

**Annual Report · 2010** A Celebration of 65 Years of Ministry

### A Celebration of 65 Years From Bookers Wharf to Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministry

It seems only fitting that the 275 acres which is now Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries was originally a popular local recreation area and a farm.



Just as families (like the one pictured in 1926) came to enjoy some fun in the beautiful setting of Booker's Wharf; people of all ages come to enjoy "peace and play" at Pecometh. And just as the Larrimore family planted crops each year on their farm, the programs of Pecometh sow the seeds of God's love in the hearts of campers and retreat participants.

As we move into the 65th year of ministry at Pecometh, and remember fondly the 40 wonderful years of adult retreat ministry at Drayton Manor, we are humbled by how God has used these places to touch the lives of so many, some of whom share their experience in these pages. In the fall of 2011, the new Riverview Retreat Center will welcome its first guests. This facility focuses on the special needs of adults and joins the strong children and youth camp programs. Together they will provide spiritual growth opportunities for all ages which are critical to the future of the church and the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



# A Pecometh Memory

Meredith Lloyd

*Camp is where I gave my* life to Christ, as a 13 year old camper. I had spent all week 'too cool' to sing at music, because I was trying to impress my camp boyfriend. By Thursday night, I realized how much I had missed the singing, and how I had ignored God that week. I decided that night at Galilean that I believed in God. and wanted a personal relationship with Him. Although I've been guilty of ignoring God since then (and probably will again), I've never wavered in my faith and belief.



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Julie Lutz Registrar julie@pecometh.org



Megan Shitama Program Assistant megan@pecometh.org



Clarice Ritchie Development Assistant clarice@pecometh.org

### Additional Staff:

Jake Green Maintenance Rena Tuttle Housekeeping Caleb McGuckin Maintenance

### Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries

136 Bookers Wharf Rd Centreville, MD 21617

410-556-6900

www.pecometh.org

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# 194Os

### 1946 – Bookers Wharf becomes Camp Pecometh.

In 1938 the Peninsula Conference began a search for a site to host a Christian summer camp ministry. In 1946, they realized this vision by purchasing 10 acres at "Bookers Wharf" along the Chester River just north of Centreville, MD from Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Meredith. Bookers Wharf had once bustled with barges going to and from Baltimore but, at the time it was purchased, had become a local recreation area and a popular location for Sunday School picnics. There has been much discussion about the origin of the name "Pe-Co-Meth" which was actually the winning entry in a naming contest, combining the first syllables of Peninsula Conference of the Methodist Church.



The original buildings included Wesley House, Rec. Hall (which served as the Dining Hall and recreation center), Jake's Place (which was originally on a pier facing the water but was later moved back away from the River and turned to face Rec. Field, making room for Fellowship Hall to be built). Richard Green served as the first director from 1946-1951.

### A Pecometh Memory by Carolyn Leister Godfrey:

There was a catwalk across the marsh to the Easton cabin which had been the horse stable. The marsh was filled with gravel from Girls Hill (now Chapel Hill) making it possible to put cabins out in the open field. Later they were moved up to the present day Marsh Hill. Pecometh helped me grow on the path I'd already been on, a steady growth in a wonderful, secure, holy place. Children are the next generation of church members and the leaders of the future. It is increasingly important to feed in beliefs when the world is so invasive with ideas that are not Christian.





1950s





# Pecometh grows with the addition of the Larrimore Farm

In the 50's the camp was growing quickly. The original cabins became Boys Hill and new cabins were built near the Wesley House and designated as Girls Hill. Fellowship Hall and the Outdoor Chapel were also built during this time. Under directors F. Douglas Milbury (1952 – 1955), and Donzel Wildey (1955 – 1958), the camp program was expanding rapidly and desperate for more property. An answer to this prayer was soon to come. In 1957 the neighboring Larrimore Farm became available and was purchased adding an additional 275 acres to Camp Pecometh.

In 1959 George Godfrey became the first paid camp director. George had previously served on the summer camp staff and remembers that Pecometh always provided a special spiritual moment that other camps he attended did not. "Pecometh has always been a place where we see God in the beauty of nature and in the special people that come there."

### A Pecometh Memory by Rev. Diane E. Melson

In the 1950's and '60's Camp Pecometh was my home away from home. I had the privilege of being a repeat camper, served as a cabin counselor at Riverside in my teens, and later enjoyed rewarding challenges as a staff member during the summers of my college years. I cherish the memories of co-leading Pecometh's first pioneer camps, rustic camps, and overnight canoe trips on the Chester River. Pecometh remains dear to my heart for three other significant reasons as well. At this precious site I accepted Jesus as my Savior, met my soul-mate of 46 years, and heard my first call to the ordained pastoral ministry. I am grateful to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference for providing such a wonderful place for spiritual growth.











In the 60's, Camp Pecometh began to make use of the newly purchased property to expand; the pool, dining hall and the picnic pavilion were built during Wally Smith's directorship from 1961-1971. The Larrimore farm property also included a large barn. In 1960 the Conference Youth Council took on the project to raise funds to adapt the barn to be used as a year-round youth retreat center. The completion of this project added an entirely new element to the ministry of Camp Pecometh.

During this time period, the Peninsula conference merged with the Delaware conference which also had a piece of property to be used for camping. In 1965 the Delaware Conference camp site joined Camp Pecometh as the Pioneer Site for wilderness camping.

The 1960's also marked the addition of Drayton Manor to the camping and retreat program. The gift of Drayton from an anonymous donor brought new possibilities for year-round adult retreat ministries. The beautiful mansion in Worton, MD quickly

became as beloved as Camp Pecometh and served as a place apart for spiritual growth with an adult focus.

A Pecometh Memory – Carol Kelley Psaros During the five summers 1964 through 1968, I was fortunate to be assigned numerous jobs at Pecometh. In my 5 summers, I was the Counselor in girls Cabin H, the Trip-Travel Counselor, the Swimming Pool Coordinator, the Camp Secretary, and by far the most challenging, I was the "stand in" Dietician/

> Food Service Coordinator. Pecometh provided me job opportunities from surrogate Mother, swim instructor, sailor, to chief cook and bottle washer literally—sometimes all in one day. It was the very best life and faith experience imaginable. I was very blessed.

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In the 70's youth groups from around the conference continued to clamor for the opportunity to hold a weekend retreat in their beloved "Barn", but it was desperately in need of renovation. Led by Rev. Howard Bailey, the Delaware Conference had raised funds for camping ministry. These funds were used to renovate th

funds for camping ministry. These funds were used to renovate the Barn to enable new generations of youth to have the Camp Pecometh retreat experience.

Jack Robinson served as the Camp Director from 1971-1975 and Jack Simpers (1975-1991) arrived in the middle of the decade. During this period, travel camps gained popularity including Shenandoah Canoe-Backpack trips, Bike

Hikes and Chester River Canoe trips.

A Pecometh Memory by Carlton Parker I attended camp for the first time, in 1972, only a few weeks after my father's death. The YMCA was hosting a camp for the Big Brothers program. They were using the Pioneer site and we stayed in tents for the week. The other boys and counselors brought a variety of backgrounds and perspectives with them making the week rather interesting. I returned to camp the following few years as a

camper, but not to the Pioneer site. Riverside camp was the place to be. I had started to develop friendships each of those summers and we would make plans to return to camp each summer together. Memories of those camping experiences are vivid and have remained with me even today. I have one memory of our last mornings at camp when we would gather in a circle with our family groups to say goodbye before lunch. The counselors would ask us to gaze silently around the circle focusing on those memories. We were told we could leave the circle when we were finished. As other members of my family group would rush away, I would take a seat and be the last one to leave the circle. I see those experiences as God telling me that He had plans for me and Camp Pecometh

### A Pecometh Memory by Robbin Twilley

AMP PECOMET



One of my fondest camp memories is the music; which not only is a memory but a part of my daily life: the singing after lunch in the dining hall. All of the songs are permanently embedded in my mind and one can often hear those songs from my classroom, or children's choir at church. As a director of vocal music, God began preparing me for a life of music and sharing His love. He always knows what we need and not a day goes by that I am not humming a Pecometh song.



















The 80's brought the first major capital campaign to Pecometh. The Barn was filled every weekend with a waiting list of youth groups wanting a chance to come and experience Pecometh. New cabins were needed for the rapidly growing summer camp program. Pecometh was also a popular picnic location and the aging Picnic Pavilion was insufficient for the needs of local churches. Administration and Maintenance needs demanded additional space. The "It's Time for Tomorrow" Capital Campaign was launched with a goal of \$5,000,000.

### A Pecometh memory from Rev. Chris Pennington

Each Memorial Day weekend my home church went on a retreat at Pecometh. For 30 years, this retreat held a very special place in my life. During the 70's I attended the Riverside program for the first time. I was a repeat camper attending many different programs over the course of the years. During the Summer of 1986 I attended the Junior Counselor program early in the Summer and then returned a week or so later to be a part of the staff serving as a maintenance person. Camp



Director Jack Simpers had asked if I would be willing to serve on the staff and aid the maintenance crew as the camp was preparing for accreditation by the ACA. He made it sound important and needed and I readily agreed. I returned the next summer and served as Head Boys Counselor. That was the end of my serving on staff but not the end of my Pecometh experience. It was in the Fellowship Hall on the riverfront at Camp Pecometh On May 25, 1997 that I heard God call me to go into pastoral ministry in our Annual Conference. It was an experience that I will never forget in a place that will forever remain one of the greatest places on planet earth. Now, I have the pleasure of returning to Pecometh for a week serving as a Spiritual Life Coordinator. I enjoy the opportunity to teach the campers Bible studies and also to be available to the staff as a counselor should an issue arise. Countless campers have given their hearts to our Lord as a result of the Camp Pecometh experience and I am most grateful for the small part God has allowed me to play in this disciple-making. I give God all of the glory for creating Pecometh and I look with eager eyes to what God has in store for the decades to come.





## The New Millennium Brings Many Changes to Pecometh.



The enhancement of the challenge course and outdoor ministries greatly expanded the year-round programming at Pecometh. The Talley House became the third bunk-style retreat house. Splashdown equipment and the addition of tubing, wake boarding and waterskiing added a new element of excitement to an already popular aquatics program.

Jack Shitama became the Director in 2000 and has seen great change during his tenure which has lasted until the present day. Drayton Manor was sold in

2005, ending 40 years of adult ministry that had touched the lives of many. The decision was a difficult one, but the upkeep of two aging facilities was putting a large strain on the conference budget. Looking to the future, the Tradition and Transformation Capital Campaign was launched to build an adult retreat center on the Camp Pecometh property.

### A Pecometh Memory by Marta Senn

The Loran & Police & Dan Works

I always loved camp as a kid because it was a way for me to make friends, try new things and learn more about God in an intimate setting outside of Sunday church services. But now, as a staff member, camp is another home away from home for me where I meet amazing people, do amazing things and teach children everything I looked forward to learning when I was their age. I get to be part of the legacy.

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### Tradition & Transformation Capital Campaign

### Capital Campaign In Memory of Bud McKee

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### Pecometh Endowment

\*Tom & Judy Carter

### *Campership Endowment* \*Tom & Judy Carter

### Businesses and Organizations

American Legion -Frank Jarman Post # 36 American Legion -Kent Island Post #278 American Legion -Post 145 C & R Enterprises Challenge Applications LLC Cokesbury Village Spiritual Life Committee Edwards Pharmacy GoodSearch Moore & Rutt, P.A Queenstown Bank of Maryland Southeast Creek Steamers Sussex County Bar Association VFW #7464 Grasonville Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Western Tire & Auto Willis Chevrolet

### Grants

Baltimore Community Foundation Peninsula-Delaware Conference - Council on Finance and Administration

### United Methodist Churches

Aldersgate - Wilmington \*\*Asbury - Salisbury Atlantic - Ocean City Bethesda - Preston Bloomery - Federalsburg Calvary - Wilmington \*\*Centreville UMC Christiana UMC Church of the Atonement -Claymont Conley's - Angola \*\*Connection Community Church \*\*Ebenezer - Newark Ebenezer - Snow Hill \*\*Felton-Viola UMC Friendship - Powellville Grace - Cambridge Grace - Millsboro Greenwood UMC \*\*Hockessin UMC Hoopers Memorial UMC Immanuel - Townsend Little Creek UMC Magnolia UMC Mt. Pleasant - Greensboro New Castle UMC New Life Community -Centreville Peniel - Wilmington Ridgely UMC Shelemiah - North East St. John's - Elkton \*\*St. John's - Seaford St. Mark's - Easton \*\*St. Mark's - Wilmington St. Matthews By-The-Sea -Fenwick \*\*St. Paul's - Earlville \*\*Stevenson - Berlin Thawley's - Denton Trinity – Newark, MD Union - Denton Union - Goldsboro \*\*Wesley Chapel - Rock Hall \*\*Wesley - Dover

\*\*Pecometh Partner Church



### 2010 Financial Results

In 2010, Pecometh invested \$70,268 in capital improvements related to existing facilities and programs. Of this amount, \$24,190 was funded by a grant from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Council on Finance & Administration. The balance was funded by donations and fund-raising proceeds.

Pecometh has two endowments whose fund balances at the end of 2010 were :

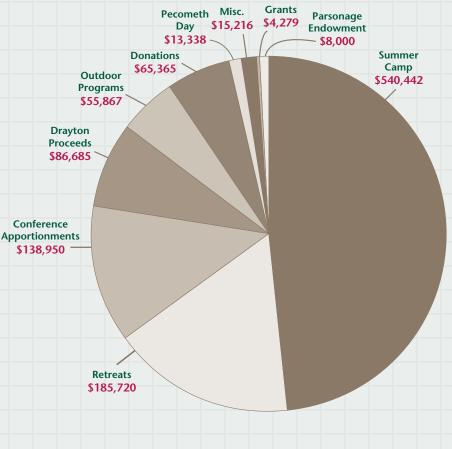
Pecometh Endowment Fund.....\$53,955 Pecometh Campership Endowment Fund.....\$53,377



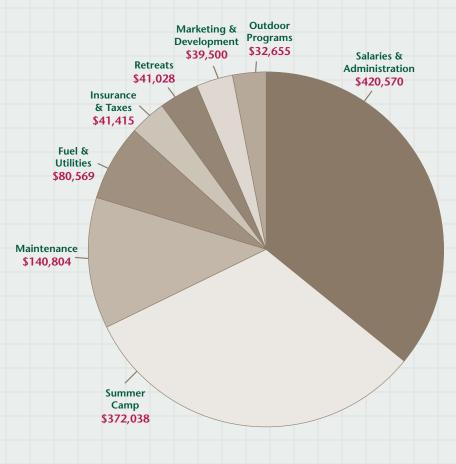




### Total Income: \$1,113,862



### Total Expenses: \$1,168,579



### Our Mission & Vision

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 Christcentered peace and play in our unique Eastern Shore setting.

To see people become disciples of Christ.

To see children brought to faith through fun and fellowship.

To see students become stewards of God's Creation.

To see camp programming used year-round.

To see the adult retreat ministry grow in spiritual formation, leadership development, and programming for life needs.

To see Pecometh become a self-sustaining ministry while maintaining connectional ties.

To see a strong donor base and financial support by churches.

# How You Can Help

The first 65 years of Pecometh provided Christ-centered life-changing experiences to many. Here are just a few ways you can help ensure the Pecometh experience for future generations.

### Be a Pecometh Advocate

- Keep the ministry of Pecometh in your prayers.
- Spread the news about the programs and facilities at Pecometh in your community and local church.
- Encourage parents to make Christian camping a priority for their children.

### Volunteer

- Come for our annual Volunteer Day each April to help get Pecometh ready for its busy season.
- Make a quilt, donate a silent auction item or come and volunteer at Pecometh Day in April.
- Donate your carpentry, electrical, or mechanical skills to help keep Pecometh running smoothly.
- Former camp staff can get involved with the Camp Pecometh Staff Alumni Association (CPSAA)

### Give

- Donate equipment, appliances, computers, boats or vehicles to Pecometh.
- Make a financial contribution to the ministry of Pecometh.
- Remember Pecometh in your will.

### Become a Friend of Pecometh

Friends of Pecometh are people who have recognized the value of a place apart for peace and play and have shown a strong devotion and loyalty to the ministry of Pecometh. Members have shown this above average loyalty financially, by giving \$300 or more per year to this endeavor. Their giving varies from the general operating fund, to camperships, to the retreat center capital campaign, to the alumni project, to an endowment fund or to our camp facilities capital fund.

### Encourage your church to become a Pecometh Partner Church

As Pecometh voluntarily reduces its apportionment funding from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, we are trusting that there are churches that are able and willing to directly support our ministry. As with individuals, support from churches may be directed in different ways, but all of it supports essential elements of our ministry. Pecometh Partner churches also agree to hold a Pecometh Sunday to promote support for this ministry at least once every three years. The level of support to become a Pecometh Partner depends of average attendance.

| Average Attendance | Level of Support |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Less than 125      | \$500/year       |
| 125 or more        | \$1,000/year     |

### Support Pecometh Day – our annual fundraising event

Pecometh Day is a celebration of the ministry which includes open house hayride tours, children's games, petting zoo, live music and food. It is also the primary fundraiser which supports the campership fund and the capital improvement funds. A silent auction, live quilt auction and giving tree offer opportunities for donors to support Pecometh while having a day of family fun.

Contact Pecometh for more information on how you can shape the future of this important ministry.

# The new Riverview Retreat Center Opening September 2011

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Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries

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