



Heit's Point HiLites

Jan/Feb2011

Greetings from Heit's Point!

Just a little encouragement for all of you in these harsh winter conditions. Let's try to look at the positive side – first, we supposedly need two weeks straight of freezing weather to kill bugs, so this year there should be a lot less bugs, second, I have witnessed many acts of kindness – people helping total strangers. We must always remember, God is in charge, and He has a plan, we may just not understand.

Mark

From The Chairman

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the direction we at Heit's Point are having to take in order to accomplish our mission. In general, the economy has not been helping us. In 2010 we had to slash the budget by 25% and this year we had to reduce our full-time staff to only the Executive Director. Quite honestly, this was good for us to do because it made us really look at what we do best and what we do not do well. Without question you are more than likely wondering what we are doing about it.

The Board and the Executive Director are thinking outside of the box. We have begun home hosted meetings in Board member homes to inform attendees of what we are doing. We are asking those attending to communicate the importance of Heit's Point to their church, family and friends. We are communicating more with our donor base by our bi-monthly news letter and are trying to maintain the web page more current. The staff has been contacting past customers and are inviting them to return to Heit's Point. We are also contacting organizers of existing programs to consider Heit's Point to be the host for their program. The results have been very good to date. In fact, our calendar is getting fuller than it has been for quite some time.

An area where there has been some question as to why if we are having to cut budgets and trim staff, are we starting a drive to raise money to expand our facilities? When Heit's Point began, the emphasis was on roughing it like mom and dad did when they were kids and it was fun. Twenty five years later, roughing it is being in an air conditioned space with creature comforts almost like they have at home. We need more accommodations to attract larger groups because we are not capable of offering the desired accommodations. Adult couples or singles do not want to stay in bunk houses anymore. Those are for kids. If we want to continue to be a place for Outdoor Ministry, we must adjust to meet the needs of the people. The addition of the Rinne Activity Center is close to being completed. Already we are getting positive responses to its use by some of our past customers and the nice surprise is interest by groups who have not been customers before. Although contributions for the Spitz Center addition have been slow, we feel that this expansion is necessary to the continued success of our Ministry.

So the bottom line is that we the Board and the Executive Director with staff are working as a team to make Heit's Point a viable option for Outdoor Ministry for all ages. We not only ask for your prayers but ask for your continued financial support. This support can be in the form of cash donations throughout the year, designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Heit's Point, designating part or all of your IRA distribution to Heit's Point or part or all of your estate. We the Board, Executive Director and Staff are working hard to ensure that Heit's Point's important ministry will be here not only for this but for our future generations.

Blessings,
Bill Buehrle
Chairman of the Board

PROGRAMS

Program Director Change

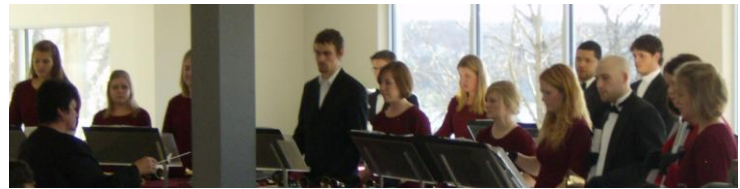
We are saddened but delighted to let you know that Melisa has returned to college to become an elementary school teacher. She substitute taught at Trinity Lutheran School in Cole Camp and loved teaching. We wish her all the success and blessings God can give.



We are equally delighted that Leah Hutcheson, a 2010 counselor and long time camper, had already planned to return as a counselor in 2011. She is a senior and graduates this year, so we offered her the position of Program Director for at least the summer. She agreed, but to our surprise and delight she wants to serve in this position for two years. Leah comes from a strong Lutheran Family; she is from Sedalia, Missouri. We look forward to Leah's leadership in our Program Ministry.



Bells were ringing at Heit's Point!



Some of us may remember the movie classic "It's a Wonderful Life" with Jimmy Stewart and how "every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings." This may or may not be true, but it certainly was angelic music that the College of the Ozarks Bell Choir shared with us Sunday afternoon, December 5, at our annual Friends of Heit's Point Christmas Celebration.

Pastor Clayton, of Cole Camp, shared the Christmas story inter-mixed with the beautiful songs performed by the choir. Especially during this time of the year we could not have asked for a better tribute to celebrate God sending His only Son than to hear the glorious sound of the bells and chimes playing Christmas hymns. The choir also played some classic pieces from the "Nutcracker" and other well-known secular favorites that had been adapted for the bells.

This truly gifted group of young adults is scheduled to come back to Heit's Point for Christmas Celebration 2011, Dec 4th.

Elders Training Conference

The attendees to the Elders Training Conference had a great weekend. They learned ways to get to know their people, how to use the telephone to enhance communication, and had some informative roundtable discussions. If you missed it, plan on it for next year, the date is Jan 13-15th, 2012. President Mirly will again facilitate, you can come for one day or the entire weekend.

American Field Service (AFS) "Foreign Exchange Student" Retreat

We were blessed to have AFS host a retreat for 44 Foreign Exchange Students from 21 different countries. Each year AFS hosts 3 retreats for the students. Heit's Point was chosen for their second retreat; there were 15 adult leaders (all AFS volunteers) that worked with the youth in small groups. On Saturday evening they had a talent show. They were so impressed with Heit's Point Facilities and Service that they booked their next retreat for May 2011. We are looking forward to their return.

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

Leah

Program Director

PROGRAMS COMING SOON!

Friends of Heit's Point Banquet, Mar 19th and Alumni weekend, Mar 18th - 20th.

This year we are inviting all our past counselors to join us for an Alumni weekend. No, it is not limited to them to be Alumni. If you have a relationship with Heit's Point you too can join. The plan is to have lots of time to share about our experiences at camp and catch up with each other's lives. Give us a call if you want to join in.

Senior Getaway Mar 27th – 29th

The winter snows should provide an explosive spring, you won't want to miss the dogwood and wild pear trees when they are in bloom.

Journeyman Men's Retreat May 13th – 15th

The Journey men from Timothy Lutheran, Blue Springs are coming to Heit's Point for their spring retreat. They would like to invite you to join them for a weekend of fellowship

Summer camp, June 5th – Aug 6th

| | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| June 5 th – 10 th | Trailblazers | (Teen Trek) |
| June 15 th – 17 th | Discovery Camp | (First camp experience) |
| June 17 th – 19 th | Little Adventurers | (Mommy & me) |
| June 19 th – 21 st | Mini Quest 1 | (3 day adventure) |
| June 19 th – 24 th | Quest 1 | (Week long adventure) |
| June 24 th – 26 th | Camp Encouragement | (Anything's possible) |
| June 26 th – July 1 st | Journey 1 | (Extreme exploring) |
| | Expedition 1 | (Water week) |
| July 10 th – 15 th | Scrapbook camp | (Mom's optional) |
| | Journey/Expedition | (Amazing Race) |
| July 15 th – 17 th | Little Adventurers | (Mommy & me) |
| | Discovery camp | (First camp experience) |
| July 17 th – 19 th | Mini Quest 2 | (3 day adventure) |
| July 17 th – 22 nd | Quest 2 | (Week long adventure) |
| July 22 nd – 24 th | Family camp | (Back to basics) |
| July 24 th – 29 th | Journey 2 | (Sports Camp) |
| | Expedition 2 | (Sports Camp) |
| July 31 st – Aug 5 th | Journey 3 | (Water week) |
| | Expedition 3 | (Extreme exploring) |

Age group descriptors

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Little Adventurers | Ages 3-6 |
| Discovery | 1 st & 2 nd grade |
| Quest/Mini Quest | 3 rd & 4 th grade |
| Journey | 5 th & 6 th grade |
| Expedition | 7 th & 8 th grade |
| Trailblazers | High school |
| Encouragement | Special needs camp |

Refined by Fire

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith-of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed1 Peter 1: 7-9



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING!

“New Pastor in Town”

Some of you may not know Sam, now Pastor Powell. He has been associated with Heit's Point as camper, counselor, and friend for many years. Currently he is serving as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson City and has agreed to be our Speaker for the Outdoor Festival, on June 12, 2011. We are very happy to have him and his wife Lisa back in our area and will be sharing some stories with you so that you may get to know them to.

Sam

How I came to love Heit's Point

I first came down to Heit's Point in the early 90s with a group from my home church, St. Paul's Lutheran in California, Missouri. I remember everyone staying up talking in the Alpha House and staying in a camper set-up outside trailer A & B. My first time as a camper was the summer of 1993. I stayed in cabin 3. I came down to Heit's Point every year as a camper until 1999. I remember growing up seeing the Heit's Point bumper stickers that said, "Camp Changes Lives." At the time that seemed like a nice saying, but now, as a Lutheran pastor I can fully affirm that statement. As a camper I became friends with some fellow campers and counselors that I have maintained to this day, nearly 20 years after we first met. I recently reconnected with two of my former counselors. Of all things, one of my former counselor's in-laws are members of my church and I got to see him again for the first time since 1999. In 2000 I started going to Heits Point and helping out with the summer camp program for a few days each summer. I continued this through my senior year of high school. After graduation I made my last trip down to camp and had a wonderful time working with the full-time staff and the kids. That summer probably had the biggest impact on my life because I not only made friendships that will last a lifetime; I also met my wife Lisa. We were married nearly four years to the day from when we met at Heit's Point. We worked together as counselors in 2003. She continued serving as a counselor in 2005 as well. We have returned to camp as often as we could. Now that we have returned to the area as I serve as the associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, Missouri we have had the opportunity to take our confirmation students down to Heit's Point for a day.

Heit's Point is special for me in so many ways. I made wonderful friends while I was there. I met my wife there and now we are expecting our first child. In all of the memories and joys that I have from being at Heit's Point, one thing reigns supreme: the love of God that is found only in Jesus Christ. Each year I heard about the free Gospel of Jesus Christ. I heard about the means of grace and heard and that Jesus was the only way to heaven. I have been blessed to have been able to go to Heit's Point as a camper, as a counselor, and as a friend of Heit's Point.

What a blessing it is to have Heit's Point in our district. A place where people of all ages can gather in the beauty of God's creation. A place for congregations to send their young people where they will hear about Christ the Crucified. A place that congregations can use to help proclaim and teach about Jesus Christ to their members.

I pray that you make the trip down to Heit's Point to see what a special place it is.

In Christ,
Pastor Sam Powell

Do you have a family reunion story you'd like to share?

The Game



It is on a night such as this that dreams are awakened and legends are born. The air, heavy and thick, seems to descend to the ground in unison with the setting sun. As the light fades, the air embraces every living thing with which it comes into contact, wrapping itself in a smothering hug around them. Birds no longer dot the horizon, settling into their skybox seats as cicadas begin their cadence anthem. And then comes the resolute cry, "Play Ball!"

Players take the field as if spilling out into their places, which to the untrained eye appears to lack purpose. But there are directions shouted, adjustments made in individual strongholds, and constant communication between team members. The field that absorbs this surge of activity is as familiar to these players as they are to it. Re-acquaintances take place in the outfield between toes and turf. Bases are kicked in a familiar way as if patting an old friend on the back. No one here is a stranger; all are family – one of the same. And standing tall, albeit somewhat stooped and weathered is the backstop, the sentinel that stands ready for the game.

Anticipation courses through the crowd. Fans wave flags and shout encouragement to their favorite players as they try desperately to ignore those hot sticky hugs from the air. Nothing though, can dampen their spirits or dull the smiles on each and every face. This game means as much to them as it does to the players on the field. For many of them it brings back the memories of younger days and their own moments of glory. For others it is the simple pleasure of seeing youthful exuberance at play. Either way, this event is not to be missed!

"Batter up!" comes the call, and to the batter's box comes a rookie. Short in stature, but not in promise, this mighty swinger takes his place and surveys the opponent. An intense look of dogged determination sets into his eyes and everyone knows that someday this kid is gonna be great. Will tonight be his night?

This meeting of bat and ball makes itself known by the all familiar "crack!" Sturdy legs and a mighty will carry the rookie to first base as the fans roar, and his heart bursts with pride at this first successful at-bat in the big leagues. His eyes now turn toward second as he awaits the next hit, for surely the veteran up next will propel him around the bases.

Another "crack!" and the ball sails free over the infield of players with upturned faces. Gloves that were hanging limp start to rise up involuntarily in support of the solitary glove of the center fielder who dives to snatch the escaped sphere. A collected breath is released at exactly the same moment as the player, covered with grass stains and sweat, rises for the ground, right arm outstretched to produce the evidence of a spectacular catch. Even as the fans shout with glee the rookie runner tags up and heads for second. Hands clap and voices explode with enthusiasm as the game continues.

No one can stand to be idle during this event; all are compelled by some force of nature to be involved. The smallest of fans run among the seats, chubby fists wrapped around fading popsicles. Older attendees comment and speculate about individual players and their potential for greatness. Drinks are sipped and water bottles tip to the lips of those roasting in the twilight embers of the sun.

The Game continued

Batters continue their parade of talent during strikes and hits, homeruns and outs, fly balls and grounders, while fielders put on a display of running, tagging, catching, diving and throwing. And as in any professional game, pitching takes center stage. The placement of the ball over home plate is precisely calculated for each batter, based on height, strength, hand preference and experience. A straight fast ball for the upstart who is looking for the grand slam – just to see if the pitcher can get one by him; a slow arching curve ball for the unassuming, but consistent veteran of the game – to keep him guessing; and an inside slider to wake up the over confident cleanup hitter. This is not a movement of chance; it is a strategy of defense and the pitcher is master of the game.

The final inning closes with a thunderous applause from the crowd. It is at this moment that one can truly see the love of this game on the faces of each soul in attendance. The rookie, whose hat is too big for his head and who barely stands taller than his bat is hoisted onto shoulders of his father coming in from his position at first base. The veteran who hit the fly ball stretches up from his chair and affectionately place an arm around his granddaughter who, in addition to running the base on her own hit, was prepared to skirt the infield at lightning speed on his behalf, had his ball not been snagged by the center fielder. Who at this moment, in a brave attempt to continue the character of a true big league player, will share with no one but his wife that he will need to visit the chiropractor next week in order to realign all that has been rearranged during his 'catch of the game.'

In the midst of mutual congratulations by all players on such a superb demonstration of talent, the right fielder unfolds himself and rises from his seat, the best one in the stadium. As he collapses the lawn chair, picks up his drink, and heads in from the outfield he is once again reminded how close up the actions seems when you place yourself on the field for the entire game – no matter which team is at bat. Why show favoritism by choosing sides?

Cousins clasp hands with cousins. Aunts and nephews make sure gloves and bats are returned to rightful owners. Uncles and nieces agree that the power rang true in the pink aluminum bat that evening. And the great grandbabies, who are not able to hold a bat, join the celebration of baseball by toddling around the now empty bases. Their bare toes collect helpings of soft, warm dirt at each base and their small hands grasp tightly to the finger of the great grandpa who walks steadily along beside them.

The folding chair stands are now empty. But unlike other stadiums, this field is void of any empty cups, cans, or snack containers. Great care is taken to erase the marks of human folly on this sacred piece of land. Little red wagons haul away Kool-Aid pouches, bottles and a cooler of ice water. An inventory is taken of both equipment and children, making sure none are left behind. Bases are carefully placed in protective custody of the weathered shed where no elements can further promote their decay. Muffled voices of the fading crowd give prelude to the closing strands of the cicada's evening song and the occupants of the skybox seats have long passed settled into their feathered beds as God turns off the field light.

This game, where no score was kept, where no strike out was called, where a stolen base was literally in the hands of the shortstop, and where a kiss could be stolen from the third baseman by his wife on her way around to home, is truly the greatest game ever played. Were dreams truly awakened? Were legends born? On this one summer night, once a year, for one family – most definitely!

In honor of the *Sommerer Family* annual baseball game,
Rachel Sommerer
June, 2010

VOLUNTEER THANKS

The Del Rinne Activity Center is enclosed, interior framing is coming along great! Del wants to thank Roger Hink and Bob Vieth for their leadership on the building committee. Many friends have come and many more scheduled to help complete the facility. The local fire department volunteers have been amazing with their support as well as volunteers from Lutheran churches in Kansas City, Higginsville, and Concordia. A St. Louis group is scheduled for a weekend in March.



In other news; we have received doors & frames, 2 ranges, office chairs, file cabinets, etc. from Martin Luther Academy and the Federal Building in Kansas City. Thanks to all the volunteers that coordinated this and helped get it delivered.

Even more news; We have received 8 recliners, 8 table lamps, 8 floor lamps, and 8 full size bed spreads from Drury Inn in St. Louis. Thanks to Dave Madden for coordinating and delivering.

Even more news; we have received barrels and buckets from Unilever, Independence. Thanks to Merle Rasmussen for coordinating this and Dave Madden for delivering.

Thank God for all those who serve,

Wherever they serve,

May it all be to His Glory!

OPERATIONAL STATUS AND FINANCIALS

This year looks to be a busy year. Family reunions are on the rise and more churches are starting to utilize the facilities for youth and family events.

These first few months will be tight financially but not slow in things to do. We are working diligently to ensure that we are the best stewards of what God has supplied for this Ministry.

Caryl Froeschle (board treasurer) and I have been working on all the end of year paperwork.

Joyce Martin (board marketing coordinator) and I have been working on the marketing strategy.

The website will soon have a support page for donations and we will be able to increase communications with those that have email through "Constant Contact" a bulk email service we are testing.

Glen McLaughlin is promoting the new Dollar-a-Day club. If you are interested please call.

Roger Hink & Bob Vieth (Building Committee) have been having too much fun building the gymnasium. They are doing a fantastic job and putting in lots of miles and time.

Keep us in your prayers!
Mark Nolte

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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Happy Presidents Day from all of us at Heit's Point

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Dear Friends of Heit's Point,

"Camp Changes Lives" Would you like to help send a child to camp? Change a child's life? You could by taking the loose change you come across whether it's around the house or simply picking up a penny you find on the ground, it all adds up! Simply make yourself a loose change jar, save up your change, and the next time you're at Heit's Point drop your change in our "Make a Change" box. This change will be used to supply camperships to needy families, so that all God's children have the opportunity to come to camp and build their relationship with Him.

Our Friends of Heit's Point Coordinator, Glen McLaughlin has kicked off a new program. The Dollar-a-Day club provides year round support and the opportunity for you to help send a youth the camp with a 50% off camp discount. This is a great way to reach out and encourage new campers. Contact us to get started.

"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