year. If we get an exceptional deal on a track skid steer, or we receive extra money, we plan to put any surplus funds into some much needed repairs for our backhoe. If there is still any additional money, it will go into the lodge fund. The picture above is not a picture of the exact piece we would be purchasing but shows an example of the type of machine that we would need.

- ◆ After the significant prayer support and major victory from the Lord in getting a variance for the fire suppression system, we asked you to pray about the required “flow test” that would determine if we would have sufficient flow for the residential-style system that was approved. I am thrilled to report that God answered your prayers and we DO have sufficient flow.
- ◆ We want to celebrate and give much praise to our God in answering our many prayer requests and working to make happen the long-awaited start of the lodge. We are planning this celebration for Saturday, August 3. The preliminary plans for the day include a pig roast, sweet corn, homemade ice cream, special music, zipping on the Lakeglide, a thanksgiving program, and a tour of the progress of the lodge. Watch for more information in the coming months.
- ◆ For the past few summers, we have not taken our summer staff out to local churches because we wanted to attend and support the new church plant in Houtzdale. We do still want to support our local church, but next year we plan to take five to ten of our summer staff out to churches on Sundays throughout the summer. We would provide as much or as little as you desire, including special music, testimonies, a video update, and preaching. If your church is within two hours of camp and you would like to have us join you for a Sunday morning or evening, please contact us. We are ready to start scheduling.
- ◆ I have a few other bits of news I could share, but I want the last item of this newsletter to be a proclamation of praise to our great God. Although this newsletter did not give any specific testimonies of his working, HE IS STILL WORKING. I close with the words of David in I Chronicles 29:13, *Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name!!!* The exclamation points are not in the original text but added to convey emphasis of this truth!



Other News