

Echoes from Camp

THE GLISSON NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

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Extreme Makeover - "Down Under"

In the Summer 2010 edition of Echoes from Camp, we announced that Glisson had received a very generous gift from the Charles Edwin Suber Foundation through Foundation trustee James Campbell. Because this was an Annual Fund gift, it represented unrestricted funds which Glisson could use in the areas of greatest need.

One of Glisson's greatest needs in recent years has been meeting space - particularly for retreat groups in the fall, winter and spring. While Glisson has plenty of bed space to host as many as 350 guests in a weekend, we sometimes find that we are unable to serve retreat groups during certain weekends because of a shortage of adequate meeting space.

The area underneath the Dining Hall, known for decades as "Down Under", has been little more than a rain



location for meetings in recent years. Groups were unable to effectively meet in Down Under because the room was broken-up by several concrete support columns through the center of the room. In addition, the doors and windows were not energy efficient, making the room uncomfortable during cold weather, and the overhead noise



from foot traffic in the Dining Hall was very distracting for groups attempting to engage in meaningful discussion.

All of these problems were addressed by this Down Under renovation:

(1) Concrete support columns were replaced with reinforced steel beams running across the ceiling.

(2) Sound-proofing in the suspended ceiling has dramatically improved the acoustics by eliminating noise from the Dining Hall floor overhead.

(3) New recessed compact fluorescent lighting has replaced exposed fluorescent tubes for better illumination and better energy efficiency

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Updated Master Plan

Phase one of the Glisson Master Plan was completed in the early years of this decade. New Village cabins, Ivie Lodge and the Bob Cagle Program Center are examples of the improvements which resulted from that very successful campaign.

In 2004, the Glisson Board of Directors identified Glisson's "Next Steps of Development", a series of capital projects which represented the most pressing facility needs at that time (see listing on page 4).

After completion of the swimming pool project in 2008, we turned our attention to the next project on the list - the Dining Hall.

Should we renovate the current Dining Hall or build a new one?

If we renovate, how will we feed our campers and retreat groups during construction?

If we build a new Dining Hall, where would it be located?

It quickly became apparent that we needed help to answer these questions.

In the fall of 2009, the Glisson Board of Directors hired Kaleidoscope, Inc., a master planning consulting firm, to help guide us through the process of updating our Master Plan in light of how Glisson has grown over the past decade.

A task force made up of Glisson staff, Board members, former Board

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Upcoming Dates

December 1, 2010
Summer camp online registration begins

January 1, 2011
Summer camp Open registration begins

February 5
Board of Directors meeting

February 25
Confirmation Retreat

March 4
Spiritual Life Retreat I

March 11
Spiritual Life Retreat II

March 18
Spiritual Life Retreat III

March 25
Spiritual Life Retreat IV

April 30
Board of Directors meeting

May 29
Summer camp begins

July 21
Board Retreat

July 29
Summer camp ends

(Continued from page 1)

(4) New energy-efficient windows and storefront doors were installed.

(5) The concrete slab floor was covered with low-pile carpeting, making it possible for groups to sit comfortably on the floor for group discussions and other group activities.

With a portion of this very generous Annual Fund gift from the Charles Edwin Suber Foundation, Glisson was able to begin addressing one of the pressing needs identified in our Updated Master Plan - more flexible meeting space for our summer camp and retreat guests.

“Down Under” Makeover



Down Under as it appeared in the early 1960's



“First Camper” Program

Glisson is proud to announce the First Camper Program - an outreach to North Georgia United Methodist Churches which have not sent campers to Glisson in the past five years.

For any church which has not had a Glisson summer camper since 2005, the senior pastor is granted the equivalent of one full campership to encourage members to consider Glisson summer camp for 2011. This award can be offered to an individual or divided among any number of campers, at the discretion of the senior pastor.

If you are a member of a church which qualifies for the First Camper award, please contact your senior pastor for more information on how you can start, or re-invigorate, a Glisson summer tradition in your church.

Questions?

(706) 864-6181

info@glisson.org

Time is running out!

This is your last chance to start your Tiny Towns collection by ordering one of these beautiful Chapel anniversary replicas - celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Glisson Chapel.

In January, the Chapel replica will be retired and replaced with the next piece in the Glisson series for 2011.

Visit the Alumni tab on glisson.org and look for the “Tiny Towns” page to learn how to order yours.



Five programs ... one mission



Village - an experiential Christian community

Our core overnight camp program, the Village serves 75% of Glisson's campers each summer. Campers live in our cabin village, have meals in the Dining Hall, worship in the Chapel, swim in the pool, hike in the creek, camp overnight in the forest, take aim at the archery range, shape clay in the Craft Shack and enjoy dozens of other activities during their camp week. The heart of the Village experience is the living group, a peer group with whom each camper spends the camp week. Village sessions are available for rising 2nd graders through rising college freshmen.

Sparrowwood - where campers aren't defined by disability

For over 40 years, the Sparrowwood program has served children, youth and adults with mild to moderate developmental disabilities. This program can accommodate 18 campers per week and is one of the few that serves older adults; serving campers aged 8 to 80 in 2010. Sparrowwood campers participate daily in Village camp living groups - allowing all to discover that we have more in common than we have differences.



Adventure Outpost - outdoor living skills for living-out in Creation

Pioneer, for elementary campers, is an introduction to outdoor living, horse riding and outdoor skills. **Frontier**, for middle-school campers, offers opportunities to hone skills and to learn new ones with trips for overnight horse trail rides and kayaking, backpacking and rock climbing experiences. **Expedition**, for high school campers, builds on skills previously learned and takes campers off-site for the week to hone outdoor living skills while building their kayaking, backpacking and rock climbing knowledge.



Day Camp - camp experiences for, with and at your church

Eighty-five years of camping experience offered in the convenience of your home ... church. This is the hope of Glisson's new Day Camp program - to bring the acceptance, care, love and growth experienced by being part of an intentional Christian camp community to the children of your congregation and neighborhood. Many of our traditional camp activities are set-up at the local church - including archery, crafts, games, initiative and low elements course, drama, worship, tree climbing. A unique experience offered so that campers might gain self-confidence and grow in their ability to love one another in Christian community.



Glisson Leadership Program - developing and practicing Christian leadership

What if we didn't just talk about how to be a Christian leader, but we practiced it? During the first week of this two-week program, LIT's examine their own gifts and graces, learn about personalities and group dynamics, practice the skills of facilitating groups in games, Bible study and debriefing. During the second week, LIT's put their understandings to the test as they serve as counselors, staffing a Day Camp in partnership with a North Georgia local congregation ... learning and practicing leadership that transforms the lives of LIT's and Day Campers together.



The “New Crew”

For the past few years, we've received comments from Sparrowwood campers telling us they wanted more of Glisson, more of Village Camp, more of everything. We began evaluating ways we could expand the very successful Sparrowwood summer camp ministry. We considered offering more advanced Sparrowwood programs, expanding the existing Sparrowwood summer program, and even offering off-site Sparrowwood adventures. We wanted to offer more to Sparrowwood campers, but we weren't sure exactly what that should look like.

During this process, we consulted with professionals in the field of special needs. It became clear that we needed to create opportunities for Sparrowwood campers to develop their leadership

potential. Two positions were created on the Glisson Crew - paid positions reserved for former Sparrowwood campers.

In the Glisson Leadership Program, youth begin as Leaders-in-Training between 10th and 12th grade. Once they've graduated from high school they are eligible for paid positions on the Crew, then they are able to serve as counselors after completing one year of college. Crew members have responsibility in virtually every aspect of the summer camp program. They are typically the first to rise each morning to begin their daily duties and they work well into the evening.

These two newest Crew members performed many of the same duties the other

Crew members performed. They served meals and washed dishes. They also helped run the camp store, assisted at the challenge course, delivered camp mail, set-up campfires, and assisted with parking cars for Sunday check-in and Friday check-out. In addition to these work-related duties throughout the Village, they also participated in daily bible studies and leadership meetings with the rest of the Crew.

The initial effort to simply expand the Sparrowwood summer camp program eventually turned into much more. One of the many ideas we considered on how to grow the program evolved into this first-ever experience for former Sparrowwood campers to join the ranks of the Glisson staff by serving on Crew.



Former Sparrowwood campers Chris Hunnicutt, pictured above with staff member Emma Neale in 2009, and Christina Marando (below) served as members of the Glisson Crew in 2010.



Updated Master Plan

(Continued from page 1) and staff alumni worked with Kaleidoscope into early 2010. Input was solicited from a wide range of Glisson alumni and friends through a series of listening sessions in February.

Once all feedback was compiled by the task force, Kaleidoscope made their final recommendations to the Glisson Board and the Board endorsed the final version of the Updated Master Plan in May.

While the need for a new Dining Hall is at the core of this Updated Master Plan, the Kaleidoscope process revealed several related needs which accompany the concept of a new Dining Hall, such as traffic flow concerns, meeting space and summer staff housing.

More details on the Kaleidoscope recommendations can be found under the “About” tab on the Glisson website - glisson.org.

Glisson’s Next Steps of Development

As identified by the Glisson Board of Directors in 2004

- ◆ Stream restoration, completed in 2006.
- ◆ Sparrowwood Lodge structural support, completed in 2006.
- ◆ Welcome Center, completed in 2006.
- ◆ Swimming Pool, completed in 2008.
- ◆ Dining Hall
- ◆ Auditorium

Once the Updated Master Plan received Board approval, the next step was to complete a feasibility study to determine if a capital campaign could be conducted to meet the needs identified in the Master Plan.

In August, Glisson selected Coxe Curry and Associates, one of the most highly-regarded fundraising firms in the Atlanta area, to conduct our feasibility study. Preliminary work was done in September and October, and the feasibility study officially kicked-off in November.

During this feasibility study, Coxe Curry will interview a number of Glisson donors, friends and organizations to determine if a successful capital campaign could be completed. A final report will be delivered to the Glisson Board in February 2011.



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Enter your email address so that you can receive our year-round e-newsletters.



The Glisson Gang

In September 2010, a group named the Glisson Gang (pictured at left) spent two glorious weeks enjoying a different kind of "mountaintop experience" - they traveled to the Swiss Alps together.

These eight individuals, accompanied by three additional friends, were all Glisson summer campers, counselors and Summer Program Directors in the 1950's and 1960's.

By traveling through the Alps primarily on trains, the Glisson Gang was able to see some of the most visually striking scenery available anywhere in the world.

To learn more about the Glisson Gang, their Glisson connections and their glorious trip, visit the **Alumni** tab at glisson.org and look for the **Alumni Spotlight** page.

"I cannot express adequately what a blessing camp was to our son and to our family this year. He came home excited about life, excited about his love for our Lord and Savior, and just plain excited.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

Michelle, mother of a 13-year-old camper



"My kids had an amazing time now 2 years in a row. They could not stop talking about their counselors. The living groups are amazing!"

Sharon, mother of two 2010 campers

glisson.org



Below, 10-year-old summer camper Lillie Dravis wrote, and mailed, a postcard to God this past summer.



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

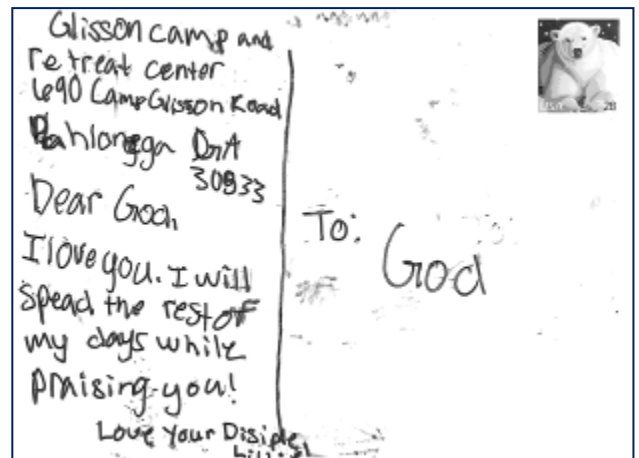
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