



INSPIRATIONS

Volume 25 - Issue 1
Spring 2021



A LOOK INSIDE:

SPITZER LAKE & CAMPAIGN UPDATE | SUMMER 2021 PREVIEW

GREETINGS FROM IPOINT



Greetings from Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks! While we've enjoyed wonderful fall and winter seasons, summer is just around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome youth and family campers to this gorgeous setting. Registrations have been flowing in. That means a couple of things...

First, we have a lot of work to do and would sure appreciate your help! Look for more information inside about opportunities to volunteer. Secondly, many camps are beginning to fill, and others are already full. This is exciting because these kids and families will make memories that last a lifetime and learn more about the God who loves them!

One of the things parents love about IPoint is our commitment to safety. We've worked hard the past year to implement procedures and new methods to help ensure that camp is as safe as possible during the pandemic. Did you hear about the encouraging news that recently came out of Duke University? The study, appearing online Feb. 3 in the *Journal of Pediatrics*, added to the growing body of literature documenting nominal spread of the pandemic virus among children in group settings when known mitigation measures are strictly followed. The study looked at 54 camps in North Carolina last March-August when community spread was increasing. Of the 6,830 campers and staff members followed, researchers found only 19 cases of COVID-19, and all but two of those were infected outside the camp. We are confident we can offer safe camp experiences this summer!

This issue is loaded with good stories and information. Be sure to read the article on the future of our Spitzer Lake property. Hope to see you this summer!

Greg

Greg Anderson
President

SPITZER UPDATE:

Spitzer Lake sunsets have been a favorite for many, many years. Scores of people have photos of a brilliantly colored sky with the sun descending below the hills across the lake. Now, we are facing a new sunset – the sunset of the use of that property as camp. In the last issue of *Inspirations*, we announced that “camp is going to have to continue exclusively at the Twin Oaks site” due to high water. That is, indeed, true. The lake, which has been rising for 30 years, has made it impossible for the site to be used as a camp any longer. Several buildings have been significantly damaged, and all possible avenues for mitigation have been explored without solution.



Following much prayer, study, and discussion, the board of directors and camp leadership intend that the property must now be sold. Efforts are underway to liquidate items that cannot be used at the new location, with an online auction to be held this spring. A couple of parcels we've named the Ironwood Property, along with the house where our former food service director lived, are currently listed for sale. It is expected that the main camp property will be divided into parcels and offered for sale in the coming months as well.

We grieve this loss yet praise and thank God for how He provided and used this special site to tell of His wondrous works to generations. Thousands of people of all ages point back to a time in their lives when God met them in a powerful fashion on the shores of Spitzer Lake. Friendships were begun, people were called into lives of ministry, young adults were trained, relationships were reconciled, and lives were eternally impacted as people spent time at camp. What a precious and enduring legacy! What a marvel to see how God has provided a brand new property and to move forward in anticipation of how He will use the Twin Oaks site to carry on His work.



Get Away.
Get Life.
Get to The Point.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

Many years ago, a young boy arrived at camp, unaware that his life would be altered forever because of that week. He came to trust Christ as his savior, launching him on a life-long trajectory of ministry that has taken him around the world as an evangelist and missionary for the past 20 years. This is just one story of the impact of this ministry. Thousands of people can point to a similar experience at camp, with God using their time at IPoint to impact their lives forever. So, when it became apparent five years ago that Inspiration Point lacked the capacity to be able to serve all the kids who wanted and needed to attend camp, we began seeking more property since there was no way to expand at the Spitzer Lake site.

After an extensive search of more than 70 properties, including resorts, farms, bare land, and other camps, we were led to Twin Oaks, a private estate a short distance from Spitzer. The property met all 26 criteria the board identified a new site should have, and we were able to close on the property in August 2018.

“I SUPPORT THIS CAMP BECAUSE I KNOW MY MONEY GETS A BANG FOR THE BUCK. LIVES ARE CHANGED FOREVER AT CAMP, AND I WANT TO BE A PART OF THAT.”



Little did we know at the time how critical Twin Oaks would be! In fact, without it the ministry of Inspiration Point would have ceased to exist when high water at Spitzer Lake made that site unusable. It has been a scramble to plan, acquire permits, build infrastructure and buildings, and remodel existing facilities so camp could take place. But God's faithful hand has been on the massive project all along, and now we eagerly anticipate hosting our first youth camps this summer.

In order to pay for the purchase and to build all that was necessary for Twin Oaks to become the sole location of ministry, Inspiration Point embarked on a capital campaign to secure \$8.5 million in cash and pledges. We praise and thank God for already providing \$5 million. While that is certainly encouraging, there is a long way to go. The amount already raised has been provided by approximately 350 individuals, couples, and businesses. Camp needs gifts and pledges from 1,000 people being as generous as they're able in order to pay for the property and remaining projects.

One of our generous donors declared, “I support this camp because I know my money gets a bang for the buck. Lives are changed forever at camp, and I want to be a part of that.”

We need your help and we want you to be a part of this. Thank you for considering how you might join in God's work at and through Inspiration Point with a one-time gift, pledge, or estate gift. You may also indicate your desire to partner financially with camp by visiting ipoint.org. Please also watch your mail for more information in the coming months. Your partnership counts!

ADDING MOTEL-LIKE ROOMS:

In order to solve the capacity issues at the original site, we planned that Twin Oaks was would have a 100-bed capacity, providing space for IPoint's youngest campers. Then the rising water made the Spitzer site unusable for camp, and the Twin Oaks property required rapid expansion so that there would be capacity for all Inspiration Point events. Part of the solution came in moving the two Oak Point buildings from Spitzer to Twin Oaks, which provided an immediate addition of 80 beds. That move also made it possible to add a lower level to each of those buildings.

We are making progress! When completed, each of the lower levels of the two buildings will have three bedrooms with private baths, and a common kitchenette and living space, making these rooms a wonderful space for family camps, adults, and volunteers, as well as overflow housing for youth camps and retreats.

Construction moves forward as donations for the project are received. Thanks to a couple of churches and some individual donors, we are now ready for mechanical rough-in. We still need an additional \$125,000 to finish the project and begin using these rooms.



SUMMER 2021

Life in this past year has brought uncertainty, ever-changing schedules, cancellations, contingency plans and unpredictability. We've all experienced losses and disappointments. Yet even in these unprecedented times, God's plan still prevails. His love for us will never be cancelled. Jesus, the game changer, brings a sure and secure victory to ALL who believe. Our summer theme, GAMEDAY, was created to proclaim that Jesus Christ is victorious! Of course, we will still experience losses, but we have confidence in knowing that the win over sin and death is in the books. The daily breakdown looks like this:

Monday: GAME PLAN - When sin came into the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan to rescue sinners through His Son, Jesus Christ. Then, "when the time had fully come, God sent His Son to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights as sons." Galatians 4:4-5

Tuesday: GAME CHANGER - The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was the ultimate game changer in human history. Jesus caused death to be "swallowed up in victory," giving Christ-followers a living hope and life-changing direction! "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Wednesday: GET IN THE GAME - God has gifted each player with unique abilities. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Thursday: END GAME - God has already written and revealed to us the ending of the game. Christ has won the victory! Our hope in His victory inspires us to share the life-giving message of the Gospel and serve others in Jesus' name. "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24



CAMP GRADE DATES PRICE

CAMP	GRADE	DATES	PRICE
Trailblazers 1	(1-2)	June 20-22	\$185
Trailblazers 2	(1-2)	July 25-27	\$185
Pioneer 1	(3-4)	June 13-17	\$370
Pioneer 2	(3-4)	June 27-July 1	\$370
Pioneer 3	(3-4)	July 18-22	\$370
Pioneer 4	(3-4)	August 15-19	\$370
Explorer 1	(5-6)	June 13-17	\$375
Explorer 2	(5-6)	June 27-July 1	\$375
Explorer 3	(5-6)	July 18-22	\$375
Explorer 4	(5-6)	August 15-19	\$375
Jr. High 1	(7-8)	June 20-25	\$380
Jr. High 2	(7-8)	July 11-16	\$380
Jr. High 3	(7-8)	August 8-13	\$380
Sr. High 1	(9-12)	July 4-8	\$395
Sr. High 2	(9-12)	August 1-5	\$395
C.I.T. 1	(11-1st year College)	June 20-25, June 27-July 1	\$410
C.I.T. 2	(11-1st year College)	July 11-16, July 18-22	\$410

Grade Entering Fall of 2021

FAMILY CAMPS

There is something for everyone at Inspiration Point's popular family camps. You can expect delicious meals, a setting where you can really relax and know that your kids are safe, and worship and growth opportunities for all ages! For more information or to register, please visit www.ipoint.org.

FAMILY WEEKEND 1 - June 17-20, 2021

FAMILY WEEKEND 2 - June 25-27, 2021

FAMILY WEEKEND 3 - July 1-4, 2021

FAMILY WEEKEND 4 - July 8-11, 2021

FAMILY WEEKEND 5 - July 22-25, 2021

FAMILY WEEKEND 6 - July 29 - August 1, 2021

FAMILY WEEKEND 7 - August 5-8, 2021

FAMILY WEEKEND 8 - August 13-15, 2021



EVERY TIME I COME HERE, I GROW SO MUCH. IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL HERE THAT I AM IN AWE OF WHAT GOD HAS MADE. I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR MAKING CAMP SO FUN AND SO WELCOMING.

WINTER BLAST GUEST



GRAND DAY OUT

Join us for an intergenerational day trip to Inspiration Point on either June 23rd or June 24th. This day is specifically designed for one-on-one grandparent and grandchild interaction. The day will be filled with Chapel, crafts, boating, swimming, delicious food, and so much more! The cost for this event is \$30 per person, and grandchildren involved must be entering Kindergarten through entering sixth grade. For more information, or to register for this event, please visit www.ipoint.org.



PARENT PERSPECTIVE:

JONI LUNDEEN

"Mom, I cried a little the first night, but my counselor prayed with me, and I was better." Tori was a Trailblazer, and this was the first of her many times at camp. She became somewhat of a fixture, as any time the door was open for her age group, she was there and tagging alongside her newest counselor. When you find a good gig, you stick with it.

The value of camp. How do you measure it? I was the mom likely to be crying as we drove down the road to the peninsula, seeing the enthusiasm in the staffs' welcome and knowing Tori would be seen, encouraged, and pointed to Jesus throughout the week. And then there may have been a few involuntary tears during the closing programs as verses were signed and songs were sung, particularly as the staff sang a blessing over the kids. The value is immeasurable.

The heritage bestowed on me could be summarized as, "Live with eternity's values in view." Inspiration Point has carried that forward in our lives. We don't live for ourselves; we live for Jesus and his kingdom. The message and the atmosphere at IPoint help to recenter us.

Two years ago, roles reversed, and Tori registered us for the women's retreat. My former Trailblazer had moved into the ranks of summer staff and became the initiator of time at camp.

**THE MESSAGE AND THE
ATMOSPHERE AT IPOINT
HELP TO RECENTER US.**

JONI LUNDEEN

I've had the privilege of volunteering at and praying for camp. As we headed into the slowdown of our world last spring, the Lord laid camp heavily on my heart. My prayers included the staff knowing the goodness and trustworthiness of our God. My heart cry was that they would know that they are seen and cared for, just as they pour that into our kids.



Volunteering at camp is an ideal opportunity to see tasks completed, meet new people with a heart for IPoint and spend time outdoors (not required but it's my typical request).

A new chapter has started at Twin Oaks, and I'm excited to see and come alongside as God continues to extend his kingdom through Inspiration Point.

TORI LUNDEEN

I grew up coming to Inspiration Point every summer I was able to. I was blessed to be able to attend almost every event at IPoint that was open for me. Yes, this includes attending all three Junior High summer camps in a single summer. I came to know many of the patterns of camp and what to expect from my time spent there. Two of the main things I looked forward to the most were the staff and growing in my relationship with Jesus.



At camp, I knew I was seen and that people cared for me. I looked up to the staff, and I knew I wanted to be part of that community one day. The relationships I built with the camp staff encouraged me, grew me, and continually pointed me to the cross. At camp, I wasn't afraid to ask questions, and because of that, I started growing my faith and making it my own. God is present and felt at camp.

I joined the IPoint staff in the summer of 2018, and I learned what it truly means to serve and to serve joyfully through every circumstance. I also grew in my relationship with Christ more than I ever expected. As I was pouring into the campers, God was pouring into me, even when I forgot to ask.

Camp has been part of my life for as long as I can remember and helped me form my beliefs into what they are today. IPoint puts the tools into the hands of the campers and allows them to explore the gospel. The staff are there to help guide and answer any questions that may arise while campers are exploring. IPoint encourages campers to dive deep and to open their eyes to whatever God may be pointing out to them. Whether this is through a chipmunk in the grass or an empty tomb, God is constantly at work and changing lives at camp.

I grew up attending Spitzer Lake, and Twin Oaks has exceeded all of my expectations. I hope when you come and visit that it will exceed yours as well. God is not only at Spitzer; He travels. He is with the ministry at Twin Oaks and ministries all around the world as well. This means there is room for growth, and that is what I am most excited about at Twin Oaks. I can't wait to see how God grows and uses this new location for his glory.

**GOD IS CONSTANTLY AT
WORK AND CHANGING
LIVES AT CAMP**

TORI LUNDEEN

BEYOND THE POINT:

ALISON ORGAARD

It's difficult to fully understand how my time at camp has impacted my career, my support circle, and how I see the world. When I first signed on to work at camp, I had moments of dread even to think of the possibility. I had only been a camper a couple times growing up, and as a college student I was not entirely sure what a summer at Spitzer meant. I was shy and not entirely sold on being outside all summer. Could I survive a summer? Was I cut out for it? Little did I know, one summer would turn into four, and my life would be transformed.

I have been a school counselor in small rural districts in North Dakota for the past eight years. I know I am a better counselor because of my experience at camp. During my Spitzer summers, I learned what it meant to have "eyes to see." At camp we learn to look for the little things: a branch fallen on the boardwalk that needs to be moved, how kids are responding to the Bible study, or which parent might need help carrying dinner plates. Paying attention to the little things helped me be more responsive to the needs of others, as well as prompt me to show more care with God's creation and people. Now, during my days at school I have "eyes to see" the kids who haven't eaten breakfast, the students who are dealing with the weight of stress, and the unspoken needs that haven't been addressed yet.

My time at Inspiration Point has instilled in me the deep love and value God has for His people. We serve a God who cares about the giants we face and the unspoken worries in our hearts. When reading Genesis, we learn of the plight of Hagar as she is feeling abandoned and at a loss. God showed her His care, and it reads, "She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'" (Genesis 16:13, NIV) It's incredible. We are seen by God. We are loved by God.

Working at Inspiration Point, I was in a community of people who had a heart for ministry and sharing our lives in service. For a summer, our days and hours have a purpose: love others as Christ has loved us and work for His glory. Whether washing dishes, leading a Bible study, or having a meaningful conversation, we had the chance to serve. The friendships I have made at camp while working on staff will last for a lifetime. As an adult, those friendships have morphed from college life to weddings, children, and the people who I can call any time of day. We served together, sweated together, and experienced something greater than ourselves. I cannot express enough gratitude for the opportunity I had to work at camp. My life has been forever changed for the better. God is good, all the time.



LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD:

GIVING HEARTS DAY

On February 11th, 222 donors gave \$90,061 to Inspiration Point! \$25,000 of this will go toward camp scholarships to ensure that any kid who desires to come to camp will be able to! Another \$25,000 will go toward purchasing and installing a zipline at Twin Oaks, with the remaining funds being used to build cabins in lower Oak Point. We are so thankful for your generosity, and we can't wait to see the impact it has at Inspiration Point!



HANDS 2 HELP & SPRING VOLUNTEERING

Are you looking to get more involved in the ministry of Inspiration Point? Volunteers make a big impact on what we are able to accomplish. Please consider joining us for our Spring Hands 2 Help Volunteer Event - April 28th-May 1st, 2021. Come for a day or stay the whole week! Hands 2 Help is FREE for anyone willing to lend a hand. To help us plan meals, projects, and lodging, pre-registration is required. Register online or email us at office@ipoint.org.





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GET TO KNOW TWIN OAKS:

ELEPHANT HOUSE

Many years ago, there was a farm on the Twin Oaks property, and in addition to several other buildings, there stood a granary. When the previous owners bought the site, they decided to turn the old building into a guest house with a crystal chandelier and stained-glass windows from old churches. Where did the name Elephant House come from? They purchased an elephant decoration on one of their travels, and soon the one item turned into many more. They all found a home in the old granary, which then came to be known as the Elephant House. Now, the building with several beds and a half-bath is used for housing summer staff.



TRAILS

With 12 miles to explore, the trail system at Twin Oaks is fast becoming a favorite attraction. Each trail is color-coded and marked, so finding one's way is simple. Woods, water, a vast array of animal and plant life, and countless views – you'll find it all on the Twin Oaks Trail System! We look forward to you enjoying a hike, a snowshoe trek, or a cross-country ski on your next visit to Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks.

Get Away. Get Life. Get to The Point.

