



## *Heit's Point Hi-Lites* Nov/Dec 2011

### **Greetings from Heit's Point!**

We want to thank God for letting us serve Him here at Heit's Point. We want to thank Him for all the things accomplished through our donors and volunteers. The activity center is complete and being used regularly; the stone house has a new metal roof; there are three new campsites; six new tent sites and two new tree houses that have been very popular with the kids. Numerous other maintenance tasks were completed as well; the condition of our facilities has never been better.

We want to thank God for the successes He let us be a part of: "Over 150 youth at summer camp, four youth were baptized, two inner city families and eight inner city youth attended camp, and 130 youth participated in fall confirmation retreats."

His blessings went beyond our programs. Fifteen scrap-book events brought in a total income over \$35,000. Twelve reunions through the summer and into the fall brought income over \$30,000. Other special events, 4-H camp, American Field Service, and Abused youth camp, brought in over \$18,000. Our general local use increased again this year and our relationship with our local communities is improving as well.

Our contract income increased by 2% this year over last year. Donations have increased more than 24% over last year. Thrivent choice has been very successful for us, we received almost double what was projected. Our Dollar-a-Day program has generated some new support and we are looking forward to future growth. Our expenses decreased by 6%. This was accomplished even though food costs went up and the Environmental Protection Agency changing testing requirements for our waste management system.

The staff and I want to thank all of you for your support. This Ministry has grown amazingly fast. Heit's Point is only thirty years old and yet compared to other Lutheran camps across the country, we have a much more diversified ministry. God has a plan for this place and He continues to challenge us with new things.

### **What's coming in 2012!**

Some of our programs the past few years have suffered for attendance. Our new Program Director Leah has brought a new vitality to the programs and 2012 proves to be an exciting year. Check out our website to see the details.

Our diverse Ministry expands on its own. Word of mouth has been our best advertising. We had an event in 2011 that was attended by a gentleman that is involved with the Baptist association out of Sedalia. In 2012 the Harmony Baptist Association has scheduled a week long camp for 150 youth. The opportunities of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ continue to expand.

Our 2012 budget has been approved and again has a projected 6% decrease in expenses. We have planned very conservatively to ensure the economy does not affect our sustainability.

We thank God for continuing to challenge us in our service to Him.

Mark Nolte  
Executive Director



## "From The Chairman"

I want you to know that this board has been working very hard the last two months. We had a special board meeting the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November we met for a Site Plan/Optimal Utilization work session. After our regular board meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> we invited our staff family for dinner at Charlie's as a special "Thank You" for their support of the Ministry. Then on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November the board members attended the Friends of Heit's Point voters meeting.

We want to thank the slate of new board members for saying yes when asked to serve on our board. I believe they are bringing a broad base of relevant experience that will be a valuable asset for our future. We also want to thank Glen McLaughlin, Ferol Thaemert and Caryl Froeschle who are going off the board for their dedicated service to Heit's Point.

During all of these meetings, we spent considerable time discussing with Mark our financial position at the end of the year, our budget for next year, and what we needed to do to contain our cost while increasing our usage which will increase our revenue stream. The staff has nearly completed three grant applications: LWML Grant for Youth Ministry Facility, Ramsey Family Foundation for program support and Thrivent for Urban Ministry. All of these grant requests if approved would greatly improve our ability to provide a facility to support our current programs and subsidize expansion of new programs.

Our special meeting on the November 17<sup>th</sup> was facilitated by Jack Hollingsworth and was very productive. Each board member submitted their answers to four basic questions. They were:

1. If money were not an issue, what would be #1, #2, #3 on your "Dream List" for Heit's Point?
2. What do you personally see as the #1 need for Heit's Point?
3. What do you feel is the greatest challenge for Heit's Point?
4. How can we best grow the Heit's Point Ministry?

The collective answers to each question were discussed for the purpose of providing to the staff the direction for developing the 3 Year Master Plan, as well as being reflected in the 2012 Goals & Objectives. The two documents will be distributed to the board for review and voted upon in our December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We expect to have the Optimum Utilization Plan finalized in December. It will reflect existing infrastructure locations and identify what type of use various areas could offer in support of our ministry.

As you can see, we (staff and board) are really trying to assess what we have, what we do well, what we need to do, and to develop a realistic plan to accomplish goals that will be financially viable and support our mission. Needless to say, we need your support and your prayers. We know that it can be done and with His help, it will.

Blessings,  
Bill Buehrle  
Chairman of the Board

New Board Member Introductions: *(Not your usual introduction, just a few tidbits)*

Rachel Sommerer

I believe Rachel is a member of the longest standing family reunions. The Sommerer reunion has been coming to Heit's Point for at least 10 years. You may remember the baseball story in a past Hi-Lites, that was her family reunion. One of the primary focuses of Heit's Point ministry is family. Rachel brings grant writing experience to the board. We are looking forward to having Rachel on the board.

Gary Pumphrey

Has been coming to Heit's Point for years. He loves to camp (even though Diana would prefer a cabin). He is a retired school teacher and avid softball player. They have two sons, the youngest who we have to thank for the new tree houses in the campground area. We are looking forward to having Gary on the board.

Jack Hollingsworth

Jack is a retired AAL representative and Delbert has told me stories about the two of them in the old days. He has been a supporter of Heit's Point in the shadows. He has a granddaughter who attends camp here and we know where she gets her spunk from. We are looking forward to having Jack on the board.

# TRIBUTE TO SERVICE

I felt compelled to share with you some of my thoughts on the board members that just left the board. I'd just like to share what their service meant to me and to Heit's Point. I talk about them in no particular order, each of them brought their own specific talents to service. *Remember to come to the Outdoor Festival this coming year where we will recognize these servants.*

Caryl Froeschle was eligible to serve another term on the board. I respect Caryl very much for the service he provided. Accounting was not a talent that I possessed, but with Caryl's tutelage and patience I feel more confident in Heit's Point bookkeeping. It sometimes must have been almost comical if someone was outside watching through the window as Caryl, the accountant, explained bookkeeping to Mark, the farmer. But he did and believe it or not, I learned. Caryl has agreed to continue to be a consultant for us. I think he knew that if he stayed on we would never get to the point where we could do it on our own. I look forward to working with him in this new role.

May God continue to bless Caryl & Elaine in all they do.

Mark



Ferol Thaemert is another that could have continued serving.

I am in the middle of typing up the history of Heit's Point. In 1983, Ferol was appointed to the Missouri Outdoor Ministry (MOM) committee charged with overseeing the overall development of Heit's Point as a viable outdoor ministry opportunity.

Over the years, Ferol, has served on the board many of those years. His family is also involved with the ministry here. The festival comes to mind, when his two sons and son-in-law with their families show up early to help with setup. You've seen in the old movies the two men driving in railroad spikes together, I've seen Ferol and his sons do that with the tent stakes. It is great to see families do things together.

Ferol and his family were also involved in the construction of the Gospel Hostel and the Blunk bunkhouse.

Just two weeks ago Ferol and his sons were at Heit's Point to clear the leaves in the campground. While they were here, they helped frame up the lower sidewalk to the activity center.

Some of you may remember the wood art Lord's Prayer that was in the past Hi-Lites. It was made by Ferol's son Kirk. It is now hanging in the front Lobby of the Spitz Center.

May God continue to bless Ferol & Marilyn in all they do.

Mark



# TRIBUTE TO SERVICE

Glen McLaughlin

It may take me a few paragraphs to talk about this gentleman. In a way he is responsible for my being at Heit's Point.

I started working at Heit's Point in 1999 as a volunteer in maintenance. Dennis Stewart was the Director at the time and Heit's Point was in the midst of building the Dr. Paul Spitz Center. Glen and his wife Shirley were very much involved with the planning and construction. I retired from the Air Force in 2001 and went to work as the delivery driver at the local lumber yard. But, working with Glen and seeing his dedication to the ministry at Heit's Point, I wanted to work at Heit's Point. When Dennis Stewart left, **Glen served as Interim Director** and when the new Director Jeff Pool arrived the opportunity arose for me to come back as the maintenance man. I worked as maintenance for about a year, when the lumber yard offered me a job as manager, with salary and benefits that I couldn't refuse. I was only gone from Heit's Point for about a year and a half. I think every time Glen came down from Kansas City he stopped by the lumberyard and asked me when I was coming back. Finally when Roger Mailand took over as the Director, I told Glen that if Roger wanted me there, I would come back. Roger's situation at the Missouri District changed and after one year he went back to the District full time.

What do you think happened next? Yes, **Glen served as Interim Director again**. This was a trying time for Heit's Point the District was having financial issues and Heit's Point needed to stand on its own. In addition Heit's Point needed to pay off over \$600,000 in debt to the District. Larry Lumpe did the fundraising and Glen held Heit's Point together. This is also the time he developed the Friends of Heits Point organization. For a little over a year, Glen served as the Interim Director. He and Shirley spent many, many, many days at Heit's Point making sure operations continued. Over that year and the next the Friends of Heit's Point organization raised funds that proved essential to the operations over the next two years.

When the Outdoor Festival happens, who do you think is always there? We all know Shirley is in charge, but we let Glen think that he is. In fact, the past two years the Festival has been a great success because of their leadership.

I could name, couple after couple that are involved with this ministry because of Glen one of them is a board member. Glen is always sharing the ministry. This past year the Friends of Heit's Point became a more integral part of the operations. The organization now is involved in the election of board members, another change with Glen's leadership.

Yes, Glen has been the backbone of Heit's Point for many years. However, I must share some of the lighter side of Glen.

- If you want to know who has messed with the thermostats, just ask when Glen was here last.
- How about when his grandkids are here, I think Glen loses 50 years when their around.
- If you've never observed Glen's work crew, it's very interesting. When you get Glen, Bob, and Lowell together it's hard to get a straight word in.

I have many fond memories of working with Glen & Shirley. I know that even though he will not be on the board he will always be ready to help.

May God continue to bless Glen & Shirley in all they do.

Mark

*I looked everywhere for pictures of Glen & Shirley  
but they always seem to disappear when the camera  
comes out!*

## 2nd Annual Christmas Celebration



This year's Christmas celebration was double the size of last year. The College of the Ozarks Bell Choir again provided heavenly music for our enjoyment and Roger Hink shared the story of the 12 days of Christmas. It was truly a glorious event. Plan on coming next year - first Sunday in December.

# PROGRAMS COMING SOON!

- Jan 20-22      **Elders Retreat** - Heit's Point is pleased to have President Mirly facilitate this experience. We are confident that participants will leave here better equipped to work with their assigned members.
- Feb 24-26      **Marriage Retreat** - Sign up soon to come meet new friends with fellowship, Bible study, & fun.
- Mar 15th        **Starts the first Home School Outdoor Education day for the year.**

## 2012 Summer Camp

## "What's in a Name?"

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

*Early bird registration price break - \$20 discount for registration before May 1st, 2012.*

June 3-8	Trailblazers (High School)
June 10-13	Mini Quest 1 (3rd and 4th) <b>-Limited Space Available-</b>
June 10-15	Outpost (5th-8th) (tent camping/outdoor week)
June 15-17	Little Adventurers (3-6 year olds w/ parent)
June 17-22	Quest 1 (3rd and 4th) <b>-Limited Space Available-</b>
June 24-29	Journey 1/Expedition 1 (5th-8th grade)
July 8-13	Journey 2/Expedition 2/Scrapbook (5th-8th grade)
July 15-17	Discovery (1st and 2nd grade)
July 15 -20	Quest 2 (3rd and 4th)
July 20-22	Family Camp (All ages)
July 22-25	Mini Quest 2 (1st and 2nd grade)
July 22-27	Journey 3/Expedition 3-Sports Camp (5th-8th grade)
July 29-August 4 (Saturday)	Journey 4/Expedition 4 (5th-8th grade)

Summer Fest August 4-Campers and families are invited to come back to camp to have one more day of fun before the summer is over. Hang out with your counselors one more time! (Parents, don't you want to meet the faces associated with all of those weird stories?) Activities will include devotions, song time, tours, swimming, and lots more!

This next year's looks to be an exciting year. Please, continue to help us in our ministry by praying that people that need to know about Heit's Point may hear what we have to offer. We seek to serve you by Strengthening your Connection to the Vine



Leah

Program Director

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*Join us in thanking God for all the blessings He has given us!*

***It's not too late to be a part of this Ministry!***

**The Year End Appeal is still underway.**

Donations

Volunteering

Prayers

Looking for a daily devotion  
try  
[www.journeymen4christ.org](http://www.journeymen4christ.org)

Don't forget your  
Thrivent Choice  
Opportunities