

Sugar Creek Bible Camp
Property Committee
2022 Annual Report
Jody Bankes, Maintenance Director
Property Committee Members:

Pastor Lori Kleppe, Pastor Harald Bringsjord, Michael Douglass

2022 marked the second post-pandemic year of a full camping and retreat programming with all the property and maintenance challenges that entails. With a very rigid set of Covid 19-safety regulations still in place, and a general shortage of available seasonal staff, our stalwart crew soldiered on like true disciples and rose to the occasion again and again! Well done Staff!

As Sugar Creek Bible Camp nears its 60th birthday a number of facilities issues arose that required immediate attention. The septic system at our Maintenance Director's residence failed and required a rebuild. The good news is that the new system should be fully operational for at least 20 years and hopefully closer to 40.

A new pump was installed on the well at the Maintenance Director's residence. Well work was also required on the Camp side of the highway.

Our much-used fireplace in the Koinonia Lodge required a total tear out and rebuild. La Crosse Fireplace completed the interior workings replacement. Tear down was done by volunteers. Volunteers also rebuilt the cement board frame while the stonework was completed by Jody.

Two HVAC systems also went down last summer and required replacement.

Fortunately, we had the funds available to meet all of the maintenance emergencies, but it did not leave any real surplus for the more visible and satisfying maintenance projects. The must-do nature of the tasks above addresses the re-active nature of property maintenance in a facility like SCBC. Fortunately, the re-active work was balanced by some soul-nurturing pro-active work.

The new log residence, built on the site of the old pool bathhouse foundation, made great progress. Exterior porches, stairways and walkways were completed. Interior plumbing, electrical, and HVAC work was significantly advanced. The exterior was stained. Interior room partitions, doors and other work was advanced. It is hoped, with a healthy dose of optimism, that the building can be ready for occupancy by early summer. What a great legacy from our mentors, friends and co-disciples from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in LaCrosse!

What's old is new again! The old Settler Cabins, nestled in the woods beyond the Art Barn, are in the process of total refurbishment. If we are blessed with a Spring that's not too wet and not too cold – we should be able to bring these largely open-air cabins back online this summer.

Four dome-shape tents on wooden platform were purchased from Lutherdale (Camp) near Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Called Yurts, the Mongolian inspired tents can house 6 to 8 campers. The Property Committee is working with the Program Committee to decide where they should be placed on the camp property – in a cluster like a village – or scattered in various locations to create 4 new camp destinations.

Our Tuesday Crew of volunteers continues to stay busy with painting, staining and tree work in the warm months and wood splitting in the winter months. The Camp requires a minimum of 10 cords of cut and split firewood to keep all of the fireplaces, wood furnaces, and campfires going. (That's a pile covering 320 square feet, four feet high!)

Finally, the Spring Work Weekend is really starting to make a difference with improved match-up of needed tasks and skill sets, more workers on board, and more work completed. There will never be an end to the maintenance work required to keep Camp going. But it's joyful work – so if you, or your youth group or your cohort of friends have inclination to lend a hand – give Jody or the Camp Office a call. The pay is low but the satisfaction is beyond measure!

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Douglass
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Prairie du Chien
Board Member