

# FACE to FACE

*So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face..." ~Genesis 32:20*

**A Publication for Friends of PENIEL ~ Autumn 2019**



## A Letter from the Director:

Dear Friends of Peniel,

As with all things in life, there is a season for everything. Peniel is in a season marked with change. As we drain pipes, button up buildings and store away summer treasures for another time, we feel the pull of a new season. There is so much to be done, yet there is a sense of quiet reflection as we look back on the summer and the intense faithfulness of God in this place.

As I stood this week on the chapel field, I reveled in the beauty God had created. Surrounded in vibrant color and the orange glow of the autumn sun, I watched the breezes gently cradle leaves to rest. In this moment, I was overwhelmed with feelings of gratefulness and a strong awareness of the many lives gone before that have prayed here, toiled here, and met God face to face here. These pioneers have built what our lives are so deeply enriched by today. Many of those people are now in a different season themselves, but the richness of their legacy can still be felt here in the quiet of our sleeping campus. Sitting on the steps of an empty chapel, I no longer hear squeals of laughter coming from games in the field, or the sweet melodies of praise rising from the chapel, but instead I feel an intense thankfulness for yet another season permeated with the promises of God fulfilled! Watching the drifting leaves and basking in the glory of nature's worship to its creator, I am reminded of Isaiah 55:10-12:

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.*

God promises that His words will not return void. He had a purpose to fulfill at Peniel this past summer, and we can say with confidence that He has accomplished all that He set out to perform! We can therefore go with peace and joy into the next season knowing that God has sown His word in the hearts of men and in time he will reap what has been planted. There on the chapel steps the mountains and trees seemed to be bursting into song; my grateful heart also joined the wondrous chorus reminding that God is good, and His love endures forever!

The goodness of God towards Peniel was incredibly evident this summer! Our first mission was to revive our summer youth camps after a year of their absence and to open our campus to other churches for adult and youth ministry. This meant the repair and

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Praise God! We had summer camps again this year! We had teens' songs of worship dancing over the chapel fields, children singing our silly, traditional Peniel songs in the dining hall, games galore, the pool splashing with joy, and the Word of God ministered powerfully. It was so very

"What I loved about Camp Encounter was all of the games we played, all of my cabin members, and most of all my encounters with God. The speaker really showed all of us what it is really like to have an encounter with God. I loved Camp Encounter and will absolutely go back!"  
~Ana (Jr. Camper)

good to have camp at Peniel again. This year, we named it Camp Encounter: and both young and old learned how to encounter God, face to face.

Our High School camp ran from July 19-July 22. We had over 40 campers, and despite maintenance and facilities challenges we had a wonderful time. Dave Bouffard delivered powerful messages each day about choosing to live our best lives through finding our identity in Christ and living each day well. He spoke on faith, purpose, forgiveness, tenacity, and the power of the meek. Much of his teaching was based on John 6:29, where Jesus says, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he sent." The individual heart work done at camp is always where the success lies. Much work was evidenced: the altar calls were powerful, the campers were reaching out to pray with one another, and the counselors were absolutely alive in Christ as they ministered personally to their campers. Blessings abounded!

"Dave was the best speaker I have ever heard! He made me want to get out of my comfort zone and be who God called me to be."

~Heather (Sr. Camper)

Our Junior camp ran from July 25-July 28. We had over 20 young campers in our charge. We had most of our facilities issues resolved by this camp, so operations ran much more smoothly. Nicole Banta, a teacher and missionary, ministered each day, teaching the children how to encounter God. Her lessons were hands on, minds on, and spirit filled! There was not an inattentive camper in that chapel. The lessons were supported by wonderful activities, crafts, and devotional times. Testimonies poured in that children who had attended church and Christian school all of their lives now really understood how to encounter God, that children had been truly strengthened in their faith and their

understanding of who God called them to be. I wish you could have seen the prayer time that followed the last message: Children were praying with and for each other. They were reading Bible verses to one another and ministering with purpose and power. It was something to behold!



Without the finances or staff to run full week and full season summer camp, we were unable to hire staff and that is where God was most apparent. Our summer camps were fully staffed by volunteers; every last one of them! We could not have asked for better people. Each and every volunteer was absolutely top notch. To say we saw the good provision of God here is a gross understatement. He overwhelmed us with his people!

"My daughter had her very first overnight camp experience at Camp Encounter. She was very nervous to go, but by the time we picked her up, she was all smiles. She enjoyed it so much that she can't wait to go back next year. Her favorite part was chapel time, the staff/counselors, and the many activities. She will definitely be back next summer!"  
~Katie (Jr. Camper Mom)



## Peniel Fundraising Events and Opportunities

**Keep December 3rd (Giving Tuesday) on your calendar as we will be launching a fundraising campaign. It's a wonderful opportunity to give and to have your donations matched by Facebook! Check us out on Facebook for updates @ Peniel Bible Conference.**

The Management Team has sponsored two fundraising events this year: We had a spring Volleyball Tournament and an autumn Barn Dance. Those events contributed to the repair, operations, and maintenance of our pool and grounds. Those events also gave us a wonderful opportunity to showcase our fantastic facilities and to get our name out to the greater community. They both proved very successful.

### Ongoing Fundraising Opportunities

You can support Peniel by shopping at **AMAZON!** Shop through this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1364579> and Peniel will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases.

You can also register for the SCRIPT program. When you do your regular shopping at your regular stores Peniel earns a percentage! Visit [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). Then at the top right of the page click, Join a Program. Then type in our enrollment code: **8CE5F68263373**

**You can also donate your gifts, talents, time, or contribute to Peniel with a one time monetary gift or monthly donations.**



**Yes, I would like to pledge partnership with Peniel**

- ☐ Enclosed is my one time donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I would like to pledge a monthly contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I would like to sponsor a child to camp:
- ☐ Full \$225      ☐ Half \$115

**Please mail this form to:** Peniel Bible Conference, P.O. Box 369, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846



## Peniel Management Team 2019~2020

\*THE MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETS BIMONTHLY TO PLAN FOR PROGRAMMING, MARKETING, AND FUNDRAISING.

- **Kristen Coltart** - Director
- **Jan Goodwin** - PC President
- **Erin Frasier** - Office Manager
- **Beth Sweeney**
- **Ayla and John Sutton**
- **Dave Bouffard** - PC Vice President
- **Jalane Lord**
- **Michelle Hodges**
- **Dave Frasier**
- **Dianne Spelter** - PC Member



## Peniel Prayer Council ~ 2019

\*THE PRAYER COUNCIL MEETS SIX TIMES A YEAR TO DIRECT SPIRITUAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS.

**Jan Goodwin**  
(President)

**Pastor Dave Bouffard**  
(Vice President)

**Kristen Coltart**  
(Director, non-voting member)

**Sarah Maynard**

**Pastor Phil Allen**

**Alissa Weaver**  
(Secretary)

**Dianne Spelter**

Remember us as you plan for spring, summer, and fall events, retreats, and vacations. We can accommodate a family or a large group. Rentals range from rustic cabins to Adirondack style motel rooms. We have spacious facilities for weddings, graduations, and parties. All at affordable prices. For more info contact:



Phone: 518-696-4038

Web: [www.penielbibleconference.org](http://www.penielbibleconference.org)

Email: [office@penielbibleconference.org](mailto:office@penielbibleconference.org)

Facebook: Peniel Bible Conference

## Rentals

Our summer rentals proved both a blessing to Peniel and to our guests. We began with two graduation parties; both for Peniel Camp Counselors (Mikayla Weaver and Katherine Frasier.) We hosted the Luzerne Music Center faculty from mid June- mid August. We had old friends such as the Meiners and the Stevensons stay with us. We hosted three pool parties, a full day youth group retreat from Mt. Zion Church, a full day church picnic (Cornerstone Bible Church) a Church of the Nations youth overnight, a family reunion weekend, a volunteer pool party, and a two week rental of the cottage. We hosted 16 guests during Americade and we currently have long term renters in our apartment, our cottage, and at Lake View.



## Maintenance Updates

Wow! It has been a productive season of maintenance! With the help of many selfless volunteers we have:

- Put a new roof on the Lodge
- Given the Cottage an interior face lift
- Replaced the motel fascia
- Maintained our gravel roads
- Cut and stacked firewood for the winter
- Replace pool pumps
- Maintained our beautiful grounds
- Repaired the outer Lodge stairs
- Acquired a working plow truck
- Acquired two efficient freezers
- Revised the restaurant kitchen floor plan for efficiency and safety
- Winterized the camp

## Maintenance Needs for 2020

- Gut and redo the Nurse's Station
- Purchase and install gutters on Lodge
- Purchase and install drainage systems to prevent road washout
- Replace the Sport Shack roof
- Update the motel plumbing
- Repair the Ping Pong Pavilion roof



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opening of many buildings and the pool. God was faithful to help us raise funds and to provide the many volunteers who made this season possible. In fact, our two camps were run completely by volunteers including maintenance, housekeeping, teachers, musicians, activities director, arts & crafts, lifeguards, kitchen staff and counselors! This provision still astounds me! It became clear in the days before camp that Satan did not want God's word planted in the hearts of our campers. The opposition was strong, but our God proved stronger! Two days before camp, the dining hall stove's ansul system had a faulty discharge while the stove was not even in use! Green fire



extinguishing retardant covered our clean and prepared kitchen. This fluid then went down the walls and into the electrical system causing that to fail as well. The following day we discovered that our walk in cooler had a broken compressor and would not be functioning for camp. We knew these issues would be expensive to repair and nearly impossible to fix in 48 hours, but nothing is impossible for God! We prayed and God answered immediately! Al Rose from Magen Safety Company came and repaired and recharged our ansul system the next day without a charge for his labor! All Pro Restoration Co. came out too and only charged us a third of their original quote to clean the stove and hood fixtures of the fire retardant. One of our volunteers, Bobby Millis, was able to fix the electrical system in time for camp, with just the cost of a few parts. Our amazing kitchen staff, led by Jan Goodwin, had to cook the first few days with some challenges as we awaited parts, but they rose to the occasion with grace and our meals were as wonderful as ever! We ended up using our other refrigeration spaces for camp without issue, and a few weeks later had an anonymous donor offer to pay for the walk in cooler's repair! This was nearly a \$2000.00 bill! This entire experience reminded me once again that Peniel is not our camp; it is God's camp and He will accomplish what He sets forth to accomplish! It is our job to hear His call and to follow Him! He will do the rest!

In these days, we are earnestly seeking God concerning the next season for Peniel. As we look ahead and start the process of planning, we are seeking God for His vision going forward and for the provision to carry out His plan. Please partner with us in prayer as we seek God for Peniel's future. Peniel is God's camp, but it is your camp too! Please know that our campus is open for you to enjoy as an individual or as a family. It is also available for your church or youth group to use as a retreat destination! Whether it be a picnic, or a party, or a weekend retreat, it is our heart to be a resource to the Christian community and see our beautiful space blessing the church body at large. May we all be Kingdom builders and help one another in that effort! Thank you to all who faithfully give to make our ministry possible. God is using your generosity to affect change in the lives of others and we pray immeasurable blessing upon you in return!



Love in Christ,

Kristen S. Coltart  
Executive Director  
[director@penielbibleconference.org](mailto:director@penielbibleconference.org)



## Looking Ahead

Even as we close everything down for the season, our hearts beat with excitement for the season to come. We anticipate the warm months of 2020, with the expectation that God will continue to grow this beautiful camp we call Peniel. We are already looking at dates for youth camps, we have churches penciling in dates for their youth events, we look forward to being the place for many more Christian motorcyclists to retreat from their mission, we have family and friend reunions in the planning, and we have the rest of winter to reach out to area churches and ministries with our message of rest and rejuvenation in Christ and in his beautiful creation. We are excited for 2020! Please keep us in prayer and in mind as you and your church look ahead to 2020.



