

ABC Newsletter

FALL 2009

NOTE FROM THE MANAGER

This past year, since August of 2008, has been a year filled with mountaintops and valleys. First, bringing my only daughter to live away at college brought mixed feelings - happiness that she is beginning a new and exciting chapter of her life, but a "shadow of sadness" that Daddy's little girl will be so far from home. By far my most difficult experience has been the loss of my father to a painful bout with cancer. He was, in every way, a loving, supportive father and one of my most faithful advocates. Knowing that he is with His Lord and Savior, Whom he served so faithfully and so well somewhat softens the blow. Another low point was the sudden and unexpected loss of one of my best friends.

However, God is faithful, and although we go through the valleys, He always brings us back to the mountaintop. A high point of this year has been the graduation from college and the marriage of our oldest son to a wonderful Christian young lady. This July marked two very special anniversaries for me - first, 24 years of marriage and 20 years as Manager of Acadian Baptist Center. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and minister here over the years.

Our attendance and camp & retreat revenue are up this year in spite of the economy and fears of the flu. Our church contributions have been very consistent, while our individual gifts are down, some possibly because of the down turn in the Stock Market.

96 Professions of Faith were recorded with a number of rededications and quite a few are dealing with a call to the ministry.

Highlights of the past year include land leveling & building new ditches on the new property purchased. Our 3rd cabin was started and nears completion.

God's timing is not our timing - our Cafeteria/multi-purpose Building construction appears to be starting in September. Plans have been finalized with the Fire Marshall's approval and bids completed. We have raised \$285,000.00 in cash and \$130,000.00 in pledges. Our maximum guaranteed cost is \$812,000.00. Please consider making a gift or monthly pledge to help us with this endeavor. The finished project will enable us to minister more effectively. If you or your church are interested in helping us, please call, as we plan on utilizing volunteer labor. We will need the prayers and support of everyone in this major undertaking.

The Outdoor Education ministry gained momentum this past year. We have had 19 groups (748 people) compared to 12 groups (463 people) the previous year.

We have a lot of "special events" planned for this fall & winter. Please help us by promoting them in your church and consider having your retreats or conferences at ABC.

A new feature has been added to our website - in accordance with the times, and for your convenience, we have added "e-giving" to our website. You can now support ABC via the internet. Check out this option in giving and also our plans for the Cafeteria/Multi-purpose building expansion at www.abccamp.com.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Camp Manager.

James Newsom
James Newsom
Manager

Dining hall expansion
Construction set to begin September 1, 2009
and will go through February 2010.

We have received an estimate of the cost of the expansion that puts it at \$812,000. We have raised \$285,000 and have \$130,000 in pledges.

We are hoping to complete as much of the expansion as possible with volunteer labor so if you, your family, your Sunday School class, or your entire church are looking for a mission project give us a call at the office.



Up Coming Events

- Hunter Safety Course - Aug. 21-23
- Youth Back to School Retreat - Aug. 28-29
- ABC Community Luncheon - Sept. 3
- ABC Senior Adult Luncheon - Sept. 27
- See Ya at the Pole Rally - Sept. 19
- ABC Community Luncheon - Oct. 1
- ABA Reunion - Oct. 9-11
- Campers On Mission Rally - Oct. 29-Nov 1
- Campers on Mission Work Week - Nov. 2-6
- ABC Community Luncheon - Nov. 5
- ABC Children's Retreat - Nov. 13-14
- ABC Board & Appreciation Banquet - Dec. 3
- ABC Community Luncheon - Dec. 10
- ABC Winter Youth Retreat - Dec. 18-19

Acadian Baptist Center is now taking electronic donations!

E-Giving provides us with the processing capabilities to make donations by electronically using a bank account or a credit card.

You can start making use of this method of donation now. Just go to ABCCamp.com and click on the link that says "Donate to A.B.C." You will be given a link to click on to make a secure donation at E-Giving to Acadian Baptist Center.

Summer Camp 2009



Acadian Outdoor School

The last year of Acadian Outdoor School (A.O.S.) was a great one! We saw almost double the number of school groups come to A.O.S. than we did our first year. In total, we had about 19 different school groups and had 23 different days with field trips come to A.O.S.

Along with that great growth, we added two more classes to our list of offerings: Animal Crackers and Bird Brains. Animal Crackers is our summary class of all the animal classes we offer: Bird Brains, Mammal Madness, and In Cold Blood. Bird Brains is our introduction to birds of Louisiana.

One school has already signed up for the fall

If you or someone you know in your congregation who likes the outdoors and has a gift to teach or shows that they want to discover their teaching gift, please let me know, we could use more volunteers to teach. We will have a training for volunteer instructors in September. If anyone is interested in volunteer teaching for A.O.S., please contact me, Guy Atkinson, at (337) 457-9047 or at AOS@ABCCamp.com.

God continues to use and allow A.O.S. to expose kids and adults to A.B.C. so they may be more apt to come back to A.B.C. for our evangelistic programs--like summer camp!

Please keep us in your prayers as we try to offer field trip options to schools through A.O.S.

May the grace of God and
His peace consume you!

This summer we had approximately 2,500 people come to ABC for camps and retreats ranging from band camps to our sponsored camps. We have received record of 93 people that gave their lives to Christ and 10 people who recommitted their lives to Christ this summer alone. These numbers are not taking into account all the decisions that we do not have record of or the seeds that were planted and will grow out of their experience here this summer which could easily number in the hundreds.

Since ABC began in 1975 until now, we have record of 6,308 people who have come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ here at ABC.



Third Family Cabin Under Construction



Cody & Lauren Standridge

Christ revealed himself to Cody while he was a camper here at ABC and he gave his heart to Christ while attending camp with Community Bible Fellowship from Gonzales. In later months he felt the call and surrendered to ministry while reading 1 Timothy 1:12. Now Cody is a Chaplain Assistant for the U.S. Military and still comes to camp to be a counselor with his church. He is pictured with his wife Lauren who he also met here at ABC. Awe overcomes each of us who get the opportunity to be a part of stories like this.



I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.
-1 Timothy 1:12

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There are many exciting things going on around ABC. If you would like to be a part of building the ministry with us please fill out the commitment form on the left and send it back to us.

Acadian Baptist Center Staff



James Newsom - Manager
Peggy Watson - Administrative Asst.
Keith Langley - Maintenance Director
Perry Paul Marcantel - Asst. Maintenance
Guy Atkinson - Outdoor Education Director

Cooks:
Lynette Prather, Debbie Breaux, Tammy Johnson, Shelia Lejeune, Marla Taylor
Housekeeping:
Sharon Middlebrooks, Mary Jennings, Debbie Breaux, Laurie Doucet

