

Echoes from Camp

THE GLISSON NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

Glisson celebrates
85 years of
Camp & Retreat
ministry
1925-2010

IN 1925:

- Calvin Coolidge was President.
- *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was published.
- A gallon of gasoline cost 19 cents.
- Margaret Thatcher, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Johnny Carson were born.
- Rev. Fred Glisson turned 36 years old.

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Remembering "Uncle Bob" Lanford

Mary Lanford remembers the day in 1962 when her husband Bob told her he was leaving his engineering career to become a Methodist minister.

At the time, Mary was working in the Emory University Graduate Office and Bob had been working with the Atlanta Water Department. Bob's academic background was in Engineering, but he felt God's call to ministry. Bob had always loved being outdoors, as evidenced by his involvement with the Boy Scouts. Little did he know that his love for God's creation and his new call to the ministry would converge a few years later at Glisson.

In 1975, Bob became Director of Glisson, where he served until



1983. During those years, Mary recalls Bob was as close to his true calling as he had ever been. "What Bob was proudest of had nothing to do with the facilities", Mary says. "He felt that the pur-

pose of the church was fulfilled at Glisson. In one week at Glisson, kids could experience nature and learn to appreciate God's creation while they were made to feel truly special."

Mary adds that, "Bob wanted to make sure that Glisson gave children and youth a chance to get away from their fast-paced lives to find a sense of God's love and be a part of a Christian community in God's creation."

Bob's engineering skills would be well utilized during his time at Glisson. Originally, the Glisson staff included both a program director and a property manager. When the property manager left in 1978, Bob assumed the responsibilities as both Director and Manager, primarily to help save on personnel costs. The

(Continued on page 3)

An Unexpected Major Gift

Charles Edwin "Ed" Suber was a lifelong United Methodist who was an avid supporter of United Methodist ministries. Mr. Suber died in 2007 at the age of 84. In November 2009, Glisson received a gift totaling \$258,050 from the Charles Edwin Suber Foundation - a gift which has already made a dramatic impact on the Glisson ministry.

Serving as co-executor of Mr. Suber's estate, and Trustee of the Charles Edwin Suber Foundation, Suber's cousin Jim Campbell selected Glisson as a recipient of Foundation funds. "It gives me great pleasure to have a part in facilitating a contribution to such a wonderful cause", Campbell says.

Mr. Suber had lived in the Ben Hill area of Atlanta for his entire

life. His family had owned and operated the C.P. Suber Grocery Store in the Ben Hill Community for many years. Mr. Suber had retired from a career with the Fulton County Superior Court System where he had served as Court Clerk. He attended Oxford College of Emory University and later Emory University. He was an avid square dancer and a

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On Glisson Day, Bishop Watson receives his very own pair of Chacos and is inducted as an honorary Glisson staff member for summer 2010

Summer staff enjoying cross-generational Glisson Day singing on the porch



Vision

The impact of Glisson's ministry over 85 years in the North Georgia Conference is incalculable. The pastors, teachers, youth ministers, special needs experts, doctors, nonprofit directors and outstanding lay people who each day see and live life differently because of their Glisson experiences has changed the world for thousands of people. Our conference is blessed by Glisson's continued good work. But there are limits to the impact Glisson can have. It may sound like 2,500 campers in one

summer is a lot, but with over 50,000 children and youth in our annual conference, it is too small. We must explore ways to broaden the reach of Camp and Retreat Ministries in our conference.

Last fall Bishop Watson appointed a task force to do just that. The group, made up of former Glisson campers and representatives from across the conference met monthly from September to January and presented the following vision statement:

To advance the evangelism and discipleship efforts of the local church, the North Georgia Annual Conference commits to rekindling its

Camping and Retreat Ministries. We intend to develop Christian camping experiences that are more accessible geographically, culturally, ethnically and physically. Using existing facilities, churches and other available sites, we will double the current number of campers from 2,500 to 5,000 in the next 10 years.

Should it be indorsed at Annual Conference in June, the Task Force will be charged with proposing a way for this vision to be implemented.

No matter what details are developed, the people of Glisson and their 85 years of ministry experience will be essential to broadening the reach of camping in the conference.

Help make camp possible

The father of a Glisson camper contacted me last year asking if Glisson had some kind of program to help families afford camp while they were struggling with finances during the recession. In his email, which is even more relevant in 2010, he said to me, "I understand that camp is a luxury, but my son gets so much out of Glisson."

I am thankful this father was willing to write to me - especially considering how difficult things must be for his family, and many others, right now in this challenging economy. I respectfully disagreed with him on one thing: Camp is not a luxury. It's an important part of our fulfilling our promise as a church to raise the children we baptize - and those in the church who haven't yet been baptized - to be disciples of Christ. That's why we're here.

Requests for assistance with camp fees in 2010 have hit an all-time high - exceeding 2009 fig-

ures, which were record numbers a year ago. We are asking for help in meeting the needs. Please consider how you can help these families with a gift to the Glisson Campership Fund:

- ◆ A gift of any size will help!
- ◆ \$435 will cover the full cost of one week of Village Camp; \$455 for senior high Village Camp
- ◆ \$485 will cover the full cost of one week of Adventure Outpost
- ◆ \$545 will cover the full cost of one week of Sparrowwood

The dad who sent this e-mail to me closed his reply

with this:

"It is extremely difficult to ask, but the desire for my kids to go to camp is greater than my pride."

You can help answer the prayer of a child who wants to attend summer camp - and the dad who wants it to happen. Please do what you can to help these families by visiting the *Donate* Now feature on our website, or clipping the form below and returning it with your check.

russell

C. Russell Davis
Director/Manager

My gift to Glisson

Give online using **Donate Now** at glisson.org or return this with your check to
690 Camp Glisson Road, Dahlonega, GA 30533

Apply my gift to: Name: _____

Annual Fund Address: _____

Camperships _____

other: _____ Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____



Remembering “Uncle Bob” Lanford

(Continued from page 1)

two roles have been held by one individual ever since. Bob was just as likely to repair a broken toilet or monitor the water treatment chemicals as he was to lead Singing-on-the-porch or deliver a sermon in Chapel.



Nicknamed “Uncle Bob” by campers and staff, Bob Lanford was completely dedicated to the Glisson ministry. “We just didn’t see Bob during summer camp”, Mary recalls. “If the kids and I wanted to have dinner with Bob, we had to go to the Glisson Dining Hall each evening. He wouldn’t come home until everything was quiet in camp each night—which was usually around 11:00 or later.”

It was during Bob’s tenure at Glisson that the Sparrowwood ministry found a permanent home at Glisson. In 1979, the ministry became Bob’s responsibility as Glisson Director while the program was still housed at Hartwell Youth Camp. Mary remembers how Bob would feel torn by his responsibilities which then spanned 100 miles. “He would spend at least one day each week at Hartwell. When he was at one location, he would worry about the campers at the other location.” For this reason, Bob worked tirelessly to bring Sparrowwood to Glisson. After Bob assumed responsibility for the program in 1979, Glisson officially became the permanent home for Sparrowwood in 1982.

Mary visited Glisson in 2008 while summer camp was in session. She was pleasantly surprised that some of the Sparrowwood campers recognized her. They said, “There’s Aunt Mary!” and ran to her with hugs. “I was so pleased that they remembered me even though it had been 25 years

since Bob and I had been here”, Mary recalls. “Moving Sparrowwood to Glisson had worked out so much better than anyone imagined it would, and some of the campers in the first group transitioned to Glisson in 1982 are still attending Sparrowwood today.”

Bob always believed that no job was ever too big or too difficult to achieve. He always encouraged his staff, his campers and his family to take things “in small steps”. This philosophy and Bob’s engineering expertise were called into action in 1980 when the federal government ordered all earthen dams be lowered. The dam at Toccoa Falls had failed and several people downstream were killed in the resulting flooding. The Lake Hale dam fell under this requirement, and it was Bob Lanford who spearheaded the effort to lower the water level and reinforce the dam to meet the new federal mandate.

Mary says that Bob would get physically ill in May every year from the stress and worry of finding the right summer staff. “He wouldn’t admit it, but it happened every year like clockwork”, Mary says. Once he found the right summer staff, Bob would help them set “goals and objectives” each week on Sunday mornings as the staff prepared for campers to arrive.

“At the end of the summer, the staff didn’t want to leave. We took the time to clean-up camp and get things squared away, we said farewells to another wonderful summer staff, and then after everyone was gone, Bob and I would sit on the stone wall at the Dining Hall listening to the sound of the Falls. It would be the first time since June we had been able to hear the Falls from there because of the fun sounds of summer campers. That was always such a wonderful moment—the sound of the Falls reminding us of God’s love that never stopped flowing through our lives.”

In addition to his eight years as Glisson’s leader, Bob Lanford also served as pastor at Rockmart UMC, Bethany UMC Smyrna, Kennesaw UMC where his funeral was held, Bethel UMC Hall County, and most recently at Mt. Pleasant UMC in Cleveland where his memorial service was held. Mary recalls that every one of their appointments was a really good fit for Bob. They developed life-long friendships at each of the local churches they served. But those years at Glisson were especially meaningful because Bob was able to see his love for children and his love for the outdoors come together in a life-changing ministry—a ministry which is still changing young lives for Christ today.

While many of us refer to Bob Lanford as “Uncle Bob”, Mary still calls him her “sweet love”. They were married 54 years and raised a wonderful family which includes four children and 6 grandchildren. Mary still lives in the home which Bob built with his own hands in Dahlonega—a place where he and Mary spent so many happy years at Glisson.



Things we learned from Dad

That a father will back-up his son
Rob Lanford

Sometimes it’s better to enjoy the performance than to perform
Lecia Lanford Landolt

I do not have to be perfect to be loved
Norby Lanford

God loves you as you are, but He deserves your best
Nan Lanford

Thank you!

2009 Glisson Annual Fund gifts

Circle of 100

Circle of 100

Mountain Climbers (\$10,000 and above)

Anonymous
Charles Edwin Suber Foundation

1925 Society (\$1,925 - 4,999)

Bill & Thelma Childers
Malone & Charlotte Dodson
Newnan First UMC
Neil & Debbie Pittman
E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc.
Trinity on the Hill UMC
Doug & Susan White



Creek Hikers (\$5,000 - 9,999)

Zack and Leigh Martin
Robert Moore & Julie Hotchkiss
Raymond and Lori Sheley
Ethel Spruill estate

Friends of Glisson (\$1,200 - 1,924)

Mallory Anderson
Joe & Melanie Brasher
Jim & Nancy Combs
Russell & Becky Davis
Jamie & Karen Harper
Bucky & Leigh Highsmith
Russell & Stella Ivie
Sara Kahan
Lewis & Kathleen Miers
Michael & Julie Potts
Nate Scranton
Robert & Lynelle Stewart
Sidney & Enid Tate
Technology Services Innovations

Staff Circle (\$700 - 1,199)

Chick-Fil-A, Inc.
Phil & Tracy Dodson
Joan Gill

JoAnn Gwin
Haines & Carolyn Hill
Emmie House

Jeff & Jill Jernigan
Bradley & Emily McEntyre
Northbrook UMC

Charles & Mildred Reeve
Elaine Sharp
Hal & Caroline Silcox

David & Mary Lee Stubblefield
Matt & Beth Tanzy
Union Hill UMC

Counselor Circle (\$300 - 699)

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Shawn & Julia Dekold

Bill & Nadine Fincher
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James & Margaret Freeman
Debra Hayes

A. Kempton Haynes
Russell Jones
Leslie McElroy Willingham
Lige & Ena Moore

Howard & Grace Hughes
Newnan First UMM
Dudley & Mary Owens
Margaret Owens

Madge Prince
Alan and Ann Quandee
Mary Raum
Herschel & Gladys Sheets

Mark & Mary Shubert
Skyland UMC
George & Rebecca Thomason
Darrel & Anne Vaughan
Joel & Kitty Wise

Camper Circle (\$100 - 299)

Anonymous (5)
Amanda Auchenpaugh
Steven & Sandy Augsburg
Kimberly Bauer
Bethel UMC Morganton
John & Luanne Cape
Mike & Connie Cash
Mark & Lisa Cawthon
Ralph & Shirley Chastain
Debra Collins
Anne Corbitt
Larry & Beth Corbitt

Joan Crane
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John & Deborah DeLauder
Marian Edwards
Empties4Cash
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Zach Fitzpatrick
Bob & Debbie Fletcher
Chris & Janie Francis
Laura Fuller
Lee & Karen Fullerton
Greg Gaston

Scott Giffen & Yvi Martin
Homer & Patricia Gold
William & Alice Head
Hiawassee UMC Men
Inman UMC
Jeff Jansma
Tom & Sally Jarrett
Bev & Tuck Jones
Elizabeth Jones
Hal & Melinda Jones
Laura Lamb
John & Lorna Marchiolo

Mike & Karen Martin
Robert & Carol McCullough
Len & Kathy McFarland
Stephen & Jill McKenzie
Mason McWhorter
Charlie & Susan Middlebrooks
Glen & Sherry Mitchell
David & Katherine Moore
John & Nancy Morris
Mount Pleasant UMC
Mount Pleasant UMW
Alan & Elizabeth Newton

Hoyt & Latrelle Oliver
Robert & Lynn Pahl
Tim & Susan Poolos
Rebecca Prescott
Bill & Shelley Prevost
Robert & Camille Price
Sam Rauch
Lynda Rea
Wayne & Jennie Richardson
Tom & Pam Roberds
Elise Roberts
Jeff & Sherry Ross

Phil & Elizabeth Schroeder
Bil & Marti Slife
Sparta-Knowles Chapel UMC
Jane Ellen Speers
Jerry & Pam Swafford
Gerald & Lynda Thurman
Verizon Foundation
Richard & Mary Wall
Joseph & Mary Webb
William & Sharon Wildman
Clint & Alyson Winter

Annual Fund donors

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Lacey Bauer
Scott & Courtney Bazemore
Winston & Christine Blumberg
Neal Bond Fleming
Robert & Judy Boulineau
Blake & Jenny Bryant
Thomas & Darla Bumgardner
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Craig Watson
Brian & Clara Welch
Charles & Aundrea Welden
Darren & Gretchen Wells
George & Betty White
Joseph & Rebecca White
Maria White
Kurt Wien
Travis & Juanita Woodward



Gifts to the Glisson Annual Fund are unrestricted, which means these gifts provide Glisson staff with the latitude to use them toward the area of greatest need at any given time, including:

- Camperships
- Facility renovation
- Program enhancements
- Emerging ministries
- Operations
- Capital projects



While Annual Fund gifts are unrestricted, which qualifies the donor for inclusion in our Annual Fund giving levels (*listed on facing page*), donors can also designate that their gifts be used for a specific purpose at Glisson.

2009 Designated Gifts

Patricia Adams
Courtney Allred
Mallory Anderson
Anonymous (5)
Claire Asbury
Amanda Auchenpaugh
Richard & Ellen Auchenpaugh
Automated Logic
Bryan & Debbie Benfield
Bethany UMC Smyrna
Lloyd & Patricia Blackwell
L.H. & Martha Bodkin
Robert & Judy Boulineau
Charles Thompson Estes Foundation
Chick-Fil-A, Inc.
Clarkesville First UMC
Concord UMC Pike County
Edward & Doris Davis
Raymond & Jan Deblois
John & Deborah DeLauder
Bruce & Merri Douglas
Dunwoody UMC
Forsyth First UMC
Gainesville 1st UMC Comet Class
Christopher & Louise Gioe

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Jamie & Karen Harper
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Intersouth Plumbing Services
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Jeff Jansma
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Roy & Julie Mott
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Don Mudgett
New Hope UMC Gainesville
North Decatur UMC
N. Decatur UMC Reese Griffin Class
Joseph & Theresa Novis
Anne & Karl Offermann
Hoyt & Latrelle Oliver
Sarah O'Neal

Owl Rock UMC
Madge Prince
Alan & Ann Quandee
Charles & Mildred Reeve
Tom & Frances Rice
Wayne & Jennie Richardson
Tom & Pam Roberds
Thomas & Karla Ruppenicker
Mike & Chris Selleck
Dee & Kandy Shelnett
Simpsonwood UMC
Carol Skaggs
Darrell & Joni Skogman
Henry & Shirley Smoak
Jane Stewart
David & Mary Lee Stubblefield
Leland Sweezy
Thomson First UMC
Tuckston UMC Gatekeepers Class
Brian & Clara Welch
Joseph & Rebecca White
Walter & Dee Ann Wilcox
Willis Chiropractic Center
William & Dawn Wilson
Clint & Allyson Winter
Travis & Juanita Woodward

In spite of our best efforts to include every donor, we may have inadvertently omitted an individual who made a gift in 2009. If you are aware of anyone who made a gift in 2009, but whose name is missing from this list, please notify us - phil.dodson@glisson.org.

Start your Glisson “Tiny Towns” Collection

You can start your very own Glisson “Tiny Town” collection by ordering one of these special Chapel replicas. The first in a series of figures honoring all the special places at Glisson, this limited edition handmade Chapel replica will be available only during 2010.

Over the next few years, we anticipate creating additional replicas - likely to include the Dining Hall, Cane Creek Falls, a village cabin, Old Rec Hall and maybe even Lake Hale. One additional figure will be created each year until the

series is complete, but each figure will only be available for that one year.

We begin this collection with the Chapel during the year we celebrate its 60th anniversary. Dedicated in 1950, the Chapel was originally an open-air structure before being “winterized” in 1964 for year-round use.

Visit the **Alumni pages** of the Glisson website to learn how to start your collection by ordering your Chapel replica.

glisson.org



Master Plan Update

Glisson has experienced steady growth over the past several years - reaching gradually more children and youth through the summer camp ministry and more people of all ages through the Glisson retreat ministry. Phase One of the Glisson Master Plan was completed in the early years of this decade, and now it is time to take the final steps in preparing Glisson for the next 50 years of ministry.

In the fall of 2009, the Glisson Board of Directors hired Kaleidoscope, Inc., a master planning consulting firm, to help identify the facility needs and possibilities that can support our ministries as they continue to develop and grow. The consultants began working with a task force of Glisson folks - including current staff and board members, former board members and summer staff - to discern how to most

effectively move Glisson’s ministry forward.

As the Task Force continued its work with Kaleidoscope into early 2010, two different listening sessions were held in February - one at Mt. Pisgah UMC and the other at Glisson - to solicit input from a broad spectrum of Glisson alumni and friends.

Once the Task Force had an opportunity to assimilate the feedback from so many people with strong affinity for the Glisson legacy, a series of recommendations were submitted to Kaleidoscope, and as a result the Task Force’s work was completed.

Kaleidoscope has submitted their final recommendations to the

Glisson Board, and the Board endorsed the Master Plan at its May 2010 meeting.

We invite you to visit the “About” page on the Glisson website to learn more about the Glisson Master Plan Update:

glisson.org

Important Dates

June 6
Summer Camp Begins

June 7-11
Glisson Day Camp
Birmingham UMC

June 16-18
Glisson Day Camp
North GA Annual Conference

June 7-11
Glisson Day Camp - Dahlenega

July 19-23
Glisson Day Camp
Johns Creek UMC

July 22
Board Retreat

August 8
Summer Camp Ends

August 26
Board of Directors
Executive Committee Meeting

September 6
Board & Cabin Owners’
Picnic

September 18
Board of Directors Meeting

October 14
Board of Directors
Executive Committee Meeting

November 6
Board of Directors Meeting

Unexpected Major Gift

(Continued from page 1)

member of Atlanta First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Dr. Jim Ellison, Senior Pastor of Atlanta First UMC, says "Brother Ed understood faithfulness, to his family, his friends, his church, and his God." Glisson is grateful to Jim Campbell for extending Mr. Suber's faithfulness to include Glisson.

Because it was designated for the Glisson Annual Fund, this gift was unrestricted. As a result, it allowed the Glisson staff to complete several facility and program enhancements which were very much needed, but would not have been possible without such a generous Annual Fund gift:

Down-Under Renovation

The area underneath the Dining Hall, known as "Down-Under", is being transformed into much-needed meeting space. Structural enhancements have allowed us to remove the interior support columns, thereby creating an open meeting space for up to 100 people. This will not only provide indoor



Charles Edwin Suber
1923 - 2007

space for summer campers during inclement weather, but will allow Glisson to serve even more year-round retreat groups for whom bedspace is plentiful, but meeting space has been limited.

Expanded Crafts Area

The lower level of Old Rec Hall has been reclaimed as additional crafts areas - nearly tripling the craft space for our summer campers. We now have the capability to add crafts such as candle-making, weaving, print-making, bead-making,

wood-working, mosaics and jewelry-making to our existing craft opportunities.

New Low Elements Circuit

We have a brand-new, completely re-designed low elements circuit awaiting this year's summer campers - replacing low elements which were due to be replaced. The low elements course includes a series of physical and mental elements designed to promote teamwork and friendships, and to develop trust and confidence.

In addition to these major enhancements, this gift has made the following smaller improvements possible:

- ◆ Additional overnight campsite location for Village campers
- ◆ Improved zip line landing area
- ◆ Day Camp mini-bus, trailer and Day Camp equipment
- ◆ New heaters for the Chapel and Holland Building

Mr. Suber will be inducted posthumously into the Cane Creek Falls Fellowship, Glisson's planned giving society. The Fellowship recognizes individuals who have made *The Gift of a Lifetime* by including Glisson in their estate plans.



Andy Offutt Irwin, nationally-known singer, songwriter and storyteller, and former Glisson summer counselor, performs a concert during Glisson Day.



Summer Theme

"May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi" is an old Hebrew blessing. It is an encouragement to discipleship so faithful that the disciple follows the rabbi closely enough to be covered in whatever dirt and dust the rabbi kicks-up while walking down the trail.

DUST is the Glisson theme for Summer 2010. Each week this summer we will experience, with the help of our volunteer "Theologians-in-Residence", what

it means to closely follow our rabbi, our teacher, Jesus.

We won't just talk about friendship and giving and inclusion and rejoicing - we'll be practicing walking those paths with the help of counselors and staff who care deeply about our campers.

We're looking forward to seeing this summer's campers covered in the dust, the "holy dirt", of Glisson this summer.



On Glisson Day, ground was broken for the Cane Creek Falls trail honoring Lige and Ena Moore and their decades of loyalty and service to Glisson. This trail is made possible by a gift from Lige and Ena's four adult children and their spouses. The honorees are pictured here with their four children, left to right, Robert Moore, Rebecca White, David Moore and Susan Posey.

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust,
we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.
1 Corinthians 15:49



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*I can't change the entire world
And set all captives free.
I can't turn all wrongs to right
As I'd like for them to be.
But there's one thing I can do
And this shall be my goal
To open up my life to Christ
To cleanse and make me whole.*

*~Bob Lanford
October 26, 2005*

glisson.org