

CAMP TEKOA

Christmas Letter 2024



*He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed. -1 Peter 2:24*

"Healing"

We went to bed unsure of what the aftermath of this storm would look like. Wind was raging, sideways rain drove into the walls of the house. Giant pine trees swayed as if they were blades of grass. The next morning, I hurried downstairs and woke my daughter up: "Happy Birthday! Your room is flooding." We shopvac-ed water, moved important items to higher ground and hoped the trees held. My family and home were OK. When the winds calmed and the rain settled, we explored. Our town was torn by a powerful, violent force. In the coming days we would learn of entire communities we loved that had been devastated. Of thousands of homes lost. Of driveways gone and people stranded. We helped a neighbor who had a tree split his home from the peak to below the windows. Cell service did not work. Power was gone. No water was available at camp and we had to boil our water in the city. Roads were closed and re-routed. Sinkholes were on my daily drive.

Our whole world seemed broken.



Touching Hearts. Changing lives. Sharing the light of Christ.

Into this brokenness came help. I call them the healers. Supplies shipped from other churches in the western mountains and Charlotte. People offering showers to neighbors. Free meals provided for weeks. Restaurants offering services at no cost. Heavy equipment from other states. Linemen from other countries. Neighbors helping neighbors. Strangers helping strangers. The light of Christ beamed through the faces of others.

All is not healed. But healing has begun.

This world is rent by brokenness. Divisions arise within every place and people group. The church navigates broken fellowship. Anger, violence and suffering surround us all. Sin is present in our world and in each of our lives.

But we know the healer.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. And as Peter reminds us, Christ bore our sins. He took the weight of the brokenness of our lives and the broken parts of this world upon himself freely. Jesus is the healer. Through the cross, we are forgiven. Through the love of Christ we can experience freedom from sin and hurt. Through Jesus, we can be made whole.

Camp is also a place of healing. It is a place where everyone who comes can be treated with dignity and respect. Where the winds and flood recede and children can enter into the embrace of the Great Healer. For 75 years, we have camped in these woods, hiked these trails and offered healing to children and youth. Through the fun of a zipline, the release of joy swimming in the lake, through the peaceful experience of settling into a campsite next to a stream in Pisgah or a community of love on a bus ride- Christ is present! This is a place of love, grace and healing.

Would you partner with us to offer sanctuary and healing to the children?

We have a goal of **75 people becoming Candlelighter monthly donors** to Camp Tekoa. If we do this by the end of the year, a donor has promised a gift of \$7500. We currently have 66 committed monthly donors. This is a long-term commitment to continue the ministry of healing.

As I think about the 75 years of ministry at Tekoa, everywhere I look I see life-change. Healing and restoration. Adults whose lives were shaped by the love of this place. Children who play here, knowing this is home. Families who share this common bond. Friends who have lost loved ones that come back here to remember and to heal. So many lives have been changed here. Perhaps you are one of them. This coming year, more lives will be added to this story. Will you help us offer healing to them as well?

Believing in the coming Healer,



Rev. John Isley
Executive Director

CAMP
TEKOA

CampTekoa.org/giving



Your gifts allow us to:

- Hire amazing Family Group Leaders and staff each summer
- Improve our site to create hospitality
- Provide scholarships- like the 20 Helene Scholarships for those impacted by the storm
- Offer an afterschool program- serving over 40 children each day
- Develop world-class adventure programs to show children God's creation
- Be a sanctuary from the storms of life