

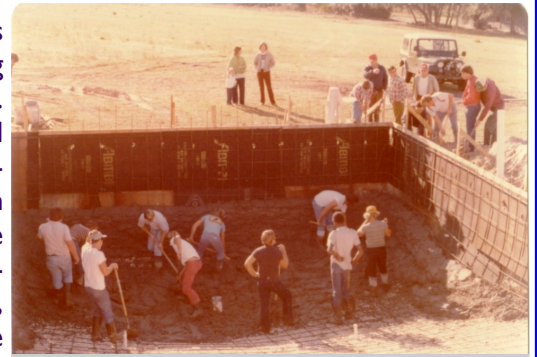
# Lakewood Reflections

## FALL 2011



As Lakewood approaches 47 years of service, we are already thinking about the 50th year celebration. We think about the lives touched by what Lakewood offers to thousands of individuals and families each year. And we often contemplate the number of people that have been involved with praying, planning, building, and maintaining Lakewood. So, we are beginning to assemble photos and memories regarding Lakewood's history in anticipation of having a fun year celebrating God's faithfulness and all those who have made Lakewood a

blessing to so many. Do you have any memories or memorabilia you'd like to share? Do you have any photos or pamphlets we could scan into a computer? Do you have a fun story to tell either in writing or by video interview? Do you enjoy scrap booking, writing, assembling Power Points, or doing video interviews? Please let us know how you would like to help make our 50th year celebration a fun and honoring event.



NEW SWIMMING POOL — 1979 ??



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Brooksville, FL 34602



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### Administrator's Reflections:

Are there any political news junkies like me out there? I enjoy listening to opposing points of view, the use, and misuse, of reasoning, and thinking about how these various positions compare to Scripture. Now, I remember being taught that certain things shouldn't be spoken of in mixed company, namely politics and religion, unless one wishes to start an argument. Though these discussions are necessary at times, I want to steer clear of that potential here by simply stating an observation. There appears to be a steadily growing unrest in America, and around the world. No matter what the reasons or who is at fault, it seems many are becoming increasingly more polarized.

When opposing charges sufficiently accumulate in the atmosphere, lightning breaks out resulting in destruction of anything in its path. Growing up in the 1960's, I experienced similar feelings of tension, even as a young boy. I witnessed those tensions eventually becoming too great as violence broke out leaving more hurt and destruction in its path. Though good may prevail through bad, one may argue that the ends are not necessarily a justification for the means. And this brings me to my point.

As Christians, we carry a serious responsibility to live out the life of Christ. What would Jesus do as a citizen of the United States? Would Jesus agree with our founders' understanding that all people are created with certain inalienable rights? Would He ascribe with the concept of self government through elected representatives? Would He have taken part in the political process in the US? Or would He have left it to others to tarry over such things as He remained focused solely on the Kingdom that is to come?

We may have passionate beliefs about these things and we might find that airing them would attract lightning strikes. But can we all agree that Jesus brought to us a gospel of peace which ultimately provides the answer for all things. We know that when Christian stands beside Christian in the future Kingdom, there will be complete unity. We may not agree when it comes to political philosophies, but let us be bound together in the unity that is Christ, not separated by the atmosphere of philosophies, but sharing a common ground that absorbs the charges and prevents the destruction of a lightning strike. Let us exemplify peace to a restless culture. As Ephesians 4:2-3 admonishes, **Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.**

Lakewood Retreat stands as a testimony of peace. It is a place dedicated to the purpose of showing the love of Christ to all and to serving selflessly. It is a place to once again focus on the goodness and greatness of God, to let tensions go and to be renewed in mind, body, and spirit. Pray that we as Christ followers would, above all, represent Him well.

Bud Goodwin



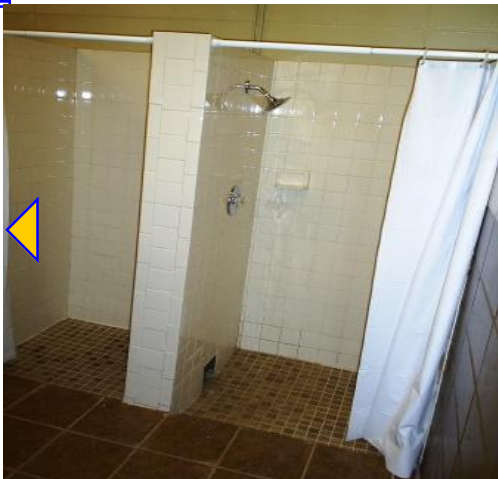
# LAKEWOOD REFLECTIONS



A MINISTRY OF THE SOUTHERN MENNONITE CAMP ASSOCIATION

## What's New At Lakewood?

It seems there is always something in the works. Since last fall, the cabin bathhouse has been updated with tiled showers and floors, a fresh coat of paint, large commercial ceiling fans, and other upgrades. Three cabins have been remodeled inside along with the dining hall conference room. Two cabins and the Administrator's house received new metal roofs. The pool was resurfaced. A soccer field has been added. A long list of repairs, replacements, and additions were made to the playground. And many other smaller projects were completed. Thank you to all who helped through gifts and prayers, to our winter volunteer teams and many others who lent a hand, and to the hard working Lakewood team. It is a joy to hear the many compliments received from guests as each year they see improvements that make their retreat experience more enjoyable.



## Volunteers Are Signing Up For Another Fruitful Season

We are excited to announce that many of the volunteer couples who have joined us in the past two or three years are scheduled to return. They have become family to us and to each other and their return is like a big reunion. In addition, we have some new couples joining us this year.

Our volunteers are a diverse group. Some volunteer full time, traveling from site to site across the nation in an RV. Others volunteer for a few weeks or months and return home. Some have active businesses or are still employed and work around a flexible schedule. And some join us for a day or more from Sarasota or the local area. Many Christian denominations are represented. All come with an attitude of service to Christ and His Kingdom and are a great blessing to us. It is amazing to see God bring together personalities, interests, skills, and experiences into a team that can accomplish the tasks that are planned.

If God is prompting you to join the team this winter, whether for part of a day or for a longer stay, we encourage you to call for information. Join the family for a fun and rewarding experience that impacts the thousands of Christians we serve each year.

Please pray for the safety and health of our volunteers as they travel and work. Join with us in praising the Lord for their faithfulness.

## As Thanksgiving and Christmas

approach we pray that you and your family enjoy the rich blessing of God's peace and love. It is a wonderful time to remember all that He has done in our lives through the year and to celebrate His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is also a great time to share with others about His goodness and grace as carols and hymns play boldly in stores and on radio stations and the story of Jesus' birth is openly rehearsed. May each of us ask God to show us opportunities to share Christ and make an eternal difference in the lives of others this holiday season. Blessings for a joyous season.



## A Note About Summer Camp

2011 Summer Camp was a great success in almost every way including excellent and relevant teaching in and out of the seminars, great worship, terrific trained and responsible counselors, detailed planning and preparation, fun games, lasting relationships, and many decisions for Christ. Yet, attendance was down. Is it the economy, the cost of camp, summer schedules, other interests, inadequate communication? We're not sure. Each year the committee is energized, active, and excited to provide the best camp ever. They are already working on the details of 2012. The theme will be "Run For Your Life" from 1Cor 9:24-27. Camp dates will be Sunday, July 22nd, through Friday, July 27th. We hope you will mark your calendar and plan to take advantage of the wonderful life-enriching experience that a week at Lakewood summer youth camp has to offer.



## Year End Donations

**Each year we have a list of projects we would like to accomplish with the help of our volunteers. In recent years, it was year end donations that enabled us to purchase materials for many projects so we can maximize volunteer talents and productivity. Would you consider making a year end donation of any amount? 100% of your gift is used to make needed improvements to Lakewood. Thank you for your prayerful support.**

## Do You Know...

- Reflections can be sent via email to save printing and mailing costs?
  - Lakewood sends monthly highlights by email to friends and guests with information and special offers?
  - Board members and friends receive a weekly email update from the Administrator about the events of the week and you can too.
  - Lakewood has a Facebook page with nearly 600 friends at [www.facebook.com/lakewoodretreat](http://www.facebook.com/lakewoodretreat). See what other friends are saying about Lakewood.
  - You can write a review about your last visit on Google Maps. Search for Lakewood Retreat Brooksville, FL and click the reviews button. Tell others what you like about Lakewood.
- Please call or send us an email if you would like to be added to our email lists so you can stay informed about all that's happening at Lakewood.

Visit [www.lakewoodretreat.org](http://www.lakewoodretreat.org) for more pictures and the latest information.