



CAMP TELLS A STORY

YEAR END APPEAL 2025

Greetings from Covenant Pines Ministries!

You are receiving this letter because Covenant Pines Ministries is part of your story. Maybe you came as a camper, served on staff, paddled on a canoe trip, served on our board, or found rest at Silver Beach. Maybe you sent a child to camp, attended a retreat, or supported this ministry through your gifts. However your story connects to ours, we are deeply grateful.



This past year, Covenant Pines Ministries was also part of more than 8,000 other stories. Campers gathered at Covenant Pines Bible Camp, Adventurous Christians, Silver Beach Family Camp, and Covenant Pines Off Site. Together we settled into a new Worship Center, launched new programs, deepened community at Silver Beach, and saw a record-breaking year at our Golf Tournament. These milestones are worth celebrating but the true story of camp is told in the lives changed through these experiences.



Let's start with Silver Beach Family Camp. At Silver Beach stories are often written over generations. One family has been coming for decades, first as young parents with their children, and now as grandparents bringing their entire family. For them, camp has always been more than time away; it has been sacred time set apart, year after year, to laugh, rest, and grow together.

Their story has always centered around Cabin 5. It was the backdrop to bedtime stories, rainy-day board games, and countless evenings watching the sun set over the lake. Even as Silver Beach has grown with new spaces like White Pine and our Lakeside Cabins, Cabin 5 still held a close place in their heart.





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When it came time for that rustic cabin to come down, the family asked if they could be the ones to do the task. With every board they removed, they remembered the moments it had held - and in that bittersweet act, they reminded us that Silver Beach is more than cabins and buildings. It is the place where stories are written, remembered, and passed on from one generation to the next.



This year at Adventurous Christians, we hosted our first-ever Clergy Canoe Trip, bringing pastors from California, Connecticut, and beyond to the beauty and quiet of the BWCAW. Paddling under towering pines and gathering around evening campfires, we shared conversations, encouragement, and stories that revealed both challenges and faith-filled triumphs.

One pastor reflected on the experience:

“I saw God in moments of solitude, in words of encouragement, and in hearing others’ stories while taking in the splendor of creation.”

Those shared stories didn’t end with the trip. Inspired, these pastors plan to encourage students at their churches to attend Adventures In Leadership, and to invite youth pastors to bring their groups on future canoe trips. One week on the water, one exchange of stories, can ripple outward...sparking countless more stories, new connections, and lives transformed by faith and wilderness alike.

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Our largest Off Site event, the Golf Tournament, raises important funds for camper scholarships and is often made possible by the generosity of businesses and individuals who sponsor the event. One such connection began when a former staff member encouraged us to reach out to his friend, a construction company owner who had never attended camp. He agreed to sponsor the tournament and even turned it into a company-wide outing!



Afterward, we met for coffee to get to know each other, and I invited him to visit camp. That visit changed everything. Since then, he has returned to volunteer on exciting new projects, using his construction expertise to make a lasting impact.

It has been such a joy to watch someone invest both their time and resources into camp, and in the process, see Covenant Pines Ministries become a meaningful part of their story.



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In recent years, Covenant Pines Bible Camp has built a special partnership with Minnehaha Academy. While attending MA, a student will participate in a retreat at Covenant Pines in 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 12th grade. Over the past few years, we have served over 450 Minnehaha students each year through our retreat ministry. This rhythm has not only strengthened our relationship with the school but has also led to more students returning in the summer, with 199 joining us in 2025.





One parent of a ninth grader reflected:

“Covenant Pines has been an experience beyond any other, where all the young men in my son’s class at Minnehaha Academy have bonded, deepened their faith, and strengthened their friendships. In short, it has been transformative.”

These shared camp experiences don’t stay at camp, students carry them back into their everyday school life, shaping their friendships and faith in lasting ways. We are grateful that Covenant Pines can be such an important chapter in the story of their school experience, and we celebrate the opportunity to encourage each of them to take a next step in Christian faith.



These stories show the incredible ways camp impacts lives. I’m sure you have a story of your own connected to Covenant Pines Ministries. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of leading a ministry that encourages campers to take a next step in their Christian faith, year after year.

Our story isn’t finished. There is still so much more ministry to do, **and we are filled with hope for what God will continue to do through Covenant Pines Ministries. You can be part of this ongoing story. As we close out 2025, we aim to raise \$125,000 in unrestricted ministry support gifts to ensure that we enter the new year in a secure financial position, ready to continue making an eternal impact.**

Thank you for your partnership and prayerful consideration of a year-end gift. Together, we are writing stories of faith, growth, and transformation - one camper, one family, one volunteer and one leader at a time.

Blessings,

Dave Cairns
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PS - OUR STORIES ARE IMPACTFUL! AS YOU GATHER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SHARE YOUR OWN STORY ABOUT COVENANT PINES MINISTRIES.