



Inside this issue:

The Pavilion - Ground Breaking Ceremony 1

BoD Planning Retreat 2

Camp DUO 2

ETL 2010 2

In The NEWS 3

Programming Dates for 2010 3

Winter Work Days Yield New Trail Bridges, Red Barn.... 3

Putting "JOY" back Into the Marriage 4

Available on our Web Site:

- Web site: (www.thesonsetrefuge.org)
- Architectural Rendering
- Work Team Volunteer Waivers
- Previous Newsletters
- Photos of Progress at the Refuge
- Erasing the Lines Photos

The Pavilion at The Refuge—Ground Breaking Ceremony

April 17, 2010 will mark a significant day in the growth and development of The Refuge. On that day, we will celebrate the commencement of construction of the Pavilion which has been the focus of fundraising for the past two years. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 AM. All friends of The Refuge are invited to attend. A brief ceremony including singing by students from Southeast Elementary School in Kinston and the actual "first shovel of dirt" by several individuals, churches and organizations that were instrumental in making this day possible will be followed by refreshments, music and self-guided tours.

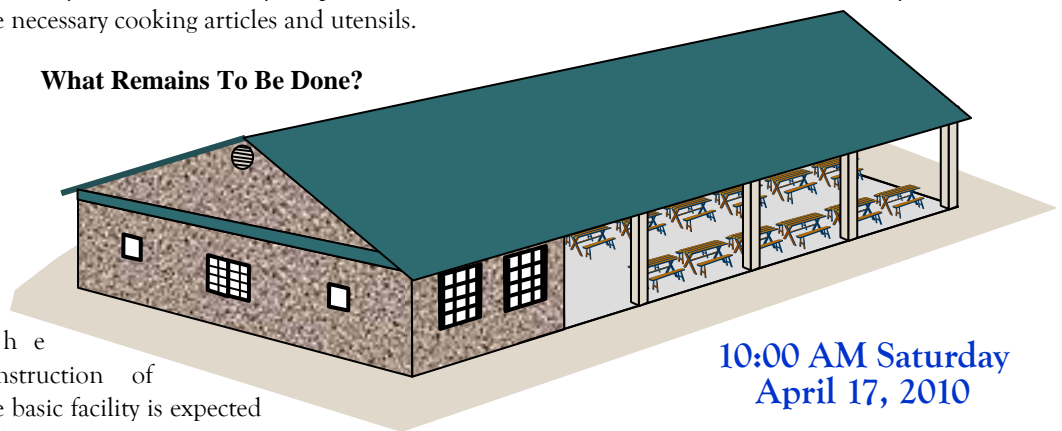
In the grand scheme of the Master Plan, the Pavilion provides the most logical choice for our first major construction by providing vital services and capabilities early in the development of The Refuge. These include protection from the elements for campers and participants in other events, a full-service commercial kitchen and male and female restroom facilities that include showers.

The effort to raise sufficient funds was successful enough to begin construction, though additional fundraising is necessary to complete the interior portions. Son Set Ministries is committed to its efforts to remain debt-free through the period of development of these early projects.

A limiting factor in program growth at The Refuge has been the lack of a facility that can provide safe-haven for program participants in the event of inclement or dangerous weather. This pavilion will provide that place of safety for up to 200 persons. Now, The Refuge can be available for extensive Boy and Girl Scout camping, extended overnight camping ministries such as the Creation Discovery Camps and most importantly, permits the opportunity for our school-related programs to commence in the fall.

Additionally, individual churches, civic organizations with missions consistent with the principles of Son Set Ministries, family reunions and other Christian-based, service-oriented programs will have the ability to rent the facility for private functions. The commercial kitchen will be fully stocked with the necessary cooking articles and utensils.

What Remains To Be Done?



The construction of the basic facility is expected to be completed no later than June 1, 2010. However, fundraising for the kitchen and the restroom facilities is not yet complete. Additionally, select work teams from the many supporting churches and organizations of The Refuge will be asked to participate in the construction of interior walls and spaces. All rough-in work will be completed in the initial construction to include plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling.

**10:00 AM Saturday
April 17, 2010**

Please let us know if you would like to make a financial contribution toward completing this project. We're so close!

Board of Directors Holds Planning Retreat



Front Row, L to R: Phil Moore, Randy Outland (Chairman), Ruth Little (Vice-Chairman), Chuck Stokes, 2nd Row, L to R: Sandra Thompson (Treasurer), Terry Barnes, Todd Edwards, Back Row, L to R: Jimbo Perry, Buddy Boyd. Not Pictured: Debbe Gastmeyer.

On Feb 6, 2010 the Board of Directors of Son Set Ministries held a day long retreat to review in great detail the initial plans for development of The Refuge and revise them accordingly given numerous changes affecting land use and timelines. Those initial plans are being altered to create a phased build out that concentrates usable, cross-use structures at the front of the camp until the mining operations subside in 2015.

In a related matter, the NC Department of Natural Resources has made a determination that favors the creation of one large lake toward the back of The Refuge, rather than two separate lakes. This new design should render much more buildable land at the lake's edge. Much discussion was held on infrastructure development needed to support the building concept of the master plan.

Additionally, Son Set Ministries has had a gift offer of another old farm house that is in excellent condition and should require very little in the way of renovations to make it useable in the near future.

The immediate issue at hand for the board was the contracting for the construction of the Pavilion and ensuring it is placed in a "smart" location from which early benefits can be derived with little chance of hindering future development. A significant redesign of The Refuge master plan is underway to ensure that activities, structures and programs are developed in a cohesive, well-coordinated, and complimentary fashion. All members of the Board are volunteers and their work is vitally important to the success of Son Set Ministries. They face many challenges so we ask that they be in your prayers constantly!

Camp DUO (Do Unto Others)

Camp Duo (Do Unto Others), now in its fifth year, is set to be held at The Refuge On June 8-9. Camp Duo is offered to all students K- 5th graders from Southeast Elementary as a reward for their school progress. This particular school is located in a low income area in which these children are exposed to the lure of gangs and controlled substances on a constant basis.

Many of these children have never left their neighborhood and consequently, the chance to canoe in a lake or catch a fish in the creek, hike on the nature trails or play a game of whiffle ball is an indescribable treat and "refuge" from their normal environment. This is definitely one of our favorite two days at The Refuge and blesses us just as much as it blesses them.

The more volunteers we have for these two days, the more we can impact the lives of these children by providing them with direct mentorship and love. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Sammy at 252-531-3214, Jimbo Perry at 252-523-5108, or Chip Olmstead at 910 459-9038.



5th graders from Southeast Elementary School take a break from the activities of the day along side the Little Contentnea Creek.

Erasing The Lines Set for June 21-25

Now in its 7th year, ETL has impacted many lives throughout the city of Kinston as it continues to focus on carrying the banner of Christ. The theme for this year's event will be "City On Our Knees." Participants will be spending time in scripture focusing on the Old Testament showdown between the prophet Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. This scripture showdown ends with everyone face down in prayer proclaiming "The Lord- He is God, The Lord- He is God."

Many ministries from past years such as Stop Hunger Now, VBS at Carver Courts, The Tree, Eastern Pregnancy Information Center (EPIC) and more will be involved once

again as well as a few new ministries partnering with ETL for the first time.

Because we strongly believe in the power of prayer, there will be a 24-hour prayer room during this year's event. If you're a prayer warrior, you're needed! Sign up for a time of prayer over our youth and Kinston as ETL continues to be the hands and feet of Christ in doing ministry throughout the week.

In The NEWS

Son Set Ministries board member "Jimbo" Perry is featured in the March edition of *Our State* magazine. Jimbo has been with Son Set Ministries since its creation in 2005 and his heart for the youth of our area dates back decades. The originator of Camp DUO (Do Unto Others), Jimbo stays engaged in the lives of youth at risk seeking to give them hope and encouragement with the light of Christ as his personal guide. Mr. Jimbo as the kids call him is a gentle giant and is especially well known in the halls of Southeast Elementary School where is has teamed up with Principal, Felicia Solomon to love these kids and encourage them to "DYB" - Do Your Best!.



"Mr. Jimbo" joins a group of Southeast Elementary 5th graders to in singing at The Refuge during camp DUO-2009.

Programming Dates Set for 2010

May 1	Father / Child Canoe Adventure
May 7-9	Women's Canoe Adventure
May 14-16	Men's Canoe Adventure
May 22	Couple's Day Trip Canoe Adventure
June 8-9	Camp DUO
June 13-18	Summer Build Week 1
June 21-25	Erasing The Lines
July 4-9	Summer Build 2
July 12-15	Creation Discovery Camp (grades 1-3)
July 19-22	Creation Discovery Camp (grades 4-6)
July 26-29	Creation Discovery Camp (Autism Week)
August 1-6	Summer Build 3

Winter Workdays Yield New Trail Bridge, Red Barnand more



The Swansboro Gang constructs a new bridge to allow tractor access to the far reaches of The Refuge

The Feb. 20 and March 13 winter work days were productive, safe, but most of all....fun! Members of Swansboro UMC and St. Mildred's Catholic Church accepted another challenge to construct a nature trail bridge that would permit access to the back reaches of The Refuge. This is the 3rd of 4 bridges they have erected. While they were busy on the bridges, others from Institute UMC, Farmville UMC, and First Presbyterian of Greenville, made great progress on the Moses House, clearing the banks of the Contentnea Creek by the low challenge course, and turning our old graying storage shed into a bright red and white replica of a barn.

While the work is important, the fellowship we share and enjoy at lunch time is one of the highlights of these events as we share visions and ideas about all that The Refuge canand will someday be!



"Fundraising begins with Friend-raising"

SON SET MINISTRIES, INC.

*Ministries of Hope for a Better
Tomorrow*



Property Address: 1380 Lower Field Rd.
Ayden, NC 28513
Business Address: PO Box 5247,
Kinston, NC 28503

Phone: 252-531-3214
Email: ssm@thesonsetrefuge.org

LEARN MORE AT
WWW.THESONSETREFUGE.ORG

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
US Postage &
Fees Paid
Permit # 550
Kinston, NC

Putting Joy Back Into the Marriage

A few weeks ago I was privileged to participate in a discussion about the messages, metaphors and symbolism in the first 12 verses of Chapter 2 of John's Gospel. The story is a familiar one...the wedding in Cana where Jesus performs his first miracle by changing the water to wine.

At first, one might believe that Jesus performed this miracle at the urging of his mother, possibly to prevent embarrassment to the family of the groom. It's interesting that Mary doesn't tell Jesus what to do, just that there is a problem. I wonder how often we tell Jesus there's a problem and then tell him how to fix it. Closer examination reveals that the wedding party was not aware of the shortage or what Jesus had done...only Mary, the servants, and possibly the disciples who were with Jesus knew of the miracle.

If Jesus were to have followed this first miracle with a sermon, what would his main points have been? I think there were several. (1) Jesus knew that by performing this miracle he would forever leave the nurturing care of his mother and live completely under the will of his Father...the heavenly clock for his life began to tick. (2) the water that Jesus used was for washing not drinking...Jesus can use that which is unclean and turn it into something better. (3) likewise, by changing the water, which represented life in those days, Jesus demonstrates he can transform that which is given to him in an

everlasting way. (4) clearly, the miracle demonstrates Jesus' power over the physical nature of all things -- after all, he was the creator.

There is another point I think Jesus would have made. What was the setting of this miracle...a wedding! Today, we often use the wedding as a reminder of the relationship of Jesus Christ and his bride...the church universal. But in the Old Testament, the relationship was between God and the nation of Israel. For a moment let's substitute God and the nation of Israel into this wedding. At every wedding wine was symbolic of joy. In the marriage of God and Israel the joy was running out! The relationship was not what it was supposed to be. Just as Jesus transformed the water to wine ensuring that the wedding celebration would last and joy would abound, so does he also transform us so that we might be forever in a relationship with God. What an amazing twelve verses!

Is your relationship with Jesus what it used to be? Perhaps you need to read these 12 verses in John and ask yourself, "Am I running low on joy? Maybe this is the year that your relationship with Jesus will be transformed just as the water was transformed into wine. At the Refuge, we desire that your cup overflow with His joy!

Chip Olmstead