



**Sylvan Hills**  
**Christian Service Camp**  
*Where God & Youth Are Partners*  
[www.sylvanhills.org](http://www.sylvanhills.org)

*December, 2009*



**Merry Christmas,  
Camp Supporters!**

At this time of the year, from Thanksgiving to Christmas, most of us can enjoy one of life's greatest pleasures: fellowship and reunion with family and friends. If you have no children or close relatives, sometimes the holiday season can get you down. Take heart! Enjoy God's blessing of a large family of Christian brothers and sisters waiting to embrace you and spread good cheer! This is also known as the season of giving. What helps you stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas amid the commercialism and frenzied shopping sprees? Can you think past the wrapping paper, tree decorating, lights and menu preparations to that stable in Bethlehem where it all began? It was the Magi who brought the first gifts to a struggling young family which would soon be on the run from King Herod. Yes, we've seen other famous gift givers arise through the years—St. Nicholas, Kris Kringle and Santa Claus—but the spirit of giving, and the need for giving, began with the gold, frankincense and myrrh.

At Sylvan Hills we are not being pursued by King Herod, but our children's minds and souls are being constantly assailed by a world full of trinkets and baubles, vampires and wizards and high tech electronics. We want to continue to provide a spiritual oasis, a refuge and learning place for our greatest resource and most precious blessing: our children. As you read the following letter from a long time

camper and now camp staff volunteer you too should see how important Christian camping has become.

*As I sit at my desk writing this letter, I look outside my window to see leaves falling from the trees. A winter wind is blowing through the valley urging my summer dreaming on. I dream of those hills in the camp song, the hills that were my home this past summer. A place where the smell of Maggie's cooking floats in the air. A place where the kids are spread around the camp reading their Bibles. A place where the girls' dorm looks like a laser light show at night, with flashlights flashing everywhere and giggles filling the dark. The more I dream of the summer, the more I dream of Sylvan Hills.*

*This past summer was my first opportunity to work at Sylvan Hills. I have always attended another camp while the rest of my family went to Sylvan Hills. When the chance came to work on staff, I said yes because of all the stories my sisters told me while growing up. Their stories told of the fun they had and the lessons they learned at camp. This summer my experience reminded me of two lessons I learned long ago at camp but had forgotten.*

*The first lesson I learned was at Jr. High week. It was the simple lesson of joy!*

*We spent the week learning about the Lord and fellowshiping with one another. I was reminded of the importance of sharing laughter and getting to know younger brothers and sisters in Christ while also showing the younger generation that being a Christian doesn't mean giving up having fun because God, in fact, wants us to have fun!*

*The second lesson I was reminded of happened during Junior week. It was the lesson of child-like faith. The campers during this week were the poster children for what camp is all about. They were like sponges at lesson time, begging for more worksheets to do. The most powerful moment of my summer happened during the traditional singing of the camp song at camp fire. On Monday night when we started to sing, the campers gathered in tight groups to share flashlights and music sheets. As I stood there watching I thought, "When was the last time I invited everyone around me to share in the Lord? When was the last time that I couldn't get enough of lesson time and asked for more?" Here I was at camp to be a teacher and God turned it around and used the campers to teach me!*

*These lessons are gifts that I have taken from Sylvan Hills this summer. I can only imagine how many other gifts campers and staff have taken since 1947, the first year of camp. We are so blessed to have this camp in our backyards so that each generation can take gifts with them, too!*

*As the Christmas season is upon us I hope that you take the time to remember the gifts camp has given to you and take some time to return a gift to camp*

*so that Sylvan Hills can go on to touch many more lives, just as it has touched mine.*

*Now as I am sitting at my desk I dream of the camp song lyric that says "We all have treasures we call our own, mine are these hills I call my home." I pray that you will dream about the summer home you have found at Sylvan Hills.*

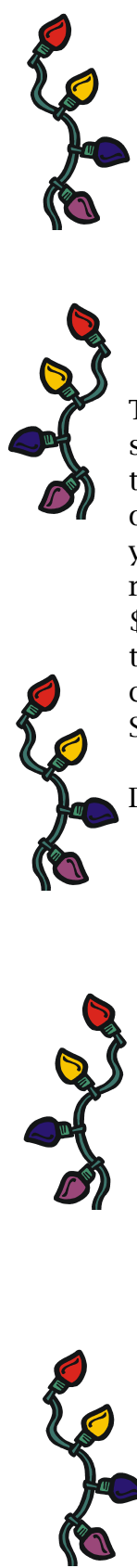
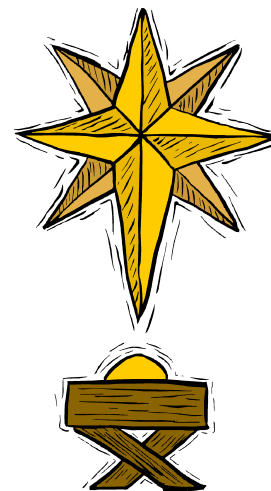
*Kelli Savits*

Thank you, Kelli. There's not much more to say after those lovely thoughts, only to add that we've always tried to be good stewards of what God has blessed us with. Thanks to your support, for instance, the dining hall renovation project mortgage is now under \$200,000. Praise God! And praise God that through your continued support, we will carry on the good work here at your Christian Service Camp, Sylvan Hills.

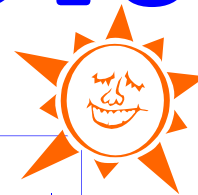
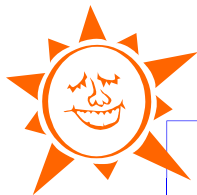
Donations may be sent to:

**Sylvan Hills Christian Service Camp**  
**PO Box 532**  
**Lock Haven, PA 17745-0532**

**THANK YOU!**



# Summer Camp 2010



## JUNE 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	<b>Little Girls 'n Guys</b> 4 yrs old thru 1st grade**
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>New Purpose?</b> —Helping People with Disabilities Find New Purpose in Life Through God's People — contact camp for details.						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Senior High</b> Entering grades 10-12 & '10 grads						
27	28	29	30			
<b>Beginners</b> Entering grades 2 & 3				** must be accompanied by adult		



## JULY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Junior High</b> Entering grades 8 & 9						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>Junior</b> Entering grades 4 & 5						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>Intermediate</b> Entering grades 6 & 7						



# Camp Wish List

Perhaps you missed the last edition of the Wish List (it was printed on the outside of the newsletter because we ran out of space on the inside) so here's an updated list.

Donating goods and services helps the camp keep up with the times by modernizing facilities and improving safety and comfort levels. Having the right tools and equipment to get the jobs done is a big help too! Since the last publication, we have received two air conditioners and two upright vacuums, for which we are thankful! Call Joe at camp (814-355-5652) if you have any questions about items or need to arrange pick-up. **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR SYLVAN HILLS!**

1. Commercial grade power washer/steam jenny.
2. Two upright vacuum cleaners (Oreck preferred).
3. Two 110 volt window A/C units (max dimensions 28" w X 21" h).
4. Four dwarf fruit trees (a Bartlett pear tree with partridge would be nice).
5. 100 2X6X10 pressure treated boards for climbing tower.
6. 1 rotary floor scrubber.
7. Paper towels and toilet paper.
8. 14 power flush toilets.
9. 3D archery targets; misc. bows & target arrows.
10. Pole chain saw.
11. 2 DVD and 2 VCR players.
12. Large television.
13. 4WD pickup truck (on-site use only); our last donated truck recently died, may it rest in peace).



This newsletter is published three times per year by Sylvan Hills Christian Service Camp.

Contact the Camp Manager:

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Donations may be sent directly to the Camp Treasurer, Joe Kramer, at:

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