

Sandpiper

Twin Rocks Friends Camp
and Conference Center

River Cruise for Camp

Over 500 campers, supporters, board members, and staff of Twin Rocks Friends Camp came together aboard the Portland Spirit to celebrate the ministry of the camp on September 23rd. Excited to check out the well-known Portland attraction, guests boarded the ship wearing traditional camp “wood cookie” nametags and visited with old friends and new as they found their seats at tables named after Twin Rocks’ favorite places and cabins.

Guests were treated to a delicious meal and views of Portland as the boat glided along the Willamette River. As the meal ended,

former staff and campers shared about the difference that Twin Rocks has made in their lives, how it has contributed to their own spiritual growth, and

the change they have seen in campers and their own families. Those on board then took some time to pray, thanking God for His faithfulness and asking Him to continue to use the camp in incredible ways.

Ken Beebe, the camp’s Executive Director for the past 29 years, shared about the legacy of the camp and what the camp together with its supporters has accomplished over its 105-year history. Inspiring pictures of how Twin Rocks has grown and changed over the years reminded those present of God’s provision. Ken continued his presentation by announcing the new Twin Rocks Capital Campaign, *Charting the Course*, which focuses on creating Christian Community and Developing Disciples of Jesus (see page 2 for details). Generous givers from the River Cruise pledged over \$390,000 towards this 4-year campaign, a great start towards its 2.2 million dollar goal.



After joining together to sing the doxology, guests took the last hour of the cruise to head to the outside deck and see the cityscape as the boat sailed under Portland’s famous bridges. Those who attended the lunch cruise enjoyed the gorgeous fall colors along the

Continued on page 2

“Looking around the room, it was neat to see familiar faces as well as many new faces. I got a sense of the broader support base of the camp and was encouraged with plans for the future of Twin Rocks.”

—**Elizabeth Licon**,
former camp staff.

river and scattered between city buildings, while those on the evening cruise enjoyed the city lights, which sparkled beautifully along the water.

Twin Rocks is so grateful for all those who took the time to share joyfully in how God has moved through this ministry. Your faithfulness is, and has been, crucial to everything Twin Rocks is able to do. Thank you for your partnership and generosity.



"I felt like I got to experience an inside view of both Portland and the camp on this River Cruise. I've grown up in Portland but this cruise showed me a side of the city I don't usually see. The views were breathtaking. I also got to see a side of the camp and its needs I usually don't see. What an inspiring and enlightening event!"

—Beth Banham,
pastor at City's Edge church in Beaverton, who has been bringing groups to the camp for over 27 years.



Charting the Course Campaign

At the **River Cruise for Camp** event, Executive Director Ken Beebe presented the camp's next capital fundraising campaign. Over the next 4 years, Twin Rocks plans three key projects aimed at readying the camp for future generations of campers, projects that chart a course toward two of Twin Rocks' core purposes: **Creating Christian Community** and **Developing Disciples of Jesus**.

1. **YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY HOUSE:** A new home constructed for Twin Rocks' employees and interns provides an affordable place to live, a community of friends, and opportunities to deepen faith.
2. **DINING CENTER EXPANSION:** An expanded dining room and staff room reduces overcrowding and creates space for privacy for smaller groups with an additional portable wall. More space makes it easier for meaningful conversations and discipleship to happen naturally during mealtimes.
3. **WATSECO CREEK VILLAGE PREPARATION:** Housing at the Oregon Coast has become increasingly unaffordable for camp staff, necessitating a significant increase in onsite options. The camp is now ready to conduct a project design and feasibility study for the development of 10 acres on the south end of Twin Rock's property, setting the stage for developing (in 5-10 years) a community of staff homes and relocating the camp's maintenance facilities outside the core of camp.
- To watch a video about the Charting the Course Campaign, or to make a gift, you can mail in the form provided on page 7. You can also scan this QR code with your phone's camera and tap on the link that appears or go to twinrocks.org/donate. Four-year pledges are the most helpful as they allow us to determine the timeline of these important projects.



Charting the Course Campaign Summary:

Young Adult Community House	\$540,000
Dining Center Expansion	\$960,000
Watseco Creek Village Preparation	\$390,000
Repairs to Existing Structures	\$150,000
Fundraising Expense	\$160,000
Total Budget	\$2,200,000
Total Raised to Date	\$395,000
Left to Raise	\$1,805,000



**“My
counselors
were the
best!”**

—Kids Camper

“It was great to see kids who had never had an experience with God or church start to ask questions and really try to understand who God is.”

—Tanner, Kid’s Camp Counselor



“It’s always a blessing to have your child surrounded with believers and spending time worshiping the Lord.”

—Day Camp Parent

2023 Summer Recap



“This was my three boys’ favorite week of the summer.”

—Day Camp Parent



“Opportunities like TR day camp strengthen his relationship with God and affirm the things we teach at home”

—Day Camp Parent



“73 campers made a first-time decision, or chose to recommit, to follow Jesus at Tween Camp!”

—Tween Camp Directors



“I loved Bible class.”

—Kids Camper



You Should Know...

■ The camp has enjoyed several new hires and promotions in 2023: *Katey Astleford* is Twin Rocks' new **Guest Services Director**. *Tanner and Ariana Greer* are filling the roles of **Program Coordinator** and **Assistant Outdoor Education Director**. *Ashley Reid* is also serving as a **Program Coordinator** after working with Summer Staff and SLP as Interim Program Director last Summer. *Mary Bloechel* has joined the staff as **Food Service Assistant**. *Karl Seume*, who was recently promoted to **Food Service Director**, is joined by his wife, *Liz Seume*, the camp's new **Development Director**. *Terah Bagwell* was hired on as **Marketing Coordinator** and her husband *Matt* and daughter *Lynzie* are helping out in food service and housekeeping. *Gillian Selix*, *Stephanie Schelm*, and *Jeremiah Mason* have been working as **Program Interns**.

College-aged young adults and high schoolers looking for a life-changing summer working behind the scenes and counseling campers should consider Twin Rocks **Summer Staff and Student Leadership programs**. Find information and applications under the "Serving" tab at twinrocks.org. Apply now to ensure the best chance of selection.

■ Twin Rocks has hosted more than **275 guest rental groups in 2023**: 158 at the "main camp," and 125 at Harbor Villa Retreat Center. These included four couples conferences, 15 men's retreats, 42 women's retreats, 69 youth camps/retreats, and 79 family-related camps/retreats. They represented more than two dozen Christian denominations, 20 public schools, and 10 private Christian schools.

■ **Gertrude Ankeny passed away on November 29, 2022, in Newberg, Oregon at the age of 94.** She is remembered as a loving and stable presence the nearly 15 years (1979-1994) she served at the camp with her husband, Twin Rocks Executive Director Harlow

Ankeny. Gertrude was the welcoming voice for camp phone calls, kept the books, registered kids for camp, cooked and baked, and generally filled the gaps required by a growing camp with a small staff. Gertrude is fondly remembered for her strong attention to detail, pursuit of excellence, and heart for following Jesus.

2024 CAMP DATES:

- **Sabbath by the Sea** (January 1-21, 2024)
- **Seminar by the Sea** (February 2-4, 2024)
- **Junior High Jamboree** (February 16-19, 2024)
- **Kids Camp** (June 30 – July 4, 2024)
- **Tween Camp** (July 8-13, 2024)
- **Family Vacation Adventures** (July 4-7, 2024)
- **Day Camp** (July 15-19, 2024)
- **Surfside** (July 28 – August 2, 2024)
- **Family Camp** (August 30 – September 2, 2024)
- **Men's Retreat** (September 13-15, 2024)
- **Couples Conference** (October 11-13, 2024)
- **Family Holiday Weekend** (December 13-15, 2024)

■ Twin Rocks would love to have you join the team! The camp is currently hiring for several year-round positions including **Program Director, Assistant Food Service Director, Assistant Facilities Director, Housekeeping, and Kitchen Staff**. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please check out the website for more information: www.twinrocks.org/serving.



February 2-4, 2024
Seminar
by the Sea

Join us for a weekend with C.S. Lewis!
This three-day retreat will focus on the profound ideas of C.S. Lewis's book, *The Four Loves*. George Fox University professor and former President of the Oxford University C.S. Lewis Society, **Dr. Jason Lepojärvi**, will tackle fundamental questions about love through engaging talks and discussion.

- To register go to www.twinrocks.org and look under adult & family camps.
- Seminar by the Sea is an annual study-oriented retreat focusing on authors or topics of spiritual significance that can be investigated in a weekend.





Blessings from Venezuela

Meet some of our newest team members from Venezuela — Jhonathan and José Diaz, two cousins in their late twenties, Rafael Reyes, his wife Jackeline, and their young adult daughter Rosibel. These five first arrived in the U.S. from Venezuela in early 2023 with visas and work permission that was granted to them due to the economic hardship in Venezuela. In 2016 Venezuela entered hyperinflation, with the annual inflation rate at some points rising over 1 million percent. “I was making twenty US dollars for working one month full-time,” said Jhonathan Diaz. “Politics, schools, and the economy...It’s ALL a mess.” The unstable economy made it impossible to buy enough groceries or even think about being able to pay rent in Venezuela.

Upon arrival in the United States, they had support and a place to stay with their relatives, Angel and Marbelys Diaz, who are the pastors of McMinnville Friend’s Church “Iglesia Amigos En McMinnville.” They, along with 8 other family members who also came over from Venezuela, quickly got connected with Twin Rocks as volunteers while they waited for some final paperwork.

Last Spring camp staff weren’t sure how they were going to be able to staff the camp adequately for the busy summer season. “It’s amazing how God provided people right at a point when we really needed help,” said Food Service Director Karl Seume, who has been dealing with staff shortages in the kitchen even outside of the summer season. “They are all really hard workers and have been willing to jump in at any point and learn anything that’s helpful to the camp.” Twin Rocks was so grateful for their volunteer efforts this summer, and even more grateful that five from the group decided to pursue permanent employment at Twin Rocks.

Jhonathan and his cousin José work as kitchen interns with Karl Seume. Rafael works in maintenance and Jackeline and Rosibel in the kitchen and dishroom. “I really like the camp, I like practicing English, and the people are very friendly,” said Rosibel, who studied architecture in Venezuela.

Rafael was a pastor in Venezuela for the last 27 years and says “The reason I was most motivated to work here is the camp’s mission to support churches. I feel like I am in the right

place doing the will of God by being at Twin Rocks.” Rafael will also start to pastor a church plant in Tillamook soon. A group of Spanish speakers have been praying for a pastor for the last two years and recently connected with Rafael.

Please join the camp staff in welcoming these new staff and thank God for bringing them to be a part of the Twin Rocks team. Please

also pray for them as they adjust to life in a new culture, learn a new language, and are apart from family and friends.



Jackeline (right) working with volunteer baker, Louise Sargent.



José and Jhonathan Diaz along with Rafael, Jackeline and Rosibel Reyes.

Would you like to be a backstage volunteer at Twin Rocks?

Find out more information at twinrocks.org under the “serving” tab or call Volunteer Coordinator LeAnn Beebe at 503-355-2284 with your questions. Opportunities abound to volunteer for a few hours, for one day, for

several days, or several months! Volunteers are needed in all areas of the camp, like housekeeping, food service, grounds, and maintenance. Depending on the time of year, housing and meals are provided.

Harbor Villa Retreat Center: Twin Rocks' Beachfront Gathering Place

"How can you not get closer to God when He gives us such a beautiful place to enjoy?," reflects Steve Wilson, leader of Northwest Baptist Church's High School retreat, which has met each August at Harbor Villa since 2019. He goes on to say, "We wake up and have coffee time on the Anchorage porch, enjoying the morning sounds, smells, and sights of the beach view. After breakfast is morning worship and then the students form small groups and dig into God's Word. Enjoying God's Word on the beach is pretty awesome."

Like the NW Baptist youth, Harbor Villa Retreat Center, a ministry of Twin Rocks Friends Camp, has been home to annual getaways for youth groups, men's and women's church retreats, crafting groups, and family reunions since the 1970s when Twin Rocks Friends Camp Director Charlotte Macy purchased it as an old, rundown motel. Beautifully upgraded over the years, Harbor Villa is comprised of 5 oceanfront units—the larger Lighthouse,

Harbor Villa Retreat Center also hosts the annual **Sabbath by the Sea**, which occurs each January. To find out more about these half or full week extended times of personal spiritual retreat, or to register, visit the website at twnrocks.org.

Anchorage, and Harbor House plus the small Captain's Cabin and Lower Deck.

Family reunions and groups of up to 35 may rent the houses at Harbor Villa. Groups larger than 18 rent more than one of the larger houses. The River Church's women's retreat, led by Leslie Murphy, maximizes the opportunities for fellowship the self-contained homes allow. Leslie shares, "To help women get to know each other, kitchen crews, sleeping rooms and discussion groups are rotated, allowing women to interact with everyone over the course of the weekend."

The Schuldheisz Family has been coming to Harbor Villa each summer since about 1980. Mary Schuldheisz says highlights of their family reunion are sharing

meals together, catching up with family, walking and playing on the beach, and sharing in family devotion and prayer times. Like the Schuldheisz family, each year about 55 families make their annual trek to Harbor Villa to share with extended family.

Besides typical church retreats and family reunions, specialty groups like the Rex Putnam High School's Kingsmen Thunder Drumline start their school year by bonding at Harbor Villa. Leader of the drumline, Rene Ormae-Jarmer says, "The setting of the ocean beach, the safe and cozy Harbor House, and the amazing hosts have allowed (me) and the staff to ease our 6th-12th graders into the year." Drumming and marching practice even takes place on the beach itself, Rene noting that soft sand can be a challenge but "super fun!"

"We take (our week at Harbor Villa) to help our students learn how to share the Gospel. We help them to better understand what the Gospel is, how it should impact their lives and witness, and then we help them craft their testimonies. We want them to be constantly reminded of just how magnificent God is. If he can create such beauty and hold back the sea from the land He can certainly be trusted to care for us. What better place than the Oregon Coast and a beautiful beach front home to accomplish this purpose!"

—**Jeff Sutton**, *Great Commandment Ministries.*



Caretakers Ron and Deb Mulkey returned to Harbor Villa in 2021 after a two year hiatus. They ensure that Harbor Villa is well maintained and the facilities are in top shape and ready for the 3300 guests that flow through each year.

If you are interested in booking Harbor Villa, contact Harbor Villa Coordinator Liana Peters at 503-355-2284. Also, check out the Twin Rocks Friends Camp website, twnrocks.org, to see pictures of the Harbor Villa units.



YES!

I/we would like to make a contribution to the ministry of Twin Rocks Friends Camp & Conference Center, as follows:

\$ _____ gift enclosed

- ☐ I would like to have recurring gifts to Twin Rocks Friend Camp automatically withdrawn from my bank account. Please contact me to arrange this.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

- ☐ My gift is given in memory (or in honor) of: _____

Please cut off this form, and insert into an envelope. You may also insert your check. **THANK YOU!**

Please indicate one of the following:

- ☐ Please add my gift to the **Charting the Course Capital Campaign** — ensuring ongoing, life-transforming experiences at Twin Rocks.
- ☐ Other _____



OR—Make a donation via PayPal!



Memorials

We want to thank those who have given to Twin Rocks in memory or honor of a loved one or friend. The following gifts have been received since the last issue of the *Sandpiper*.

In Memory of...

Allen Hadley

Jeff & Debbie Rickey

Barbara Dealy

Ed & Sandy Dealy

Bill & Joann Bales

Tim & Karen Benham

Bill, David, Frieda, Les & Tom Hefflin

Judith Brown

Cadd Memorials

Harold & Beverly Steinbeck

Carol Roberts

Gretchen Roberts

Charles & Jean Hanson

Dwight & Patti Kimberly
Charla Murphy

Charlotte Macy

Elise & Scott Szalay

Claudia Schoonover

Dexter Kincaid
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Larry & Pamela Mullins
Po & Rachel Peterson
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Daryl Kyle

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Elise & Scott Szalay

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Ed Macy

Sharon Macy
Elise & Scott Szalay

Elmer McKee

Arla McKee

Eugene Morse

Brian & Carolyn Morse

Gerald & Alice Dillon

Denise Gilbert

Geraldine Sugden

Karl & Liz Seume

Gertrude Ankeny

Dick & Linda Sartwell
Divonna Crecelius
Ken & Devonne Hibbs
Lois Haskins
Naomi Wilson

Gloria Lee Hutchins

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Harlow Ankeny

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Matt & Shelley Geil

Timothy Rippee

Beverly Rippee

Verna Newton

Betty Remington
Charles & Mary-Lynn Allen
Joseph Klune

Wes Armstrong

Thom & Cheryl Armstrong

In Honor of...

Twin Rocks Staff

Dianne Ellis

Walter King Family

Linda & John Edwards



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From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends:

One of the rewards of working at a place like Twin Rocks Friends Camp is the opportunity to rub shoulders with incredibly caring people – folks who believe in the camp's Christian mission and willingly sacrifice on its behalf.

Richard Nelson was one such person. Upon Richard's retirement from a career in the Army Corps of Engineers, Richard and his wife, Kathy, moved to Twin Rocks in 2019 to serve as live-in volunteers – Richard tinkering long hours in our maintenance department, Kathy faithfully folding sheets and towels in the camp's laundry room. Richard and Kathy regularly interacted with staff and campers half their age, ministering and mentoring in a quiet and gentle manner. They served at Twin Rocks from September 2019 to October 2022, when illness forced them to leave camp and move back to Portland.

A month ago, Richard passed away.

Richard was special. To me, what set him apart was his unending optimism and words of encouragement.

It seemed that every time Richard spoke, it was to share his gratitude for something or someone. He personified 1 Thessalonians 5: "Rejoice always... Give thanks in all circumstances." Richard regularly refocused us on God's goodness, and on all that the Lord was accomplishing at Twin Rocks. What an inspiration it was to have Richard walk alongside us through the pandemic and its aftermath, reminding us of God's unending faithfulness.

**"Rejoice always...
Give thanks
to God in all
circumstances."**

– 1 Thessalonians 5

We could invariably count upon Richard to compliment us, praise the work of the camp, encourage us, and otherwise make us feel good about ourselves. Richard also put us to shame: Some days we quietly bemoaned the difficulty of our work (for which we were paid), only to hear Richard declare how blessed he felt to spend retirement years at Twin Rocks (volunteering). Over the years, Richard donated more than 9,000 hours of labor to Twin Rocks.

Even in times of tumult, Richard managed to see the Lord lovingly at work in his life. Shortly before his passing, Richard reflected over the events of the past year, and said, "God's goodness has been extraordinary."

The world needs more people like Richard Nelson.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken".

—Ken Beebe, Executive Director



Kathy and Richard Nelson