

March 2017

Greetings and blessings to all past, present, and future Vintage Venture Campers:

Good News, Bad news!

- Bad news: 1) Pat Seaward has been coping with Cancer since last fall.
2) Our core group is getting older and our numbers are dropping. Nobody is getting any younger!
3) All Pilgrim Lodge sessions were down 10% last year and it's important that all registrations need to be increased.

- Good news: 1) Pat is upbeat and planning to be with us as Co-Dean.
2) Pilgrim Lodge is a Sacred Space!
3) The new Quitobaquito is beautiful and ready for our use!

Vintage Ventures begins on Monday, June 12th, arriving between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon after we settle in. The daily schedule: wake-up bell at 7:00 a.m.; breakfast---8; chapel---9; lunch---noon; ice cream---3:30 p.m.; supper---6; vespers---7; followed by evening activities. Departure is Thurs., June 15th after breakfast and farewell Communion Service.

Our various activities include: good food; good conversation; waterfront events (swimming, canoeing, kayaking---weather permitting, but we are a week later this year so we can hope for better weather!); jigsaw puzzles, communing with nature; sitting in rocking chairs on the wide porch and enjoying spectacular sunsets (and sunrises---if you are an early bird!); perhaps movies; discussion groups; worship; easy games (or more strenuous ones if you are so inclined); listening to the laughter of the loons, and just plain FUN!!! However, we are flexible and you may pick and choose what interests you; participation is voluntary!

For some of our discussions, we plan to share the triumphs of surviving serious illnesses, accidents, trials of life for ourselves or loved ones, elder abuse, or other factors, and to share the grief of loss. In the words of the hymn "Blessed be the Tie that Binds" (Verse 3): "We share each other's woes, Each other's burdens bear, And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear." Talking about situations can be very helpful and we are there for each other. But be aware that if this makes you uncomfortable, you are not required to join in!

At this writing, the all-camp mission project has not been determined. Since our Silent Auction and offering taken at the closing Communion are means of supporting our mission, we wanted to have a mission in place so we decided to choose our own project this year. Because of Pat's diagnosis, we decided to donate to the American Cancer Society. All of us have been affected by cancer in one way or another, either in ourselves or loved ones or friends. For the Silent Auction, you may bring as many items as you like, but remember that really pricey items do not do well. (K)ee (I)t (S)imple (S)imple!

For the Yankee Swap, please bring ONLY One item already wrapped---perhaps something you might have an extra of, something practical or humorous, or whatever. Don't spend a lot of money---it's just for FUN!

For our special dinner, it will be a "Going out to dinner" so dress as you would if you were going out to an elegant restaurant (held in our Quitobaquito dining room!) However, if a quick meal at a 'fast food' place like McD's or BK is more your style, it's okay if you want to be more casual. We will also have a cook-out or "cook-in" in case of bad weather.

The Talent-Un-talent Show is also a lot of fun. Anything goes---singing, dancing, poetry, stories, jokes, skits, playing musical instruments (bring your own---if portable!), funny or more serious---whatever! Don't worry about making a fool of yourself! Hopefully, the PL staff will again join us.

Campers will be encouraged to plan and lead in worship. Pat and I will handle the Monday night vespers and I will do the Communion service Thursday morning. I will again conduct a voluntary Bible Study using the lectionary lessons for the following Sunday. It will be very informal but do bring inspirational material---if you have it--- for worship.

Because pets are such an important part of most of our lives, please bring pictures or mementoes of present or former pets and perhaps a story to tell.

We hope to have better weather this year as we will be a week later, but June's weather is always unpredictable. Therefore, bring clothes for both warm (maybe, hot!), and cold weather, and anywhere in-between. So be prepared! Be sure to bring your bathing suit! It is also necessary to bring bedding supplies: pillows,

sheets, blankets or sleeping bags, towels and washcloth, toiletries, and NEEDED MEDICINES, perhaps extra padding for the bunk beds which sometimes may seem rather hard. Please bring your completed health form for the camp nurse. The form asks for policy numbers of your health insurance so be sure to have your ID cards with you. The forms may be obtained on-line (or if you do not have computer access, you may call the camp office and one will be mailed to you.

Pilgrim Lodge policy asks that electronics not be brought to camp, so please only use your cell phone inside your cabin or vehicles in the parking lot. Please tell your family that in case, of emergency to call the camp office at 724-3200 and you'll get the message ASAP. You may also use that number before you arrive if you have other questions, or call Margaret at 207-645-3185 or Pat at 207-751-2819.

If you've attended Vintage Ventures in the past and for some reason you've stopped coming, please come back this year as we've missed YOU. If you've never attended Vintage Ventures, please join us. You'll have a great time of recreation, renewal, rest, and making new friends. We may be getting old in years, but we are definitely YOUNG AT HEART!

Quote from Snow White: "You're never too old to be young".

Safe travels and God bless!

Pat Seaward and Margaret Proctor