

SHORT STOPS

FALL/WINTER 2019

SINKING SPRING, PA - Community Evangelical Church took a team of 23 adults and youth to Larnaca, Cyprus this July. It was a week of adventure with Oasis Ministries as we worked with refugee families from the around the Middle East. We were intentional about building bridges of understanding and trust, bridges between family members, and bridges to God. We explored the story of two refugees in the Bible, Naomi and Ruth, and connected their story to the lives of these Muslim families. We rode camels, explored a local zoo, had a water fight, played games, picnicked, and prayed for these families who have been impacted by civil wars, corrupt governments, and the hardships of life. This adventure camp was a therapeutic camp, touching on emotional and social healing at every opportunity. It was life changing for all involved. – *Rev. Tim Sanger, Pastor of Student Ministries* ([photo](#))

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, WILLOW STREET, PA -This past June, a team of adults and youth students from GCCWS partnered with United Methodist Church Disaster Relief in Newport, North Carolina for a week of ministry that included rebuilding homes affected by the hurricanes that devastated the area. Students worked alongside adults and learned new skills while we all got the chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus in helping these families. The facilities in which we stayed were excellent and the work in Newport will continue through December, 2020 for anyone interested in scheduling a similar trip. – *Rev. Addison Roberts, Pastor of Students and Community Ministries* ([photo](#))

This summer, under the leadership of Pastor Paul Weitzel, a team of 22 people went to the Dominican Republic to work alongside Mission 2535 in the El Cabio Region, just outside Santiago. During our week trip, we had three primary objectives; construction, medical, and ministry. Many of us helped construct several critical parts of a community center that will minister to thousands of Dominican families. Others of us visited various orphanages, prisons, garbage dumps, and other places where we shared the good news of Jesus Christ and handed out clean water and food. In the afternoon, many of us led a VBS for over 150 children. We also had a medical team that went through several villages caring for basic medical needs. – *Pastor Paul Weitzel* ([photos](#))

MOHN'S HILL EC, MOHN'S HILL, PA – Dr. Bob Pawling on a trip with Camp Kirkland's Celebration Orchestra from June 6-15, 2019 to Romania. Camp Kirkland is a retired music arranger who occasionally takes missionary trips with a musical group to support missionaries in various countries. A year ago, while visiting Bulgaria, a hired musician who was playing with our orchestra came up to me and ask if she could give me a hug. I asked why, and she showed me the back page of a Gideon New Testament I had given to her on a previous trip.

She pointed to the place where she had written her name, signifying that she had placed her faith in Jesus as her savior. She shared about the joy that was with her each day now, and then she asked me if I had any more scriptures that she could have to be able to share Christ with some of the other Bulgarian musicians in the group. Wow, that made my trip worthwhile even before we played a single note. I have included a picture of one of our concerts and of the American musicians who went on the trip. I am standing on the right side just behind Camp Kirkland our director. On the left is Daniel Pincu, a Romanian pastor who organized the trip. – *Dr. Bob Pawling (photo)*

GRACE EC CHURCH, SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA -This summer Pastor Ted and I, along with our Youth Group Co-leader, Ryan Chesakis took our Youth Group to Lynn, Massachusetts on a Mission Trip. We stayed for 5 days in a church in Lynn and worked in the community in various ways. Some jobs we did were...Working in a Soup Kitchen, My Brother's Table. We prepared & served meals to the community.

Some of us went to an Adult Daycare which included disabled individuals.

There we interacted with, talked to and played games/puzzles with the clients.

Some of us cleaned at a Christian school, as well as cleaned/painted at the church where we stayed.

We also worked with children in various ways. At one place we did a VBS-like program & the other place was Day camp that a Big Brothers/Big Sisters feel to it.

We all had a wonderful week & the kids were impacted greatly. – Kim Hasenaur (photos)

TRINITY EC CHURCH, MANHEIM, PA - spent three days at Twin Pines Camp at the beginning of summer. We had 6 Youth and 3 Adults participate in this trip. Youth included: Matt I., Hunter M., Ethan M., Casey M., Grace., and Kyle D. Our chaperones were Ed K. Esther K., and Chris I. The goal was to help Twin Pines prepare for their summer camping season while becoming more aware of the need for mission work.

Our team cut up fallen trees for firewood for the camp. They also power washed the deck and walkway to the Main Lodge. Some fun with s'mores was a fellowship time event in the evening. All enjoyed the opportunity to spend time in the beautiful Pocono Mountains of PA while they worked together. – *Loren Gachnauer (photos)*

PITMAN EC CHURCH, PITMAN, PA -Our mission trip for the summer of 2019 was a team of 14 from Pitman EC Church to The Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, Kentucky July 7 to 13th. Our team served in 3 areas, children's ministry, community service and construction. - *Pat Hummel (photo)*

BETHESDA EC CHURCH, REEDSVILLE, PA - Bethesda EC Church Spring Adult Work Week: from April 8-12, 2019, 20 adults volunteered their energy, skills and time in the Tremont/Tower City communities, Schuylkill County, PA. The focus of their work: continuing flood clean-up

from summer 2018. The team worked on six different homes as well as the Tremont Ambulance Association Building. – *Rev. Mark Brooks (photos)*

BETHEL EC CHURCH, DIXON, IL -Our mission team had the privilege, once again, to serve at Broken Arrow Bible Ranch in NM for a week in June of this year. Our team was a combined group from Dixon, IL and St Cloud MN. Our main job was to support the full time staff through cleaning, running activities, serving food and loving on the junior campers that attended camp that week. We also celebrate that the summer of 2019 was Broken Arrow's first summer of over 1,000 campers!! God is good! –*Sherry Michel*

People from Bethel Church on the team: Rachel Rydzynski (Leader); Sara DiGrazia; Collin Fassler, Olivia Rydzynski; Caleb Rydzynski. (*photo*)

This summer I had the privilege of serving missionary kids (MK's) at a one-week camp in Peña Blanca, Honduras (<https://www.mkcamphonduras.org/#!>). God orchestrated all the details - down to it being the very same camp that Ed and Valerie Schubert had *already* applied for their daughter, Cheynece, to attend. We had a total of 77 campers and 26 staff members. Most of the staff were missionaries themselves, who were there to focus on an often forgotten crowd; the children of missionaries. The week gave these kids the opportunity to see friends they usually only see once a year, to worship the Lord together, and to participate in fun and messy activities! Days consisted of string art and crafts, swimming, hearty food, lots of sunshine, small group times and blossoming friendships. A couple of the biggest highlights were a color run and slip 'n slide with water activities! My cabin had six girls ages 13 & 14. The week's theme was on learning to tell your story, and it was beautiful to speak Truths taken from my own story to encourage others in this journey! - *Anna Nelson (photo)*

TRINITY EC CHURCH, HARRISBURG, PA -On July 21st- 26th the Youth Group went to Wayne County, NY for their annual mission trip. Trinity was represented by 3 youth group members and 2 adult chaperones. Everyone was excited to go and see what the Lord had in store for them this year. The mission trip was planned through an organization called *Group Missions*.

The highlight of the week was on Wednesday evening when they had an altar call after a worship session. There is something very powerful and amazing about watching kids fall to their knees crying under the presence of the Holy Spirit! There wasn't a single person in that room that did not feel the Lord's presence! It was truly inspiring and a blessing for all in attendance.

Our numbers were a little smaller but this year's mission trip was an important example of a real-life Bible lesson for the kids to experience. It is my hope that they experienced the love of God this week and they will continue to seek a personal relationship with him. - *Cathy Shaffer, Director of Youth and Family Ministry (photo)*

TRINITY LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH, ROYERSFORD, PA - Hi, my name is Meredith Harvey. I went with members of Trinity Lighthouse Church Royersford, Pa. this past summer to help with the teens at The English Camp in Palowice. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet people and share our Christian faith. This camp is wonderful place. We got into some hearty discussions; some issues the kids were currently facing at home and some regarding Christian living in today's world. They expressed themselves remarkably well and they didn't hold back from questions or expressing their opinions. Interpreters were also always available. The accommodations for our personal needs were offered by warm and kind hosts. Oh, the daily routine included a super fun time outdoors. There was also time for heart-to-heart conversations between the youth and staff. I think this is an exceptional place of ministry for youth.

ST. JOHN'S E.C. CHURCH, STEELSTOWN, PA - sent twelve youth, ranging in age from 12 to 18, and four adults to Big Creek Missions, a Christian ministry located in Bear Branch, Kentucky, an area considered to be one of the neediest locations in the United States. From June 22 to June 29, God used each team member's skills and abilities to serve the community through Children's Ministry and Construction Ministry. Each day started with combined worship before the teams would leave for their ministry sites, and each day ended with combined worship.

The Children's Ministry helped with a children's day camp where they shared the gospel of Christ through crafts, games, and lessons. The Construction Ministry worked on local homes that needed repair which included new roofing and a new porch. Each St. John's team member was blessed by this opportunity to serve others in the name of Jesus in Eastern Kentucky. - *Joel Wolfe (photo)*

TRINITY EC CHURCH, LITITZ, PA - In July, Trinity sent a team of 12 students and adult leaders to a Reach Work camp in Hurricane, WV. From Sunday to Saturday they slept on the floor at a local high school and woke up at 6:30 am each morning ready to work! By Saturday, more than 25 homeowners were smiling as they walked across new decks, climbed new steps or rolled down wheelchair ramps. Several homeowners received a new roof, while others were in awe at seeing their home with a fresh new look, painted from top to bottom. Lititz Trinity has been serving with Reach for more than 25 years. If you would like more information about Reach, please contact Pastor Ryan Taylor. – *Pastor Ryan Taylor (photo)*

