



# Ministry Update

## 2015 Overview

[www.lakeswancamp.org](http://www.lakeswancamp.org)

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Minder Hall, named after the camp's founder Dr. John Minder, was built in 1972. As such it is beginning to show its age in some ways. Minder Makeover is an extensive remodel to address those "aging" issues and make many improvements.

Here is what we have accomplished so far:

- Received \$80,000 of donations for the Makeover.
- Modified part of the roof line and regraded the Southwest corner of Minder Hall in preparation for the new deck at that location.
- Began preparing for the concrete work that will extend Minder Chapel by 24 feet, in addition to 4 small meeting rooms on the sides.
- Completed the new Dining Room heating and air conditioning system through a local contractor.

- Improved the electrical system for the entire building, including bringing in a new 3 phase power supply that will save us money when operating the new heating and air condition systems.
- Began renovation of the staff dining room.

Here is what we have left to do:

- The masonry work to expand Minder Chapel and service areas around the kitchen.
- Put in a new metal roof.
- Lay new flooring for the Dining Room, Fireside Room, and Minder Chapel.
- Build a 2400 square foot deck in the area outside of the Dining Room and Fireside Rooms.
- Install Heating and Air Conditioning systems for the Kitchen and Minder Chapel.
- Update the sound, video, and audio equipment in Minder Chapel and the Fireside Room.
- Add men's, women's, and handicap restrooms for Minder Chapel.
- Raise the remainder of the money needed to complete the project.

These renovations will be a huge blessing to our groups. Nearly every guest spends a significant portion of their time in this building. Most importantly the vast majority of the decisions for Christ are made in this building. By improving the heart of our facilities we hope to better serve our current groups and attract even more guests.

### **God is Good**

Even though our website is only a few years old technology is constantly progressing. In an effort to stay up-to-date with current capabilities we have built another new website from scratch with the help of Florida Reliant, Inc. Towards the end of the new one's development we lost the capability to update the old one. Thankfully the Lord was looking out for us. The timing of it enabled us to push forward with finishing the development of the new one and launch it without much of a hiccup. This new website gives us a much cleaner, fresher look and we will be able to update it much easier. We welcome any feedback on this new website. You can check it out here: [www.lakeswancamp.org](http://www.lakeswancamp.org).

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### **What we are thankful for from 2015:**

- More guests than ever before. Which gave us more ministering opportunities.
- We had over 100 reported decisions for Christ and trust that many more lives were changed than the ones we heard about.

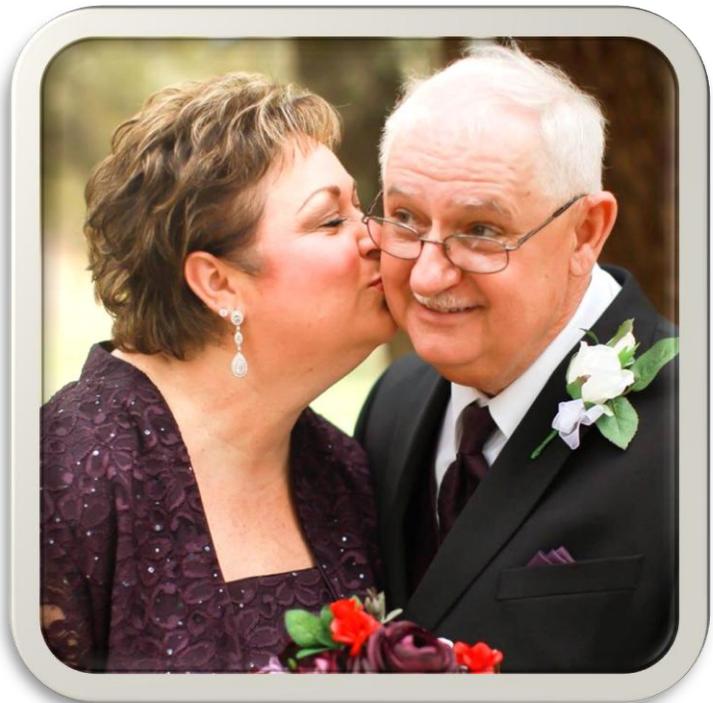
- Two properties were donated to the camp. One is a house we are renovating a few hundred yards away from the camp. The other is a commercial lot in Pensacola we are hoping to sell.
- The purchase of an additional property across the street from the camp that is currently housing the Assistant Director and his family.
- New heating and air-conditioning system in the dining room.
- We will once again host both the Nomads (January) and the RVICS (February and March) volunteer groups. As they have the last few years, Christ Cares Alliance Church blessed us with several volunteers between Christmas and the New Year. We had a new volunteer group called ALERT come this past September as well.
- We once again operated in the black, with 2015 seeing an increase of \$105,000 in gross operational income over 2014. This increase came entirely from increased usage of the camp, not in the prices we charge.
- For Jesus Christ, who is the reason for all the things we do.

### **What we are praying God will provide in 2016:**

- The funds, knowledge, workers, and safety for the Minder Makeover project.
- Keeping costs down as camp usage increases.
- Direction as we seek how the Lord wants us to continue to improve the camp's facilities.
- For balancing all the needs of the many groups we have. This is particularly becoming difficult as we often serve 2 to 4 groups at one time.
- Wisdom for which staff to hire as we seek to provide a service-oriented and Christ-loving staff.
- An increase in the number of groups that come to our Outdoor School program.

### **Volunteer Spotlight**

Buddy Degraff first came to Lake Swan Camp in the 1960s. Lake Swan Camp has always remained near and dear to his heart. A chapter in Buddy's life recently came to an end when his wife passed away. Searching for a way to serve the Lord more fully Buddy returned to Lake Swan Camp as a volunteer advisor for the many construction projects taking place on camp. Buddy's years of expertise have been a very valuable asset in improving the quality of our



projects along with saving money. An even greater asset though is Buddy's infectious attitude for serving the Lord.

God also was able to bring Buddy into contact with a lady named Diane who lives in the area. The two have spent nearly every day together since the day they met. It wasn't long before the two were talking about getting married. They knew at once where they wanted the wedding to take place, Lake Swan Camp.

On December 5, 2015, Buddy and Diane exchanged vows at Lake Swan Camp in the Minder Chapel. It also became a reunion of sorts. Executive Director Perry Rollins and LSC Board Member Frank Smith officiated the wedding, both of whom had been campers together with Buddy and later as staff members. Buddy was also able to reunite with John Rollins and Larry Smith. These three men performed music for several summers at Lake Swan Camp. They had not played since the 1970s, but got to perform a handful of songs together as part of the wedding and reception.

We are grateful to God for Buddy's service and attitude. We also thank the Lord for blessing the union between him and Diane.

### **Closing Information**

We are trying to gather as many email addresses as possible. Future newsletters are likely to be available electronically only. If you are unsure if we have your email address, please contact our office and let us know you want to be sure to receive the newsletter in the future.

The camp is open to various groups for usage, whether it is a summer camp, a weekend retreat or a day of group growth. It is requested that each guest group agree not to teach or act in contradiction to our Statement of Faith and follow the guidelines of the camp.

*The mission of Lake Swan Camp is to enrich the Church of Jesus Christ by providing Christ-centered programming and facilities for all ages.*

Board Members of Friends of Lake Swan Camp:

Steve Adams, Sam Farrell Jr, David Geiger (Vice Chairman/Treasurer), Tommie Hall, Tim Huggins (President/Chairman), Rick Jones, Art Patray, Jim Pickett, Frank Smith (Secretary), Diane Strasbaugh (Newsletter Editor)