

# CAP Connection

A newsletter for volunteer alumni of the Christian Appalachian Project

Summer 2010



## Alums lead a new approach to camp

*As most of you know, the impact the economic crisis had on CAP resulted in the difficult decision not to operate summer camps this year.* Instead, summer has been used for much needed renovations at both Camp Andrew Jackson and Shawnee. That was disappointing news for the children in the area as well as for the volunteers who like to descend on the camp during summer months to serve as counselors.

Two former staff members at Camp Shawnee, Mike and Laura Kelly, were especially sad upon hearing the news. The two of them met as volunteers at the camp in 2005 and have served there during summers since then. They married in 2008 and teach in Champaign, Illinois. Knowing they would have their summer free, they jumped at the opportunity to coordinate a day camp for CAP in the surrounding school areas which include Allen, John's Creek, Jones Fork and Meade Elementary Schools.



Mike and Laura Kelly

So the fun, and several happy camp counselors, have returned after all. "We basically go and spend the day playing!" Laura says. "We spend ALOT of time playing dodgeball, sharks and minnows, blob tag, etc. We also try to take some kind of water activity each day, like water balloons or big sponges." In addition, Pat Griffith leads an arts and crafts session each day. The children have decorated picture frames, made sand art, painted wind chime bird houses, created bead designs, and had a face painting party. Sometimes the children also get to go to Camp Shawnee to canoe, swim, hike, and have a picnic with the counselors.

"We also have a "spirit time" each day, where we teach them about God," Laura continued. Our theme for that is the armor of God." Each day, the children learn about a new piece of the armor of God, such as the helmet of salvation and the belt of truth, through prayer, conversation and games.

Although it may not be the overnight summer camp experience, there are still a lot of great things going on at Camp Shawnee. Laura says, "We both feel Camp Shawnee is a special place for many reasons, and are thankful we have been able to keep returning."



## Alumni Highlight: Casey Sterr From volunteer to employee to CAP board member

*Casey Sterr, '86 – '87, remembers his waning college months* when he had what he calls one of his largest conversion moments. He had lined up interviews with businesses in Chicago where he could use his newly earned accounting degree but he started to ask— isn't there more to life than money and career? That's when he went in search and found CAP.

Casey served as a home repair volunteer for Jackson County. He remembers the immediate connection he felt with the other CAP volunteers. "I feel like I've always belonged at CAP," he says. It was an organization that showed him how to "put teeth into the gospel."

So even when Casey completed his volunteer term he didn't travel far. He worked as a CAP employee until 1989

*Continued on page 3*

## From Across the Mountains

**Jon and Heather Fields, '95 – '96**, added to their family of seven children in March. Teresa Marie Rose was born March 4 and she makes eight Fields children.



*The Fields Family*

**Colleen Dee Baker, '93 – '94**, lives in Cape Cod, Mass. with her husband Bob, to whom she has been married for almost 13 years. Since January, three-year-old Skyler has been living with them and they hope to finalize his adoption this summer. "He's been an answer to our prayers!" Colleen wrote.



*Kiara, Zoey and Charles West*

**Kiara (Klister), '00 – '02, and Charles West, '00 – '02**, are the proud parents of Zoey. Kiara continues her role as Manager of Volunteer Life and "Mr. West" is teaching special education at Lancaster Elementary School.

**Tammy Parsons**, who has cooked for CAP groups for the past couple of years, recently left to serve with Doctors Without Borders in Armenia. Tammy, a medical technologist, will be working in a clinic for patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis.

**Katie Gisch Ogilvie, '96 – '98**, and her husband welcomed

their second child, Nathaniel Francis, into their family on November 1, 2009. Nathaniel's sister Madeline is now three.

**Fr. Beiting** is recovering from a serious car accident in Louisa during May. True to form, he expressed a restlessness to get back to work very soon afterwards!

"**The Valley**," as CAP's property in Mt. Vernon has long been known, recently received a facelift as CAP administrative offices moved out of the building nearest the present volunteer house to make way for the Mt. Vernon Volunteer House. It now sits across the road from the Rockcastle Volunteer House and can house six to eight volunteers.

The volunteer office also recently called on former volunteers to help with some spiritual support for current volunteers, **Kristi Witek's, '00 – '01**, husband, Todd Butler, led a retreat on transitions and **Sr. Kate Weigand, '70s**, helped with a Day of Prayer. Thanks for sharing your gifts.

### Send us your news, message, memories or prayer requests

Please send us any message you would like to share in an upcoming edition of the CAP Connection to: Volunteer Program, 4192 North Wilderness Rd., Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 or [volunteer@chrisapp.org](mailto:volunteer@chrisapp.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Years you volunteered: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your message:

### Alums have fun giving back

Sports fans know that team rivalries can provoke heated discussions as well as a bet here and there. That's just what happened when the University of Oregon Ducks and the Ohio State Buckeyes went to the Rose Bowl. Alumni **Amy Stevens Yost (Oregon) '96 – '97**, and **Mary McNamara (Ohio) '94 – '96**, placed a wager—the person with the losing team would buy pizza for a CAP volunteer house. The result? Amy bought the pizza, but the Volunteer Program sees both of these alums as winners.

## From volunteer to employee to CAP board member

*Continued from cover*

then went back to school at the University of Kentucky. He later returned for two more stints as a CAP employee and in between those times, he continued to serve in various ways, primarily in Kentucky.

In November 2008, Casey returned to the area when he moved to Mt. Vernon and accepted the job of executive director of Appalachia Science in the Public Interest (ASPI). ASPI works for healthy and sustainable communities in Kentucky and central Appalachia. His previous CAP experience serves him well in his present job. He says he has learned, "That community is important and that there is a mutuality in that." That sets up a different sort of relationship than if one person is only handing another person something. He considers the question, "How are we in this together?" "It's better when it's seen that way because it respects their dignity," he continues. Otherwise, the relationship can appear to be based on an imbalance of power.

The first step to understanding what someone has to contribute comes through listening. One of the things Casey appreciates about the region is that people work hard but they also find time to sit on the porch and share stories. In the listening, there's learning. Casey is especially interested in the wisdom the elderly share based on their experiences of self-sufficiency, resiliency and community.

At ASPI, Casey sees his work continuing to build on those personal relationships as it also calls for tremendous

patience. He believes what he is doing is "justice work," which means addressing a huge system that can't be changed overnight.

"You're working against a system that tells you to pull into McDonald's to get your food," he says, pointing out that an alternative is to grow it yourself. Taking that sort of action, like many of the other things ASPI encourages, Casey sees as representing that mustard seed of faith, one small act that can contribute to the whole.

In the midst of all the justice work, Casey also says, "I've learned more about the need for silence and solitude." He finds it necessary to take time to prayerfully reflect.

That reflection leads to positive action on the environmental problems that hinder the region. Casey says that while some organizations concentrate on pointing out what's presently wrong, which is needed, ASPI asks the question, "So what can we do about it?" For example, ASPI is presently offering a sustainable energy training series which focuses on solar energy.

As Casey's connection to the region grows through his new focus, he remains connected to CAP. He joined the CAP board of directors in 2009 and is still learning about how serving as a board member is different than his previous roles as volunteer and employee.

"It's always amazing to me how the bonds endure from the CAP volunteers—good people doing good things," he says. Many CAP alums continue to make a positive contribution to make eastern Kentucky a better place.

## Our Condolences

We join in prayer and condolences to the families of some long- and short-term volunteers who recently died.

**Doris Anglin** served CAP for years as she operated The Attic store in Berea. She'll long be remembered for her dedication.

**Janet Schmal** offered her talents in the Adult Education Program, helping students open educational doors.

**Mildred Wright** passed away just two months short of her 98th birthday. She of-



*Steve Laudenslager*

ten accompanied **Marge Pritsky** to volunteer.

Long-time volunteer **Steve Laudenslager**

passed away in July. He was well known and loved by so many.

Please join us in holding these families close in prayer.

## Disaster team still building

When the headlines announce flooding, tornadoes or any other sort of natural disaster, Sherry Buresh realizes it's time to consider activating a CAP disaster relief team. People from across the country who want to volunteer to serve short-term during disasters are on a list that Sherry activates when CAP decides to respond. If you would like to be included so you'll receive the notifications of CAP's emergency service needs, please send your name, address and phone number to Sherry at [sburesh@chrisapp.org](mailto:sburesh@chrisapp.org).

## McCreary campaign continues

The McCreary Volunteer House campaign continues after a successful start. The Volunteer Program extends a thanks to former volunteers who are now making possible a new house for the next generation of volunteers. So far you have contributed more than \$6,000 and the gifts are still pouring in! We are deeply humbled to witness this kind of generosity from those who have already given a part of their lives to us and the people here.

If you would like to donate, you may send your contribution to:

Christian Appalachian Project  
PO Box 2  
Lexington KY, 40509

Be sure to identify yourself as a Volunteer Alum and mark your gift for the McCreary Volunteer House! There is also a way to give on line through our CAP website at [www.chrisapp.org](http://www.chrisapp.org) which will instruct you how to direct your gift to the McCreary House.

## Thank you

A big thank you to all alums who returned to help promote CAP at the Ichthus Festival.

Also, we'd like to thank the following alums who have recruited for CAP recently:

**Marion Barth**, YouthFest 2010

**Marilyn Gierczak**, '09-'10

We appreciate your help in promoting CAP across the mountains!

## Ichthus continues to spread the word

CAP once again participated in the Ichthus music festival this year, recruiting future volunteers as well as offering volunteer help to staff the festival. Although the Ichthus crowd is primarily made up of high school students, it has directed groups to CAP who have later served as short-term volunteers. It's also given CAP volunteers a musical boost!

**CAP Connection** is published quarterly by the CAP Volunteer Program. If you have news to share or story ideas to suggest, please send them to one of the following:

**Beth Dotson Brown**  
(CAP Volunteer '90 - '91)  
Contributing Editor

**Kathy Kluesener**  
(CAP Volunteer '73 - '80)  
Admissions Coordinator

**Kathleen Leavell**  
(CAP Volunteer '76 - '78)  
Director of  
Volunteers/  
Christian Partners

volunteer@chrisapp.org  
1-800-755-5322  
606-256-0973  
fax 606-256-5942  
[www.christianapp.org](http://www.christianapp.org)



### Volunteer Program

4192 North Wilderness Road  
Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

Change Service Requested

---

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lexington, KY  
Permit # 850

---