



Suwannee Ripples

Published for Camp Suwannee by the Advent Christian Village Office for Resource Development



'FAMILY CAMP' OF A DIFFERENT SORT



By Craig Carter, ACV President/CEO



Camp Suwannee and the Florida Conference of Advent Christian Churches have served thousands of people in a variety of ways. They regularly hold conferences, retreats, camps and special events. In fact, my first memories of attending a Florida Conference event at Camp Suwannee are not from my days as a camper at junior camp, but from an earlier time when our family participated in what was known as “family camp.”

From that event, I have fond memories of services in the old tabernacle and running around after dark playing with fellow youngsters who also came to the camp with their families for a great time of fun, fellowship and inspiration.

During those good ole days of family camp and other planned events, there were many opportunities for people from different churches and areas to come together for spiritual renewal and equally important fellowship with other believers. A number of groups continue to use the camp for such events, and I am excited that the Conference has worked to initiate an opportunity for us to again come together as a people.

At the Conference’s request, the Florida Conference and Advent Christian Village are combining two events for the express purpose of providing a venue for us to come together for a time of spiritual renewal, fun and fellowship. This year, the Florida

Conference’s annual meeting has been scheduled at the same time as ACV’s Winter Retreat. This promises to be a wonderful weekend, and everyone is encouraged to take part.

she is preparing to share is “You don’t know who you are until you know whose you are!”

The entire weekend promises to be a most inspirational and enjoy-



March 10-12

WINTER RETREAT 2017

at Advent Christian Village

Activities will begin with the Conference’s WHFMS service on Thursday evening, March 9. Their business session will then convene the next morning.

The traditional Friday evening service of the Conference is being incorporated into Winter Retreat: Comedian Dennis Swanberg is scheduled for a special ticketed event. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Village Lodge at 1-800-371-8381.

Saturday morning, March 11, the Conference will hold its annual business meeting. A special picnic lunch will follow, with a Saturday afternoon filled with fun and games.

Keynote speaker Dr. Donna Petter from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary will speak Saturday evening, Sunday morning and again Sunday evening. The title of the series

able time as together we renew old acquaintances, meet new friends, and grow in our walk with our Lord and Savior. Hope to see you there.



GOLF TOURNAMENT MARCH 9

See back
page for
details.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES



By Doug Mabey

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Is it just me or did 2016 go by quickly?! We Americans have the bad habit of staying busy. We rarely take the time to relax and dwell on the good things in life. So I invite you to take a few minutes to sit down and read this edition of *Suwannee Ripples* and see what exciting things are going on at Camp Suwannee and what your part will be in 2017 and beyond.

In 2016, we made changes to the camping ministry and improvements to the camp facility to give everyone who comes to these holy grounds the opportunity to feel the presence of the Lord and to consider this place a second home — a home away from home.

We were all created to thrive, not just survive, and I believe the Lord expects all of us to do our part to make Camp Suwannee successful. That means reaching out to children between the ages of seven and 18 and encouraging them to attend Summer Camp and our annual Youth Retreat. It also means praying for this ministry so it will grow. I'm sure most of you would agree that, especially in this day and age, we need to be hyper vigilant in proclaiming the Gospel and inviting people to meet Jesus.

Many of your lives have been touched through the ministries of Camp Suwannee, so you know what a week or a weekend here can do for someone's life. (See the camper testimonies on the next page for recent examples.) We all know that only God has the final word on our success, but you can participate in it nonetheless. We have to be moving for God to direct our path.

We continue to praise the Lord for supplying groups who love camping at Camp Suwannee!

We have gained a new summer group, "Camp One," which is coming in June. Camp Cedarbrook has been coming since 1984 and is coming again this summer with one week of girls camp and one co-ed week. They experienced growth by doing a co-ed week, and we hope that continues for them and us.

We have scheduled the three A.C. Camp Suwannee weeks back to the way they used to be (Junior Camp following Intermediate Camp). We feel this schedule works better with family schedules around the July 4th holiday. The weeks of camp this summer will be July 9–15 for Senior Camp, July 16–22 for Intermediate Camp, and July 23–29 for Junior Camp.

We are happy to welcome back an RVICS (Roving Volunteers In Christ's Service) group in February for

three weeks. RVICS volunteers have been a big asset to Camp Suwannee and Advent Christian Village over the years — helping to keep our facilities looking great and functioning properly. Some of the projects they will be working on next month are:

- replacing the stage skirting in Rumph Pavilion;
- repairing the exteriors of the Youth Lodge, and Kite and Wacklerin Lodges;
- lots of painting, inside and out; and
- revitalizing Horton's Landing.

Dowling Cafeteria will have a new roof put on this spring. We're also hoping a new ceiling will be installed in time for summer camp. Thank you to those who gave toward this.

January is the time many choose to make new resolutions and I'd like to challenge you to add a few to your list: Please pray how God will use you in 2017 to impact the ministries of Camp Suwannee. Please encourage every child you know between the ages of seven and 18 to attend Camp Suwannee. And please financially support Camp Suwannee. Through your continued prayers and financial support, Camp Suwannee can continue its vibrant ministry of changing the lives of children for Christ. We are proud to say that Camp Suwannee continues to be a place where "Christ is exalted through camping."

Most Wanted List

Wood for Kite and Wackerlin Lodges
Outside Repairs = \$500

Wood for Youth Lodge Outside Repairs = \$750

New Rumph Pavillion Stage Skirting =
\$50.95 per 6 ft. section x 10
sections (+ shipping) = \$530

Handicap Lift for Aquilla Pool = \$8,000
\$1,075 received so far = still need \$6,925

Horton's Landing Revitalization = \$25,000
\$2,460 received so far = still need \$22,540

We would like to thank those who have given toward items on our Most Wanted List. Thank you, all!



2016

CAMP

SUWANNEE



This was my first year at Camp Suwannee and it was a blast! I really liked going to the pool, seeing the fireworks, and going to snack shack. In my cabin I liked playing tag and the “zombie” games with my friends. The game “dog a ball” was a COMPLETE BLAST!!! I also liked free dance, activities and the Bible stories. I hope I can go next year.

*Collin Bradley,
Junior Camper*

Camp Suwannee was so much fun. We did an activity every day and they were great. I went to White Sands most of the days and it was terrific. I thought the best part of the whole day was the Bowl service, it was so powerful. I did not know that God could touch me in such a miraculous way. Wednesday was my favorite night at Bowl; we separated into a group of boys and girls. I promise every girl at camp got touched by God that night. It was powerful. I did not go home the same — I was changed. Camp Suwannee was a great experience and it changed me. I’m so ready for next year.

*Jadyn Hester,
Intermediate Camper*

Senior camp at Camp Suwannee this year is hands down one of the most life changing experiences of my life. I’ve attended Camp Suwannee for three years now, and before this year I just went for the spiritual high. However, something was different this year. This year I made one of the hardest decisions of my life: to go into ministry. I would have never thought I would want to be a preacher, until I stepped into the Bowl on Monday night and shared my testimony. That night was the first night that I had broken out into tears, in three years. God changed my heart that night, and I could hear all those crying above me, in their seats because of what God was doing to their hearts through me. Before that night I had never given my testimony, and because God gave me the strength to do so I have started to do discipleship with my pastor. I can’t wait to see what else God has in store for my life, and how He’s going to use me to change many. This would have never been possible if it wasn’t for all those who helped with the ministry at Camp Suwannee this year, along with all those who helped send me and many others to camp. We all truly appreciate what you do for us and all those around you. God bless.

*Christopher Mitchell,
Senior Camper*

Upcoming Groups

Dates	Group Name	Dates	Group Name
Feb. 10–12	Village Church 30-Hour Famine	June 11–16	MDA
Feb. 17–19	Good Shepherd Church	June 16–24	Camp Cedarbrook Girls
Feb. 26–28	Leadership Development Phase III	June 25–July 1	Camp Cedarbrook Co-ed
Mar. 3–5	Dynamos	July 9–15	A.C. Senior Camp
Mar. 30–Apr. 2	UF Division of Student Affairs	July 16–22	A.C. Intermediate Camp
Apr. 5–9	Tres Dias Men	July 23–29	A.C. Junior Camp
Apr. 19–23	Tres Dias Women	Aug. 6–11	Boys’ Choir of Tallahassee
Apr. 28–30	Leadership Development Phase IV	Aug. 26	Leadership Development Phase I
May 6	SHS NJROTC Banquet	Sept. 9	McCall Reunion
May 26–28	Dance Shop	Sept. 15–17	WH&FMS
June 4–7	Camp One	Sept. 29–Oct. 1	Dynamos
		Oct. 4–8	Tres Dias Men



REMEMBERING CAMP SUWANNEE



By Jean Snyder



oday's Camp Suwannee looks nothing like the Camp Suwannee that I attended over 65 years ago. It was quite rustic with no air conditioned cabins, no hot water, and antiquated buildings; but just like today, it was a place that drew young people to come together to learn more about our Lord and to enjoy one another.

Nature has preserved the sacred Suwannee Bowl, where countless young lives were won to the Lord. The services around the Bowl remain in my mind as some of the most meaningful times at camp.

I remember the tabernacle where worship services were held as well as our wonderful skits and song services. And I remember the times we had to sweep out the tabernacle when our counselors felt we had not "toed the line" as we should have.

The little snack shack was so popular as we enjoyed colas, peanuts and other wonderful snacks.

The bell we now see outside the Village Café somehow often ended up in the Suwannee River when rambunctious boys were dared to do so.

We had so much fun as we played sports, especially softball. ACV President Emeritus Pomeroy Carter will relate that he remembers me sending a few balls into the Suwannee River. I loved softball!

We made precious friendships that have survived to this day. We learned that God was in every aspect of our lives, and our teachers brought that message to us in

solid ways.

I treasure the memories of my times at Camp Suwannee, and I know the young people who attend now will also experience a time they will always remember.

I thank God for Camp Suwannee and for Doug Mabey and his dedicated staff who make Camp Suwannee a time young people will not soon forget. Let's keep them in prayer.

Thank you, Jean, for sharing your memories of Camp Suwannee.

Camp Suwannee 2017

Senior Camp July 9–15

(Ages 14–18)

Intermediate Camp July 16–22

(Ages 11–13)

Junior Camp July 23–29

(Ages 7–10)

Applications will be mailed out in March.

For additional applications, go online

to www.campsuwannee.net or call

Director Doug Mabey at (386) 647-6624.

WHERE CHRIST IS EXALTED THROUGH CAMPING



Camp Suwannee

P.O. Box 4313

Dowling Park, FL 32064

386-658-5100 • 1-800-371-8381

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Suwannee River Conference & Retreat Center
is part of ACV Conference Services, LLC,
a wholly owned Limited Liability Company
of Advent Christian Village, Inc.

Camp Suwannee Fundraiser

Golf Tournament

Madison, FL • Thurs., March 9

In conjunction with FL Conference of AC Churches
Annual Meeting and ACV Winter Retreat

2-Man Scramble • \$30 per Person

Trophies will be Awarded!

Tournament registration will include
one round of golf, golf cart rental, and a
cookout. 100% of the proceeds will be
donated to Camp Suwannee.

Contact: Gene Peters (413) 822-1591