

WARWICK CONFERENCE CENTER NEWS

CAMP WARWICK & MULDER CHAPEL

SEPTEMBER 2019



“Echoing God’s desire for all people to be still and draw near, the Warwick Conference Center is a broadly inclusive place of welcome, hospitality, reflection, and retreat where all are invited to seek renewal, pursue personal and corporate growth, and have the opportunity to listen for God’s voice.”

DIRECTOR’S REFLECTION, REV. JAMES EASTLAND

When was the last time you looked up at the trees during a brisk wind? If you haven’t done it in a while, I encourage you to do so. What you will notice is that the whole tree sways in the wind. This is the best way to survive storms. Now it’s easier for some types of trees than others. This is one reason palm trees are in hurricane zones; they are great at bending down against a storm, unlike a mighty oak which would uproot trying to stand against the wind. Just like palm trees that need to sway with the storms, we need to learn to bend to change in life.

There are many things which are beyond our control - things we cannot, no matter how much we want to, change. If we try to remain stiff and unyielding, just like the mighty oak, we will be uprooted. But if we are willing to trust, to see the value in new ideas and the beauty in change, we will flourish as the swaying palms.

Reading through this newsletter, you will pick up on this theme of **CHANGE**. As I write this, I have been in the position of Executive Director for nine months. I have just finished my first “camp season”. The staff and I are still getting to know each other, and we have welcomed new faces and have said good-bye to others.

We here at Warwick are excited about the future as we build on the traditions of the past and create new ones for the future. Enjoy this newsletter, and blessings to you!

FROM JILL FENSKE, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am pleased to introduce to you our new **Executive Director, The Rev. James Eastland**.

James comes to us with a diverse background in the areas of business, management, education, parish ministry and fund-raising/development. As a member of the Search Committee, I will share with you that when we were asked to narrow the field of six candidates by having them answer three questions central to what our understanding of the position of Executive Director should be, it became clear that James was uniquely qualified to join us at the Warwick Conference Center.

James is married to The Rev. Vicky Eastland, who is the pastor at the Brookville Church and Multifaith Campus in Brookville New York. They have one son, Raju who is entering his senior year at SUNY Oneonta, where he is majoring in Graphic Design.



James has already evidenced his skills and gifts of ministry in his work at the Center, and he has been especially attentive to our staff. New positions of Director of Operations and Director of Special Programs were created and filled. I am especially grateful for his attention to our camps, as my first experience of Warwick was as a Jr. High camper in the late 1960's. James is looking with a new eye and hearing with a new ear the demands and the challenges of creating faith-filled and fun summer experiences for our In Camp, Day Camp, Adventure Camp, Wilderness Camp and Camp Sunrise campers. While this camping season presented its challenges, James has been eager to address those challenges and is already working with staff towards improvements for the 2020 camping season.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE WARWICK CONFERENCE CENTER

We must remark on the ending of a grand and wonderful group of supporters, The Women's Auxiliary of the Warwick Conference Center. Over the years this group has provided both a place and means of connection for local congregations and their members to our ministry here at Warwick. They have also been tireless in their support through prayer and financial resources. There is nothing more to say than:

"Well done, good and faithful servants!"



We will be hosting a final **OPEN HOUSE LUNCHEON AT MULDER CHAPEL ON OCTOBER 22, 2019**, in honor of this amazing group.

As times and needs have changed, the Board of Directors is in the process of creating a new "support group" for the Warwick Conference Center's mission. This group will be known as "Friends of Warwick". Friends of Warwick will take up the Annual Open House Days (which will happen over a weekend so more folks will be able to attend), and will also provide opportunities for onsite "work-days", fundraising for special projects and celebrations of the ongoing ministry at the Warwick Conference Center. We will welcome Synod congregations, former summer staff, camp families, as well as people whose lives have been impacted by the ministry of Warwick Camps and Conferences. If you are interested in helping to organize this new effort, please contact Jill Fenske at

jcfenske@optimum.net or at the Franklin Reformed Church, 973-667-7022.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Albert Fenske-Williams is our new Director of Operations. Albert oversees the daily operations of our conference and retreat programs and facility coordination including grounds, housekeeping, food service, and guest services:

"My name is Albert and I have been coming to the Warwick Conference Center and Camp Warwick since I was a young child. The journey has been one full of fun, adventure, hard work, and tears, including life lessons I could have only learned here in the presence of God. Spending summers here was something that I always looked forward to; some of the best times in my life were the summers I spent at Camp Warwick.

At 13, I became a volunteer for Camp Sunrise. I learned how to work hard, grew in maturity, and developed an appreciation for the gifts I've been given. I eventually joined Camp Warwick as a summer camp counselor, moving up to the position of Assistant Director of the Day Camp a few years later. My time in these positions developed my Christian leadership skills, along with a sense of compassion and empathy. Before assuming the role as the Director of Operations, I spent two years as the Assistant Director for Camp Warwick where I further used the skills I learned here to help the next generation of counselors find their own gifts. I am very grateful that my path has brought me here in this time of transition to continue the vision of hospitality and service at the Warwick Conference Center."



DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Kim Vervaeet is our new Director of Special Programs. Kim is responsible for the creation, implementation and delivery of the Road Scholar, Leisure Study, and Adventures at Warwick programs.



"I began working at the Warwick Conference Center over 10 years ago on a part-time basis assisting in the office, housekeeping and hostessing. I gained a love for the serenity of the grounds, staff and most of all the mission of the Warwick Conference Center.

When the full-time role I currently hold became available, it seemed that God was leading me here to use the talents he gave me throughout my life to foster a future of the existing and new programs. I believe that God will utilize my programs to reach all age groups not only for our participants to enjoy, but most importantly to experience the love of Christ that is demonstrated by our site and staff."

CAMP WARWICK NEWS

CAMP WARWICK 2019 - 60 YEARS OF CAMPING!

Camp Warwick has finished its 60th camping season. It was a great summer with over 300 children enjoying the thrills of In Camp, Day Camp, Adventure Camp, and Wilderness Camp. Our theme this year was “Be Transformed” (Romans 12), and campers were challenged to live the life God has intended for them. They learned compassion and cooperation; they made new friends and reconnected with old ones; and there was laughter up on the hill. It is such a blessing to have this ministry to our young people in our two Synods.

This year also marked a change as our Director for Camps, Christian Hinchman, resigned and made plans to move his family back to Michigan. Christian served in the role of Director for Camps for the past three years. We wish him and his family the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We have hired an Interim Director for Camps as we explore how the Spirit is leading change in this position for the future. For the 2019-2020 camp season, Devon Kenny will be our interim director. Below is Devon's introduction:



“Hi, I’m Devon! I’m originally from Warwick, New York, and went to college at SUNY Geneseo in Geneseo, New York. I graduated in December of 2018 with majors in Physics and Math. My family has had a connection to Camp Warwick since I was old enough to attend. I first attended Camp Warwick in 2000 when I was 5 years old as a day camper, and continued to attend through 2006. Both of my sisters attended camp as well. I became a camp counselor in 2018; and this past camp season, I was the Director of In Camp and Day Camp. I’m excited to take on the new responsibilities of Director of Camps and to be able to leave my mark on the place that helped to

shape me, as I hope to help shape the experiences that campers will have at the place that has been such a big part of my life.”

CAMP SUNRISE 2019

Camp Sunrise, our camp for those with developmental disabilities, holds a very special place in our hearts. It is a place where everyone is valued and accepted; a place where campers, staff and volunteers not only feel the Love of God, but they also are made aware of their value as “the beloved”.

This year we welcomed **Autumn Koene as our new Director of Camp Sunrise**. Autumn has a Masters Degree in Special Education and runs the Transition Program at Monmouth Regional High School. Autumn has been involved with Camp Sunrise in different capacities since 2011. She, along with her Assistant Allison Dackow, and all the dedicated volunteers, made Camp Sunrise a place of love and acceptance for 100 campers. The campers enjoyed arts and crafts, a talent show, pool time, bowling, and of course, canoeing at Wawayanda State Park.



www.warwickconferencecenter.org and www.campwarwick.org.

In order for us to be better stewards of the earth, we are offering the option of emailing future newsletters. If you would like to be added to our e-newsletter mailing list, please send your email address to Pat at warwickcc@optimum.net.

GIVING

The Warwick Conference Center has been blessed throughout the years with many generous donors. We are supported by our two Synods, Classes, our churches, and individuals. We would not be able to offer Christian hospitality and Christ's Love without you, and we say a big **"THANK YOU" for your support.**

Providing camp each summer is a big operation and also a costly one. The cost to operate camp exceeds the \$505.00 that we charge campers. Because the \$505.00 tuition is a burden for many of the families in our churches, we cannot increase this amount. Over the years we have developed scholarship funds to enable those who cannot afford the camp tuition to attend a week of camp. This past summer we were able to provide full or partial scholarships to over 50 campers for which we are extremely thankful.

There are fixed costs that we incur regardless of the number of campers each week: nurses, supplies, training, equipment, and maintenance of our cabins. We also provide a one-to-one ratio of camper/counselor for our Camp Sunrise program. Many weeks we are short volunteers, so we must employ additional counselors. We are also looking to hire a few certified health aides next year as support for Camp Sunrise.

As we begin our Fall season here in the Warwick Valley and await the changing of the leaves from green to shades of red, yellow and orange, we are already planning for next summer. Would you consider a gift to our camping programs to offset some of the fixed costs and much needed equipment (we need new canoes!) Also, would you consider asking your church's mission committee to include Camp Warwick and Camp Sunrise in their giving budgets?

Once again, on behalf of all those whose lives have been touched and changed through the ministries here, THANK YOU!!

The Warwick Conference Center is a 501 (c)(3) organization, and we are owned and operated by the Synods of Mid-Atlantics and New York, RCA.

**WARWICK CONFERENCE CENTER
& CAMP WARWICK**
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