

Riverside Camp Report

Atlantic Wesleyan District Conference

July 11, 2024

One of the unique vantages points I have as the Camp Chairman stems from the fact that I am also a full-time youth pastor. I can watch first-hand the lasting fruit of Riverside Wesleyan Camp throughout the year. Last summer, the faithful teaching of Vaughan Martin, McCaila & Timothy Andrews as well as Jason Parker – who all taught on *Life with the Holy Spirit* – led to TEN baptisms by the middle of the fall. I specifically reference this because in each conversation with the baptism candidates, without any prompting they each referred to their teachings and how their time at Camp was a turning point within their own journey with Jesus. The long-standing heritage of Riverside has been and continues to focus on providing a “down to earth” space for people to encounter Jesus’ transforming presence and cultivate a vibrant faith with Him. Again – as a pastor, the five days of camp are invaluable when it comes to the yearly rhythm of people's lives. This is not limited to campers but to our adult staff as well. In fact, I would say the vast majority of the growth I see from Riverside comes from those who give of their time to minister there through the month of July.

Last July we set out with the goal to begin renovating all our Girls cabins by Kids Camp July 2024. I am pleased to say that by the time of District Conference we will have completed this task. This renovation has involved an enormous amount of painting that has largely been done by a work crew from *The River Church* (Mark Soone) in Bangor, new mattresses and several new bunks. Also, thanks to the resourcefulness of Camp Board members we have been able to completely overhaul our girls’ cabins for 30% of our proposed budget. The biggest benefit of this is that it will allow us to also renovate our boys’ cabins for far less than has been projected.

While increasing the comfortability of a camper's stay is valuable, it is no secret that Riverside Camp needs to prioritize sustainability. Over the course of the winter the Camp Board has put together and begun working through a sustainability plan. This includes but is not limited to the reworking of our expenses to cut the cost of doing business. Offering cabins for rentals as well as the rest of the campgrounds for larger events. We will also be adding more camper hookups which will allow us to cater to those who would like a quiet and affordable place to spend their weekends. At the present time my goal is to have our website, policy & procedures ready for us to begin offering these services beginning in May 2025.

At the end of the day, we are working towards sustainability that will allow us to keep registration costs for campers low.

Respectfully submitted,

Parker Davis
Riverside Wesleyan Camp Board Chairman