



TOUCHSTONE

Providing Christian hospitality, camping, and retreat programs to serve, nurture, and equip the people of God for God's work in the world.

September 2007

Golfing for Camp Stoney

This year's pre-convocation golf tournament at Desert Greens Golf Course in Albuquerque on October 18, 2007 will benefit Camp Stoney. The tournament begins at 1:00 pm with a four-person scramble and a shotgun start. Check-in begins at 12:00 noon and concludes with the awards buffet at 5:00 pm.

The \$100 fee includes 18-holes, cart, range balls, and awards buffet. If you have questions, contact us by calling: Tony Sarconi (747-6475), Jon Bulthuis (455-7356), the Rev. Don Hassemmer (685-4911) or the Rev. Brian Winter (856-9200). You may also contact us by email: saintstephens@valornet.com

To Register, send your check made payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. In the memo line write "Camp Stoney Golf Tournament," and mail it to: St. Stephen's, PO Box 1303, Española, NM 87532. Send payment no later than September 15th to ensure your spot.

Scholarship Drive Starts Now

We are very happy to report that from August 2006-July 2007 we raised \$4,629 in scholarship funds for the 2007 summer, and that money was awarded to 26 children and youth to cover summer camp fees. Most of the scholarships that were given covered a portion of the fees, and no one was turned away who wanted to attend camp.

But we are not resting on our laurels. This is the best time to start making a monthly pledge to the scholarship fund for 2008. If you give just \$27-\$30 a month, you can send a child to camp next summer!

There are many ways you make your donation. We can send you pre-addressed envelopes. We can automatically deduct your donation from you checking account or charge it to your credit card. We want to make it as easy as possible for you to support our mission of bringing children and youth to Christ. To get started, send an email to: emnagi@campstoney.org or call us at the camp: 505-983-5610.

Just a few statistics:

- This summer we saw a 5% increase in attendance at Camp Stoney by children and youth—for a total of 262 campers.
- We can add 112 to our numbers this summer through our away Day Camps at St. Clement's in El Paso, and St. John's in Farmington.
- Our adult retreats have also added to our numbers...as of this writing we are still counting.
- Five weekends in September and October are booked by diocesan and outside groups. Are you planning a vestry retreat, a youth event, or a family reunion? Consider bringing them to Camp Stoney.

A Grand Experiment

In the interest of being better stewards of the gift Camp Stoney is to us, during three different weeks, we conducted an experiment of running two camps at the same time. And what a summer we had!

The first week, we ran Sr. High Adventure and Day Camp together, and I think all the kids had a great time.

Then in July, we had Junior High Adventure and Harry Potter Camp the same week with a total of 72 campers in attendance! Apart from the fact that we had controlled chaos, we can safely say that a good time was had by most.

The final experiment was by far the most successful and smooth running. We ran Puppet Ministry Camp and Grace camp simultaneously the last week in July. We saw a special manifestation of God's grace that week as 27 Grace campers fought over who would sit in the front row in the puppet theater, and the Puppet Ministry campers got to dazzle a real audience with their newly acquired puppetry skills. It was awe inspiring to see the Lord touch young lives in both groups with the gift of his love.

So our grand experiment was mostly an amazing success, and this summer we thank God for the 30 or so children and youth who gave their hearts to Christ, those who asked and received Bibles (we are running out—more about that later), and those who grew in the faith in Jesus.