

“For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.” Matthew 18:20

We have had a busy summer of serving, and learning, at Pella II. Sit back and read about everything God has enabled us to do these past few months!

Midwest Cadet Camporee 2016

By Carter Vos

The 2016 Midwest Camporee was hosted by Hawkeye Council. Pella II CRC was on the camporee committee along with two other churches. The camporee was held July 26-30, 2016 in a privately owned timber south of Prairie City.

Preparations started in January when the committee first went out to work. Months later, Camp Oak View was open to Cadets for the week. As the kids streamed in, the counselors were busy with registrations and taking the campers stuff to the campsites. Red, Blue, and Green were the color groups, each with at least 6 cadres.

Assembly every morning was done by Happy the Dog Ministry. The name says it all, the kids were amped up and ready for each day. We had 2 activities each day. There was archery/marksmanship, canoeing, camp craft, orienteering, camp games, and a service project. For our service project we spent time at the Neil Smith Wildlife Center. Another activity was Human foosball and it was a big favorite! We went through 4 soccer balls! These activities were enjoyable for all, each with its level of fun. We had evening activities too—we even watched a movie under the stars!

The cooks were very efficient with getting us our food to cook each day. We had breakfast, lunch and dinner to cook for ourselves. It was very good. All the boys helped out with the cooking. We had many different things to eat including pancakes, bacon and eggs for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch. We even had pork loin and potatoes for dinner one night.



Camp oak view was a big success, with the counselors being very proud of the Cadet boys' behavior and complements of the boys.

The next 5-day Midwest Camporee will be in 2019 with the International Camporee in 2017.

The International Camporee, Camp Elk Run, will be held in the Black Hills of South Dakota on July 12-19, 2017.

GEMS Camp Loads Up on Fun

By Nia Hoekstra

I have gone to GEMS camp for three years now, and all three were special in their own way. Usually, first year campers get the not-so-great cabins. These cabins are one room with six to 8 bunk beds. There is not much air conditioning, and if there is some, it isn't great. I had a hole in my cabin and a snake came through and scared the girls in my cabin, and me, of course.

The second year you get a pretty good cabin. There is a big room where the GEMS meet for devotions at night. There are four rooms branching off from the main room with three bunk beds each. This time there is real air conditioner. The beds are better too. There is a bathroom and shower in each room. The last year you are there, you get the best cabin at camp. The best cabin in the past has been Buxton, but now there is a new cabin called New Life Lodge. There is an even larger room than the past cabins, four rooms with two bunk beds each, the bottom being bigger than the top bunk. There is a huge bathroom with really nice showers. Each year has a theme and a theme song. This year, our theme and song was “Do Life Big” (Jamie Grace). Previous years’ themes and songs were “Gold” (Britt Nicole) and “He Knows My Name” (Francesca Battistelli).

The songs are not your slower, church-like songs. They choose something fun and easy to follow and move to. They make actions for you to

copy, and you have a blast.

But the best thing about GEMS camp is the activities on Saturday—with options like high ropes, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, swimming in the pool or pond, low ropes, and archery. Everyone can do four, but you can’t choose. Your counselors choose for you and they always have great taste.

The high ropes activity is one of my favorite things about camp. You are 35 feet above

the ground, with two cables supporting you. You have to go through obstacles and to get down, a zip line. You feel relatively safe, but don’t look down!

Horseback riding is fun for a lot of people. You are assigned a horse based on how good you are, and you get to lead him or her out. You mount from a mounting block, and then you ride around inside for a little bit to get the feel for it. Then you go outside and go on a trail ride.

Canoeing is pretty self-explanatory. With boundaries and three other people, you canoe your way around a lake.

Fishing is at a pond a little ways away. You are given a rod and bait, and you fish. I always got grossed out and wouldn’t touch the bait or the fish, so a friend did that. Swimming in the pool is really fun, but swimming in the pond, is almost better.



Although there are fish and some seaweed, it is a blast. There are slides you can slide down, an iceberg that you climb on and slide off of, and a blob. The blob is the best part about the pond.

After jumping on the water tramp for a while, you can either run off of an inflatable yellow log, or get blobbed off. You carefully make your way to the end of the squishy blob, and someone else jumps on the close end. You go flying off into the water. You are safe and secure there, because you need a life jacket to go in.

The low ropes activity is one thing I have not done. It’s pretty much like high ropes, only a foot off the ground.

Archery is also a lot of fun. You are given a bow, a few arrows, and a target, and off you go, shooting at the targets and having fun. GEMS Camp food is great too. The breakfasts are massive; lunches and suppers are great. On Saturday night you even roast s'mores and hot dogs. Other lunches and suppers are pizza and tacos.

Sadly, when Sunday comes, it's time to go home. We perform the songs we've been working on, and there is a short service. Parents come to pick us up and see the service. After we're done with the service, we get to show our parents the cabin we stayed in. Then they get the privilege of taking a tired and excited camper home.

School of Biblical Evangelism

By Joel Vander Molen

In Mark 16:15 Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Unfortunately, research shows that only 2% of Christians actively share their faith with others.

I have noticed I follow the same trend myself, and took an online course called The School of Biblical Evangelism. Through 101 lessons, it taught how to be an effective witness for Christ.

Paul said in Romans 7:7 that he would not have known what sin was without God's law. Therefore, the lessons start out by

going through the Ten Commandments and how to use them when talking with people. Without knowing the bad news of sin, the good news doesn't make sense!

When the bookwork was complete, practicing what you learned was the next step. I started by talking with tourists during Tulip Time and giving out gospel tracts. They either help to start conversation or allow for thought sometime later. The next opportunity comes every time a telemarketer calls.

These are people that want to talk with me, and I have good news to share with them. Talking with someone over the phone is somewhat easier since you don't see him or her, but can be hard as well. Discussing the things of Christ is also better than hearing a sales pitch.

I had another opportunity to use my new skills during the Iowa State Fair. For three mornings, I volunteered at the Ark Encounter booth through Answers in



Genesis. During a three-hour shift, I had more people come ask questions than anything I had done before.

Questions like: Where did Cain get his wife? How big was the ark? How did Noah fit all the animals on the ark? Hasn't science disproved the Bible? Do you actually believe this stuff?

Some visitors were very open to hearing about God, some were encouraging, and

others preferred to answer loudly that they don't agree with Christians. It can be a challenge to be a bold witness for Christ, but remember, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Jesus said in Matthew 12:30 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather, scatters." No matter what we do, we are being a witness for Christ. If we wait to talk to others until we have learned everything possible, we'll never go. Regularly reading Scripture and prayer is all that's needed to get started.

For those looking for more ideas, please feel free to ask me. However, I do also recommend taking this course either online or with accompanying text.

A Prayer for Pella II

By Barbara Boertje DeVries

As summer comes to an end and we begin a new "season," I hope you are filled with anticipation of what the Lord will do in and through Pella II, through the leading of His Holy Spirit. We don't know all that God has in store for us, but we know for certain that He will be with us in this next part of our "journey," as He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us.

I am very interested in hearing from you as to ways you are willing to use your talents in future worship services - maybe singing, playing an instrument, reading scripture? You may have other ideas of ways God is nudging you to use your talents for His glory. And even if you're not "up in front," your ministry of prayer is vital!

One of my prayers is for the Holy Spirit's continued presence in our lives. A song that will be introduced in worship this fall is

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God, written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8FKZ1z97AU>).

It is a sung prayer about the Holy Spirit's renewing power. Each verse points to a different aspect of the Spirit's presence in our lives: working in us to change our hearts, giving us the power to bear fruit, and shaping the church to be the face of God to a broken world.

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,
May Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
In each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth,
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.

Amen!

And Now, A Bit of History

By Jan Van Weelden

While researching some family history for my Aunt Gertrude Roose Wassink, I stumbled across an article mentioning her relative Gideon Roose.

Gertrude and I think it is worth sharing.

You have walked by the picture of our church that hangs in the basement by the door to the women's restroom many times. But like me, you may not quite realize the intricate work of art that it is.

In the November 3, 1931 front page of the "Pella Twice A Week Press" (and yes, that really was the name of the Pella newspaper then) there is an article about the artist Gideon Roose, and this work.

He was a carpenter and a member of this church at the time.

So, read this article, and then take a closer look at that inlaid wood replica of our church building. Pretty amazing.



inlaid art work of which he should be very proud of. The piece is of inlaid wood, a replica of the Second Chr. Reformed Church, taken from a photograph.

The work on the picture was started last March and is now completed. It consists of sixteen kinds of wood. Every shingle, brick and foundation is of a single piece and of different colors. These colors are made

possible by using the different kinds of wood which are red cedar, birch, maple, cottonwood, white pine, walnut, yellow pine, purple heart, hare weed, holly, oak, ash ebony, satinwood, genzala alves and rosewood.

The reproduction is wonderfully accurate and the lights and shadows are worked out in an artistic way. This is the

first attempt of Gideon to do a piece of inlaid artwork, and if he persists in following the art, he promises to be one of the leading producers of inlaid work of this country.

The display is shown in the window of the Ideal Pharmacy this week, and it will be worth your while to visit this place and see the reproduction for yourself.

Fine Piece of Inlaid Work

Replica of Second Chr. Reformed Church in Inlaid Wood, By Young Pella Man

Pella has some young people who have ambitions along various lines, but it has been left to Gideon Roose to offer a piece of

Cana's Voice-This Changes Everything

By Will Van Wyngarden

I've written before about my love of Southern Gospel music, and those that know me can attest to the fact that this genre is a

big part of who I am. In my personal journey through that world, I was able to make many new friends and scores of some of the best singers you will find anywhere.

One such friend of mine, as well as one of my favorite singers, is Doug Anderson. When I met Doug he was singing Baritone with Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. He left that group several years ago to pursue a solo career. Now he is embarking on a new trio called Cana's Voice.

Doug is joined in Cana's Voice by another great voice in Southern Gospel. TaRanda Greene has one of the finest Soprano voices around. She sang with The Greens, her family group, for many years until the untimely death of her husband and has been doing solo work ever since.

To round out the group we look to the world of Contemporary Christian Music. Jody McBrayer was a founding member of popular CCM group Avalon, which he left in 2007 due to health issues. Jody's smooth Tenor voice really rounds out Cana's Voice.

I picked up Cana's Voice's debut album, "This Changes Everything," a few months ago. To say I'm impressed is an understatement. I have listened to it almost daily ever since. It is high quality from start to finish.

There are many reasons this is a great album. The most important to me is obviously the message it presents. But in addition to the message is an incredible

vocal sound. All three members are talented soloists, but their blend is phenomenal. Throw in some cool tracks and production values and the result is a great recording!

I have tried to decide what genre in which to categorize their sound, and in many ways they defy category. There are tracks that reflect their Southern Gospel roots, songs that give evidence of a CCM influence, as well as mixing in some traditional Gospel and even some R&B sounds.

The album starts with a couple of peppy songs before giving way to the first ballad, "Jesus Never Fails." This song features solos by Greene and Anderson, building to a big finish in the chorus where McBrayer takes. It is a tremendous encouragement that no matter what we face, Jesus will always be there.

The most upbeat song on the recording is "There is A Mountain." This song features a track with horns and a rolling bass guitar line that is almost Bubanesque. This song

will have your head bopping and your smile beaming in no time!

Perhaps the most moving song, and my personal favorite, is called "Same Hands." It is a slightly slower-paced ballad, but it delivers a strong, simple message. Greene's beautiful voice sings these chorus lyrics: "The hands that carved the

ocean, and molded mountains high; the hands that healed the crippled man, and gave the blind man sight; the hands that held the



Savior nailed to a rugged tree; these are the same hands holding you and me.” What a great message that the most powerful force in the universe is the same one that can meet all our needs.

There is one final ballad on this project that evokes a reaction in me every time. “I Won’t Go Back” starts out with beautiful unison, interspersed with solo lines, finally crescendoing to the powerful chorus. The message comes through loud and clear- I

won’t go back to the way I was before I was changed, touched by the presence of God.

“This Changes Everything” is an eclectic recording that offers a little something for everyone. There is literally a little bit of everything, from banjo to Hammond B3 organ, orchestra to synthesizers, big brass, electric guitar, even a big gospel choir. Trust me, getting a hold of this music will be money well spent.

Bulletin Bloopers

These outtakes from church bulletins make us laugh and thankful for our careful secretary!

1. The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
2. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare’s Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
3. Don’t let worry kill you off – let the church help.
4. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.
5. Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.
6. Helpers are needed! Please sign up on the information sheep.
7. Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.
8. The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister’s daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.
9. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

Thank you for the pictures provided with articles.

Pella II Newsletter invites your contribution. Drop a note in the “Newsletter” box in the church library or contact one of our editors.

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