



Heit's Point HiLites

Nov/Dec 2010

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from Heit's Point

We hope you had a Blessed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a Joyous Christmas. We wish to dedicate this issue to Thanks and Praise of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We the staff at Heit's Point want to thank God for giving us the opportunity to serve you for Him in His beautiful creation. There is no comparison between the wonders of His work and the technology of ours. When we compare even the most complicated cell phone, it doesn't come close to matching the beauty of a flower, the creation of a newborn deer, or especially the gift of His only Son. How can anyone not recognize our Creator as the only One True God? But, there are doubters and that is why it is so important for us to continue to thank and praise Him so that they may see and come to believe. The Holy Spirit works through all of us!

The Prayer from this morning's Portals of Prayer says it: "Dear Jesus, prepare my heart to share my faith in You with anyone at any time. Amen"

Mark Nolte
Executive Director

We said "God's Blessings & Thanks"

The board said farewell to two members who have completed their term limits on the board. Larry Lumpe and Mark Burger both have devoted approximately 27 years each. During their time on the MOM committee and board, the 48 acre gift of the Heitman family was developed into what we have today at Heit's Point. Larry and Mark have traveled from St. Louis and Kirksville all of those years to give of their time and talent for the purpose of fulfilling the dream of the Heitman's of providing a place for outdoor ministry and a respite for church workers. They started out with a small cabin sitting on the hillside and have overseen the growth of Heit's Point to the present 180 acres containing multiple houses, cabins, bunk houses, campground, Spitz Center and Rinne Activity Center.

During most of those years they coordinated with the Missouri District in setting the course of where we were, where we were going and how we could best provide for outdoor ministry, a Christ Centered respite for not only our church workers but our Lutheran families. As most of you know Larry was our major fund raiser. Through his efforts the majority of the funds for the Spitz Center and later on the purchase of the property from the District were accomplished. Mark who has a deep seeded faith and a methodical approach to problem solving, gave timeless hours to assure that we never lost sight of our purpose and direction. Both were significant contributors to the development of Heit's Point.

They both have put many a mile on their cars traveling to conduct the business of Heit's Point. Mark commented that in all of his trips down here, he only got one speeding ticket and one deer.

So we, the members of the board, feel that we can echo from all of the supporters over the years a special "Thank You" for your dedicated effort in making Heit's Point such a special place. May God continue to bless both of you and your families and we look forward to your return to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Blessings,
Bill Buehrle
Chairman of the Board

PROGRAMS

This year God has used Heit's Point in many ways. We'd like to share a few with you.

In April, during the Ozark Snagmaster Tournament, three of the fisherman joined us for morning devotion. God continues to supply us with opportunities to witness.

Daycamp during the summer, allowed the summer staff to share God's Word with youth from Warsaw and Lincoln who normally don't come to camp. By the end of the summer they knew all the camp songs by heart, each song praising and thanking God.



Over 100 youth attended confirmation retreats in November. These youth were from all over the state, coming together to study and learn about our Lord and Savior.



Thank you to Pastor Krueger, Pastor Green and Pastor Johnson for facilitating these events.

It is almost like going to the national youth gathering, having so many youth in one place worshipping our Lord and Savior.

Recently we were able to serve a Missionary's wife and family with a weekend of respite. She had lost her husband, and her daughter was having a hard time dealing with the loss. It was a blessing for them to have a place to get away and have time to share together and with God. It was also a blessing to us to see the thankfulness in the mother's eyes when she was leaving. God has a way of blessing everyone when we do what he has prepared for us to do.

We thank God for the opportunity to be here for His Ministry to happen!

Melisa



Program Director

PROGRAMS COMING SOON!

New Years Eve Retreat, Dec 31st – Jan 2nd

High school youth mark your calendars! We will be having a lock-in. The theme of this retreat is “Starworks.” You won’t want to miss this retreat as we study the theme verse from Philippians 2:14-16, “Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the Word of Life.” You can come for the 3 day event or just for the lock in. Watch our website www.heitspoint.com for more information.

Elders Retreat, Jan 14-16th

Rev Mirly, District President will be leading the retreat again this year, “Building Relationships with Assigned Members”. Each year this retreat improves and everyone that has attended is thankful for this service. Watch our website www.heitspoint.com for more information.

PEER MINISTRY TRAINING Feb 18-20th

The District Family Life and Youth Board invites you to register for this training event. Peer Ministry Training equips high school youth and youth counselors from across our district who want to learn additional/intentional skills in discipleship to serve in their youth ministry – in their congregation, their school, their community and their family. Call Sue Thompson at (314) 317-4556 or email sue.thompson@mo.lcms.org.

VOLUNTEER THANKS

Gwen & Cindy want to thank all the volunteers who have been ever so joyful to help making their jobs so enjoyable and easier, when the volunteers are here.

Jen & Ken Perry have agreed to stay through the winter. Yeah! They are a blessing, helping keep up with the maintenance and front office support.

Our Laborer for Christ work/campers are all gone, but three couples are coming back in the spring to spend the summer with us.

**Thank God for all those who serve,
wherever they serve,
may it all be to His Glory!**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

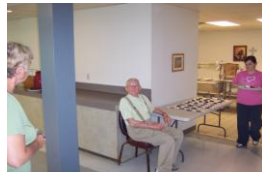
Article from St Paul's alumni newsletter: "Delbert Rinne Doesn't Act His Age"

Most people at age 89 are willing to sit back and take life a bit easy. Not Delbert Rinne. Delbert is almost as active today at Heit's Point at the Lake of the Ozarks as he was during his 32 years as an AAL representative in the Marshall, Missouri, area.

"Delbert represents everything I want to be," stated Mark Nolte, executive director of Heit's Point. "He is strong in his faith, compassionate with people, willing to help no matter what, and gives all credit to God."

If you come to Heit's Point for a conference, a family gathering, or just a few days of relaxation, you will meet Delbert, Mr. Congeniality. He will meet you, greet you, welcome you, secure wood for your bonfire, serve you dessert, and make sure you have everything you need for an enjoyable visit. He may even serve you some of his homemade wine and beer.

Delbert waits for his next camper. He is at every meal to make sure everyone gets dessert.



During his 89 years, Delbert has met people and assisted them with their insurance needs as an AAL representative. "That experience trained me to fulfill my ministry at Heit's Point," Delbert explained. "I credit the Lord for my ability to meet and serve people."

In 2002 Delbert first came to Heit's Point as a volunteer to put the roof on the Blunk bunkhouse. That experience opened the door for Delbert to be involved with the camp ministry



Delbert was a volunteer who came to Heit's Point to put a roof on the Blunk bunkhouse

In October 2002, Delbert moved to Heit's Point to serve as a resident volunteer. In exchange for Delbert's activities at the camp, Heit's Point would provide him with lodging, utilities and meals.

Nestled in a wooded area of the camp is Delbert's four-room cabin. When he is not on duty, he can be found relaxing on his porch enjoying the sounds of nature.

In one of those relaxing moments, he reflected on his St. Paul's, Concordia High school days when he wanted to study for the ministry. "I couldn't handle the Greek. So I waited for the Lord to turn me in another direction. "I'm happy the Lord could use me in my AAL work, but I'm very happy now that the Lord uses me at Heit's Point."

Delbert has not forgotten Saint Paul Lutheran High. He has set up a charitable gift annuity from which he receives an income and he states "When the Lord takes me to heaven, then Saint Paul has the money. I thank the Lord I can do that."

Reflecting on the camp ministry, Delbert explained, "I believe in Heit's Point and its ministry." Seeing the ministry and being involved with it, Delbert conceived the idea of an inside facility for sports and other activities to be used especially in bad weather. To back up his dream, Delbert has made a substantial gift to make the Delbert Rinne Activity Center a reality. His dream is coming true as construction has started. "We are a family camp for young people to senior citizens, and we need this facility to encourage people to come here," Delbert stressed.

"Delbert is the most giving, compassionate, gracious person I have ever known," commented Betty Nicolaisen, services director. "He touches the lives of so many people who come here. One question from people who come back year after year is, 'How is Delbert and will he be there when we are?' You can really see God's love through him."

Give Delbert his tractor, a chainsaw and four or five volunteers and he has heaven at Heit's Point.



Delbert has a host of duties and responsibilities, most of which he has taken upon himself. "No one can come to Heit's Point without being affected by Delbert," said Bill Buehrle, chairman of the board of directors. "He is the inspiration for this place with his friendly welcome and open arms. He is a reflection of God's helping hands."

Delbert was married to Arlene Wachter for 50 years. She died in March 2001. The Lord blessed the Rinnes with six children: four sons and twin daughters.

"If you talk with Delbert, you will note there are two subjects on his mind: the Lord and Heit's Point."

“Election of Director Results”

God continues to Bless Heit's Point with volunteers willing to serve, leading His Ministry here.

Thanks to the new absentee ballot policy, 52 members cast their ballots for the six members running for the four open positions on the board

Congratulations to Bill Buerhle and Robert Vieth for being re-elected and Vernon Grefe and Joye McElwee for their election. We also want to thank William Haas for accepting the appointment by the chairman to fill the vacant position left by the resignation of Alaina Kleinbeck in August of this year.

The board will meet on December 5th after the Christmas Celebration for the induction of the new members as well as for the election of officers for 2011.

OPERATIONAL STATUS AND FINANCIALS

The board met on our regularly scheduled date of November 19. Before the meeting we all gazed across the parking lot to see the progress made on the Rinne Activity Center. The steel trusses were up and the side walls were attached. According to the construction crew the shell will be completed soon. The septic system is installed, the water line has been installed and the conduit for running the electrical service has been laid. Thanks to the building committee of Roger Hink and Bob Vieth, we are moving right along.

There is still opportunity for you to help. We will have some finish work and then there will always be a need for sports equipment. You may also still give funds to this project, for future needs.



Mark Nolte and Caryl Froeschle, our Treasurer, provided the board with our financial position through October and projected end of the year cash balance. Although we will not end the year with a surplus, we feel that the yearend appeal will help significantly to close the financial gap. The appeal letters were being assembled while we met and we hope that when you receive it you will prayerfully consider sending us your gift. We also acknowledge that some of you may have sent a gift for the building program earlier. We appreciate your support for that effort. However, our appeal is for operational needs.

Joyce Martin and I reported on the outcomes of our respective Building Bridges meetings held in our homes. While the attendance was smaller than hoped because of other conflicting happenings, it was felt that we should continue to schedule similar efforts in the St. Louis and North Kansas City areas with emphasis on building relationships and not just fundraising. We strongly feel that if our supporters are knowledgeable of what is going on and what opportunities are available at Heit's Point, they will become promoters which will develop into opportunities for new people to come and enjoy our Christ Centered respite at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Don't forget to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Heit's Point, or respond to the Yearend Appeal. Remember, "When God shuts a door, He open a window." Bill Buerhle

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Merry Christmas from all of us at Heit's Point

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Dear Friends of Heit's Point,

Stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God in managing all life and life's resources for God's purposes. Christian stewards who walk the disciples' road will align with the will of God and the mission of His people. Earthly wealth can either be a barrier to discipleship or a healthy aspect of living out our discipleship.

Lutheran Christians understand that God's grace motivates throughout life. Rescued from sin, death, and the power of the devil, God's people can reflect on His goodness during the seasons of life. God's stewards are in the world, but not of the world.

May you be blessed this Christmas season with the tranquility of peace, knowing that God has a plan for you, and as you trust and follow Him, He will guide and lead you all the days of your life!

"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Cor. 9:8

God's Blessings!

Mark A. Nolte

Mark Nolte, Executive Director