



*“On Earth as it is in Heaven”*

MATTHEW 6:10



A blue-tinted photograph of people kayaking on a lake. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the left side of the page. It shows several people in kayaks on a body of water, with trees in the background.

# On Earth

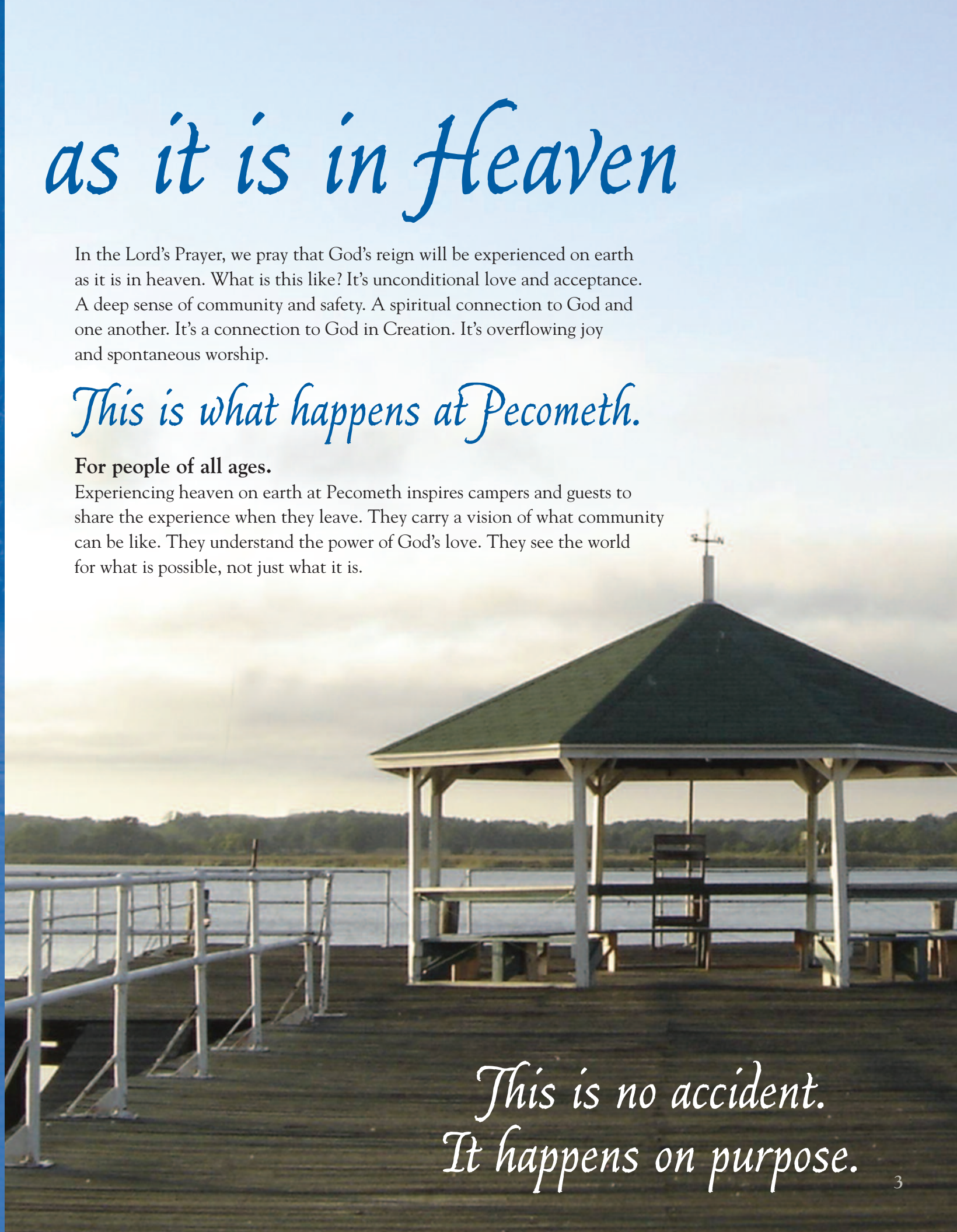
# as it is in Heaven

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray that God's reign will be experienced on earth as it is in heaven. What is this like? It's unconditional love and acceptance. A deep sense of community and safety. A spiritual connection to God and one another. It's a connection to God in Creation. It's overflowing joy and spontaneous worship.

*This is what happens at Pecometh.*

**For people of all ages.**

Experiencing heaven on earth at Pecometh inspires campers and guests to share the experience when they leave. They carry a vision of what community can be like. They understand the power of God's love. They see the world for what is possible, not just what it is.

A photograph of a wooden gazebo on a dock by a lake. The gazebo has a green roof and a cross on top. It is situated on a wooden pier with railings. The background shows a lake and a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

*This is no accident.  
It happens on purpose.*

# Now More than Ever

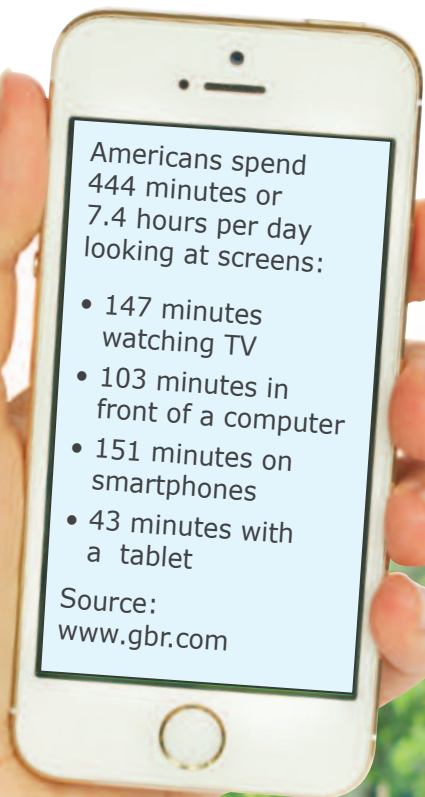


They call it the “connected world.” Instant connection via phone call, email and text message. Instant information via Google and Wikipedia. Instant community via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

*But how connected are we?  
To God? To each other?*

A recent UCLA study divided sixth graders into two groups. One group spent five days at camp. For the other group, it was life as usual with their screens. Then, both groups were shown images of nearly 50 faces and asked to identify the emotions displayed. Students who went to camp scored significantly higher in their ability to read facial emotions and nonverbal cues than those who kept living with their screens.

*Experiencing heaven on earth at Pecometh is more important than ever. Real connection. Real community. Real relationships. On earth as it is in heaven.*



*The Experience is Central, but the Surroundings Matter  
What do people remember about Pecometh?*

First and foremost, they remember the spiritually significant moments that occur. One of the most often asked questions we get is, “Do you still do the candles?” They are referring to the Galilean Service at summer camp. What often follows is a recollection about how they experienced God in that moment.



*They also remember friendships made, sunsets and laughter.*

## Lots of Laughter



In a 1922 treatise on education, Charles W. Eliot, the longest-serving president in Harvard University's history sang the praises of the camp experience:

*"I have the conviction that a few weeks in a well-organized summer camp may be of more value educationally than a whole year of formal school work."*

Keller, Jared, "In Praise of Summer Camp," *The Atlantic*, June 28, 2012

## Camp Is a Harder Sell

There was a day when summer camp was woven into the fabric of American culture. That day is past. A child is just as likely to go to Disney World or go on a family cruise as go to summer camp. Many parents are more protective and can't fathom the thought of not being able to talk to (or text with) their child for six days.



## Facilities and Equipment Matter

Parents that do consider camp are influenced by higher standards for comfort and appearance. Children and youth have higher thresholds for excitement. The WOW! Factor is important.

Pecometh's WOW! Factor is its beautiful setting and the experience of heaven on earth.

Parents don't need to see resort-quality facilities and equipment to choose summer camp. However, if they see "tired and worn," their child may never get the chance to experience heaven on earth.

## Still Makes a Difference

"... the ongoing effect of camp attendance is most pronounced on their likelihood of participation in religious small groups such as Bible study and prayer groups, in which camp attendance has a statistically greater independent effect than any other variable measured. Those who attended camp are almost 4 times more likely to participate in a college religious group or a small group ministry than those who did not attend."

Sorenson, Jacob. "The Summer Camp Experience and Faith Formation of Emerging Adults," *The Journal of Youth Ministry* 13 (Fall 2014), 17-40



# Investing in Heaven on Earth

We need to make an investment in facilities and equipment, if young people are going to continue experiencing heaven on earth at Pecometh. The Pecometh Board of Directors has identified the following priorities:

## Faith and Grace Houses: \$325,000

Built in 1989, these 36-bed dorm-style facilities have a fabulous layout for youth and young adult retreats. They need a total makeover to restore attractiveness and functionality. This includes complete renovation of all four shared bathroom areas, replacement of all



flooring, new roofing, interior painting, new decks and upgraded kitchens.



## Swimming Pool: \$250,000

Built in 1964, the swimming pool is structurally sound, but difficult to maintain. The surrounding deck, building and fencing are just plain worn out. A new whitecoat, coping and custom pool cover will address the maintenance issues. A new pool building, new fencing and extensive deck repairs will create a brand new look.



## Summer Camp Equipment: \$100,000



Kids (and parents) look for excitement at summer camp. Funding new water-based attractions, complete replacement of all splashdown equipment and the purchase of an additional ski/tubing boat will make that possible.

## Challenge Course: \$100,000

Every camper experiences challenge course. Many youth and young adult retreats do, as well. These include large groups such as the Salisbury and Johns Hopkins Universities Resident Advisor programs. The original challenge course was constructed using trees to anchor cables. One by one, these elements are failing in inspection, due to the growth of the trees. We have replaced several elements, anchored on poles, addressing the longevity issue. Funding this priority will enable replacing the remaining elements, as well as the addition of a triple-zip line to the climbing tower.



## Riverview Retreat Center Mortgage: \$250,000

The best camp and retreat operations have adult retreat facilities that support summer camp operations. The Riverview Retreat Center provides those facilities. The Mortgage fund will help pay the \$3.7 million mortgage until usage increases to the point where it is self-sustaining.

# Investing in the Future

Your investment in Pecometh will impact the lives of young people. They will connect with God in Creation. They will connect with others. The investment is in facilities and equipment.

*But it's really an investment in living...*

*on earth,  
as it  
is in heaven.*



*“I am drawn to God by association with the caliber of Christians that were here. I look forward to future events similar to this one and have a larger understanding of the need for spiritual mentors and friends.”*

## The Center for Clergy Excellence

*The Riverview Retreat Center is a beautiful facility. But, it's just a facility. What matters is what happens there.*

In 2015, we established the Center for Clergy Excellence (CCE) at Pecometh with the mission to develop principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. The CCE's first year saw the establishment of two new programs, along with the continuation of two existing clergy development programs.

### Residency-in-Ministry (RIM) Program

Pecometh is partnering with the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to facilitate the residency program for provisional clergy, both elders and deacons. The RIM program is an intensive two-year program comprised of six retreats that focus on spiritual formation, leadership skills, self-care, Wesleyan discipleship and evangelism, stewardship and administration. It is designed to develop participants as effective ministry leaders who are equipped to serve in a variety of settings. The first cohort started in August 2015 with nine participants.

### Certificate in Congregational Leadership (CCL) Program

Developed at the request of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Cabinet (Bishop and District Superintendents), the CCL Program is designed for Part-Time Local Pastors and Certified Lay Ministers. CCL provides practical, hands-on training in leadership skills, administration, pastoral care, the sacraments, time management and United Methodist History and Doctrine. The program is specifically designed for persons who are bi-vocational and consists of one weekend retreat and four online courses. The program began with 16 participants at the August 2015 retreat.

*In addition to the two new programs, two existing programs continued in 2015.*

- **A Voice of the Heart** is a two-part program focused on spiritual renewal. The number one reason for clergy burnout is the lack of a spiritual life. This program renews that life and, in turn, renews one's sense of calling. The program has served 23 clergy, thus far.
- **Leading Congregations** is a comprehensive 18-month program comprised of four different four-day retreats, all designed to take



participants from good to great. The first cohort, which started in the fall of 2014, has nine participants. A new cohort will begin in the fall of 2016.

## Leave a Legacy

Our current needs are both urgent AND important. Attractive and well-functioning facilities and equipment are an absolute necessity for effective camp and retreat ministry.

A planned gift to the Pecometh Endowment will ensure that Pecometh is able to address these needs for years to come.

For more information, please contact Rev. David Buchanan at (302) 382-5359.

## Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the World



*“I believe God met me everywhere this weekend. From the worship, to the facilitation, to the materials. The insights I have received and experienced will help me to share God's word with the people I serve – making disciples that make disciples.”*



*Our mission is to provide sanctuary for Christian hospitality and programming that promote God-inspired, life-changing experiences through camp and retreat ministries.*

*Our vision is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through Christ-centered peace and play in our unique Eastern Shore setting.*