

August 12, 2014

Dear Family Campers,

Labor Day is quickly approaching and soon we will be enjoying the long weekend at beautiful Pilgrim Lodge! We hope you are as excited as we are to get to Pilgrim Lodge and spend time together experiencing God's creation and the company of family and friends. This year's camp theme is "Get Real - Finding Your True Self in Jesus". Please be sure to read this letter carefully as you prepare for Family Camp.

Registration will be in the main lodge on Friday, August 29th between 5:00 and 6:30 pm for all families. If you are a first time family to Pilgrim Lodge, arriving on the early side will give you a better opportunity to settle in, plenty of time to ask questions and to create your family's poster, which will proudly symbolize your family group and adorn your cabin for the weekend. You may want to pack a family picnic or eat on the way as **a meal will not be served on Friday evening**. Also, if you would like to bring a community snack to share for the weekend you may do so (non-sugar please).

On Friday evening we will start our formal program at 7:00, which will consist of some "getting to know you" activities and vespers. Our hope is to wrap this up by 8:30.

Departure time on Monday will be after lunch.

This weekend is a time for families to relax and spend time together, in the "thin space" that is Pilgrim Lodge. So, there will be ample free time for families to recreate and relax, swim and sing, as well as our traditional family camp activities. There are many outdoor activities planned, so please bring clothing appropriate for all weather conditions! Please also be sure to bring non-aerosol bug spray, a re-usable water bottle labeled with your name (to cut down on the use of disposable cups and/or dishwashing), and you may want to bring sneakers for our field games. A detailed list of items to bring to camp and other PL information is available at:

<http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/document/PLParentCamperGuideFAMILY2013.pdf>

(Don't forget money for the ice cream!)

As for special events, we will be having our cookout with s'mores on Saturday evening, as well as the traditional "moonlight labyrinth walk" for the Middler-aged youth. Please bring a flashlight for both of these ventures.

We plan to have a "dressy" dinner on Sunday night (dressy for Pilgrim Lodge, that is...no tuxes or ball gowns required). Later that evening, we will hold our annual talent show. Anyone can be a part of the show-- in fact, the less talent you think you have, the better—and we encourage all to participate. Bring along whatever talent you may have as a family or as an individual. Playing musical instruments, singing songs, dancing, juggling and funny skits are just a sample of offerings in the past.

There will also be time allotted for "interest groups", so come prepared to share a talent or interest of your own! Interest groups in the past have included: belly dancing, hip hop, basketball, soccer, ping pong tourney, manicures on the boardwalk, American Girl doll parties, and more!

In addition to interest groups we will be sharing crafts/creative activities. Please bring supplies(if

required) for your favorite craft or other creative endeavor to share with 5 -10 other campers.

The Pilgrim Lodge Mission for 2014 is a bit non-traditional. The theme is **Every Day is Mission Day**. We will take time to reflect and plan as a family group ways in which we already Pay it Forward and ways in which we can in the future Pay it Forward. We will be challenged to think of some ways our families can make a difference for others. In addition we will utilize our "program" time to complete some needed chores for Pilgrim Lodge. This is a great way for us to give back to Pilgrim Lodge while we are there enjoying it's splendor. Although we have not yet received a list of needed tasks it might be prudent to bring some gardening gloves, an old pair of jeans and a long sleeve shirts to work outside in.

Just one more note: We will be in need of volunteers! If you would like to help during family camp, we will be looking for volunteers for a few of the activities including vespers, and chaperones for the Senior High island overnight.

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon. If you have questions prior to camp that this Dean's letter does not answer, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. It's time to get excited for Family Camp!

Your Deans,

Heidi Fox & Stephanie Cooke

Heidi Fox  
heidi.fox2000@gmail.com

Stephanie Cooke  
stephanie.c.cooke@gmail.com