



Northern Pines

A VACATION WITH A PURPOSE



JUBILEE

Between Grief & Gratitude

Last year as we were looking ahead to our 50th anniversary celebration, God laid on our hearts the theme of “Proclaiming Liberty!”. It came out of Leviticus 25:10. “Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land... It shall be a jubilee for you.”

We believed God wanted us not only to celebrate the freedom in Christ families had experienced for the past 50 years at Northern Pines, but to also look ahead with anticipation, believing new stories of freedom were coming. And they were. Each week at Victory Circle we heard stories both of God's faithfulness in the past as well as what He was doing in 2023 at Northern Pines as well.

But in the midst of the jubilee and celebration there was also sadness. There were beloved conferees who were no longer with us. There were conferees who were dealing with difficult issues with health, or children or spouses or parents in ways that seemed to have no resolution in sight. In the midst of this sense of jubilee, there was also grief.



This was a personal reality for us. Shortly after our wonderful celebration at this summer's conferences, Julie's mother entered hospice and subsequently passed away. This fall became a difficult time where we were both filled with joy and fullness from camp and at the same time wrestling with grief and loss. It was a hard place to be in and we know many of our conferees know this space all too well. Yet we have a God who meets us in this space. We have a God whose heart breaks for those who mourn and who gives comfort and joy in the darkest of places.

This Sunday, we heard our son Matt Jaderston—who is also our Week 1 Young Adult Program Director—speak on this tension between grief and gratitude. In the messy world we live in, we are not limited to choosing one or the other, but instead as followers of Jesus we can choose to be fully present in both places. We can be grateful for God's faithfulness and the freedom He gives us, and we can also fully grieve in a broken world.

This truly was a summer of jubilee at Northern Pines! We are grateful for all that God has done through five decades of ministry. But this summer and fall were also a reminder that in the midst of jubilee there can also be great grief. We are reminded we have a God who redeems these hard things. This magazine has both stories of jubilee and also of redemption. There is a story of God's faithfulness for 50 years, and also a story of how out of the loss of a daughter God is providing opportunities for single parents and their children to experience “A Vacation with a Purpose” at Northern Pines. There is a story of celebration with children coming to know Jesus, and a story on how out of the cloud of depression God can bring healing and restoration. And the stories go on and on.

We hope you are encouraged by the stories inside of God's faithfulness. We also want you to know we grieve with you in the hard moments too.

Together with you in Gratitude and in Grief,

DEAN & JULIE JADERSTON

PS: I wrote the above letter in early November not knowing Tom Warner would also be going home to be with Jesus this month (see page 6). Once again God's timing and leading could not be more perfect!

Reflections from a Third Grader

One of my favorite parts of Northern Pines is getting to spend time with family. I get to spend time with my parents and sisters and cousins. But ... I also really like that we're not with family the WHOLE time. Like, when our CCAs come in the evening, my cousin Teddy and I get to play Gaga ball with the other boys while the girls do something else. I have two sisters, so that's really nice. Also, in the morning, our classes are based on age, so I don't have to just do activities my sisters or the whole family wants to do. This year we went to the top of Judson Tower and visited the Wilderness!



Every year I've had a different CCA and there's a different group of CCAs in my class. It's been really fun getting to know these older kids. Sometimes a CCA I know sees me at lunch and he's super excited to see me. Or I'll see some CCAs by the lake and they always stop and talk to me. It's cool that CCAs are kids too. They run around and have fun with us. Someday I'd like to be a CCA, mostly so I can hang out with the kids like me.

If I didn't get to go to Northern Pines, I'd be really sad. Next year I'll be in the Wilderness. I'm excited for the crafts and games, but I'll be excited to see my family on family day!

JONES HOSMER

For more information on the CCA program, eligibility, and how to invite CCAs, email jjaderston@npines.org

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Designed and edited by Northern Pines Board and Staff. Photos by Andrew Vick, Amy Nelson, and conferees. Stories by conferees and staff.

Celebrating Fifty Years of Ministry

This year's celebration of 50 years of Northern Pines' conferences was absolutely amazing! Seeing familiar faces, reminiscing about God's favor and faithfulness, and joining together on Wednesday evening to walk down memory lane was a favorite moment of the week for many. Seeing the Warners and Kallmans back at Northern Pines was a moment we will all remember. Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate together.



Scan this QR Code to learn more about the history of Northern Pines



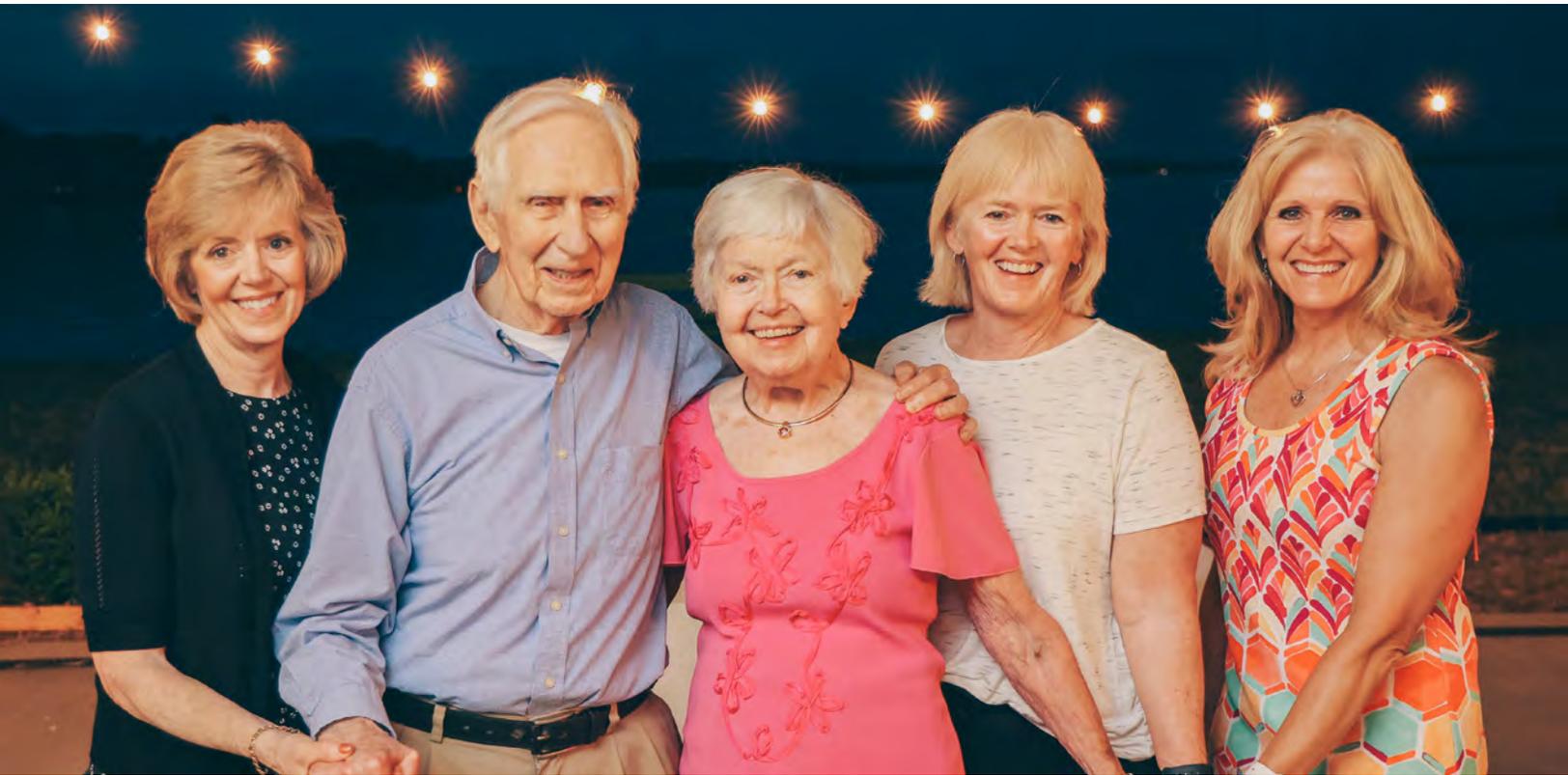


Singing "How Great Thou Art" on the Dock



In Memory: Thomas Warner

On November 25, 2023, Northern Pines lost one of its most beloved members, Thomas "Tom" Warner. He went to be with the Lord surrounded by his family. After giving his life to the Lord in 1970 at a Christian camp in California, Tom was determined to create a similar experience for families in the Midwest. He was relentless in his efforts to recruit, fundraise, and organize this fledgling ministry he helped launch in 1974. Now, 50 years later, Northern Pines continues to thrive in part as a testament to his wisdom, vision, and determination to overcome all obstacles.



Tom and Barb Warner with their daughters at the 50th celebration of Northern Pines

Tom had an extraordinary combination of being able to visualize what could be and the determination and skills to make it happen. His faith in God never wavered but sustained him and the ministry through numerous challenges.

Even after he was no longer in an official capacity, he still continued to encourage and challenge leaders, helping them to crystallize and focus the Northern Pines' mission to be a premier, Christ-centered, multi-generational family ministry. To the very end he kept championing the ministry. Even during hospice, he still wanted to wrestle with the potential future of Northern Pines. After listening to discussions about upcoming challenges and opportunities, he opened his eyes and said, "**Why not?! Let's do it!**" That is the boldness and belief Northern Pines was built on, and that is the type of faith that will lead us confidently into the future.

This summer marked the 50th year of Northern Pines Conferences. There were so many familiar faces to catch up with and we all enjoyed hearing stories of years gone by. From the wonderful museum to a special song by Mark Schoolmeesters and his mom Lynn to mark the occasion, the week was full of opportunities to be look back on and be thankful for God's faithfulness. It also created a sense of expectation, believing God still has more in store for Northern Pines in the future.

As we were preparing the reception to celebrate our 50th year of holding Northern Pines Conferences on Wednesday of Week One this summer, there was a moment many will never forget. Two men entered the room. Neither man walked quickly, and neither was in the best of health. Time had taken some of the vigor and stamina of their youth. But to all of us present they stood tall. Tom, the founder of Northern Pines and Ken Kallman, the long-time director, stood together at camp for the first time in many years. For many of us there could be no more appropriate moment to illustrate the past 50 years. Because of the faithfulness, determination, and wisdom of these two men—and many more people who stood with them over the years—Northern Pines is stronger than ever. We are reaching more new families than ever. We remain committed to the vision of a premier, Christ-centered and multi-generational ministry laid out over 50 years ago. This year became a testament not only to where we have come from, but more importantly, where God is leading us next.



Tom is survived by his wife, Barbara, of 65 years; four daughters and their spouses, Lynn (Scott) Schoolmeesters, Jill (Jim) Hard, Ann (Brian) Ferro, and Carol (Chris) Dart, along with their thirteen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.



Although Tom is physically gone, his legacy will be eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." Tom always had his eyes fixed on what was unseen or what could be, and 50 years later our lives are changed forever. We will miss you, Tom!

Join us in 2024!

Register Online at npines.org/register

Week 1: July 21–July 27, 2024

Gary Thomas | Family Hour



Gary is a best-selling author of books focused in the areas of marriage, parenting, and spiritual formation. He is currently part of the teaching team at Cherry Hills Community Church in Highlands Ranch, Colorado and also serves as an adjunct professor at multiple seminaries. This will be his fifth Northern Pines conference.

Paul Schoolmeesters | Bible Hour



Paul is currently the Executive Teaching Pastor at North Ridge Fellowship in Rogers, Minnesota. Prior to that he served for 15 years at New Hope Church in New Hope, Minnesota in various pastoral roles.

Paul attends Northern Pines annually with his wife and young children. This will be his first Northern Pines conference as a speaker.

Keas Keasler | Evening Hour



Keas is currently an Assistant Professor of Christian Spiritual Formation at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas where he also serves as Program Director for Christian Spiritual Formation.

He is a writer and former pastor of Rhythm Church in Miami, Florida. This will be his first Northern Pines conference.

Week 2: July 28–August 3, 2024

Greg Speck | Family Hour



Greg speaks full-time to youth and families around the globe. He is the president of Youth Ministries International, and also serves as the Youth and Family Communicator for Bethel University in Minnesota. He

has authored 4 books, and leads his own ministry, Greg Speck Ministries. This will be his third Northern Pines conference.

Marc Maillefer | Bible Hour



Marc has been the lead pastor at Door Creek Church in Madison, Wisconsin for the past 17 years, recently retiring in May. He authored the book, "God in the Storm". This will be his third Northern Pines

Conference as a speaker, but he has also served in other leadership roles in the past.

Marvin Daniels | Evening Hour



Marvin is the executive Director of The Hope Center in Kansas City, Missouri. He also served as vice president of leadership development at Kids Across America. He is also a noted speaker,

trainer, and teacher who has a wealth of experience with youth and families. This will be his second Northern Pines conference.

Worship both weeks be led by our own Northern Pines Worship Team. More information to come.



2024 Rates

Prices include all programming and activities, accommodations, meals, evening childcare, and use of non-motorized rental equipment. Learn more about housing options at npines.org/accommodations

Adult Program	Campsite ¹	Cabin	Lodge	House	Family Suite
2 Adults	A: \$1,115 B: \$1,005	A: \$1,675 B: \$1,570	\$2,010	A: \$2,290 B: \$2,175	\$2,290
3 rd & 4 th Adult <i>(in same room)</i>	A: \$475 B: \$415	N/A	\$645	N/A	\$645
Single Adult <i>(in own room)</i>	A: \$650 B: \$560	A: \$840 B: \$785	\$1,390	A: \$1,145 B: \$1,085	N/A
Single Adult <i>(with children 0-11)</i>	N/A	A: \$1,090 B: \$1,035	\$1,280	N/A	\$1,840

Children's Program

Young Children <i>(infant to 5 years*)</i>	No Cost!
Elementary Children <i>(kindergarten to 3rd grade*)</i>	A: \$335 B: \$265

*Age/grade as of September 1, 2024

Youth & Young Adult Programs

Wilderness <i>(4th to 6th grade*)</i>	\$475
Junior High <i>(7th to 9th grade*)</i>	\$555
Senior High <i>(10th to 12th grade*)</i>	\$555
Young Adult <i>(singles 18+)</i>	\$485 ²

A = Full Meal Option B = No Breakfast Option

CCA childcare is available for all locations, although some campsites, cabins, and houses may have drop-off service only.

1. Hook-up sites are available for an additional \$80 per site.

2. Price does not include breakfast. Young Adults will buy groceries to make breakfast together each morning.

Scholarships & Discounts

In an effort to make a week at Northern Pines affordable to all families, Northern Pines, along with Green Lake Conference Center, offers several discounts and scholarships. Learn more and apply for ALL scholarships at npines.org/discounts. Application deadline is July 1.

Generation 2 Generation: A Legacy Gift

A full scholarship for great-grandparents who attend with four generations.

Northern Pines Assistance Scholarships

Families or individuals who have additional financial need can apply for Northern Pines financial assistance scholarships.

Special Scholarships

Additional scholarships are available for members of the military, first time full-time ministry

professionals, families with special needs children, and those who have been or have had family members incarcerated. More information is available at npines.org/discounts.

Multiple Children Discount

Families with children ages 6 to 11 pay full price for the first two children and then receive a 50% discount for each younger child.

Families may qualify for and receive multiple discounts

Scan this QR Code
to register online
npines.org/register



Scan this QR Code
to review & apply
for discounts
npines.org/discounts



A Place of Spiritual Growth & Rest

Our family doubled and Northern Pines was the first place we went together as a new family. It was more than just a fun vacation. Northern Pines helped to define part of who we are in our walk in faith and helped introduce our children to a relationship with Jesus and to other people who prioritize their faith. We've experienced grace and rest and the way your faith can grow in such intense ways ... It's not just six days.



Our family's journey with Northern Pines began when we were just a family of four. It was more than just a vacation spot for us; it was a place that helped shape our faith and introduced our children to a relationship with Jesus. Northern Pines was a community where faith was a priority, and we experienced grace, rest, and intense spiritual growth.

As our family grew, so did our love for Northern Pines. We adopted a sibling group of four from the foster care system, doubling our family size. Amidst the transition and the challenges of bonding as a new family, Northern Pines was the first place we visited together. It was a pivotal moment for us, a testament to the significant role Northern Pines has played in our lives.

Today, all our children have accepted Jesus as their Savior. It's hard to articulate the profound influence that Northern Pines, this one place, this one community, has had on us in just six days each year. It's a time of spiritual growth, a week of rest, and a place where we reset and rejuvenate.

Each year, we look forward to our time at Northern Pines. We join my parents and sister, and together, we engage in this multi-generational experience of spiritual growth, community, friendship, and family. It's a beautiful tradition that we wouldn't trade for anything else.

Growing up, my father would often ask us, "Would you rather go to Disney World or Northern Pines?" Without hesitation, my sister and I would always choose Northern Pines. It's where my relationship with Jesus became real. It's where I accepted Jesus. It's a place we wouldn't want to miss.

My husband, Andy, didn't have a choice. He married into a Northern Pines family. As we moved for his career and started having kids, we continued to prioritize a week at Northern Pines. Our story changed significantly with the adoption, but Northern Pines remained a constant, a place of spiritual growth and rest.



ANDY & SHEILA SMUDE

Serving the Lord as a CCA

The CCA program has truly been a blessing to my life over the past 21 years that I have attended camp. From being a kid and having a CCA come to hang out with me to being a CCA and then being a CCA counselor, I have loved and cherished every moment of it.

As a kid, it felt so special when someone older than me wanted to spend time and play with me while I was at camp. It was even better when I found out they weren't even getting paid! When I was eleven, I decided to stay two weeks and be a CCA the opposite week I camped. Camping week 1 and CCAing week 2 became the new normal for me for many years. Not only did I get to hang out with kids, but I also got to hang out with the best friends I had made while being at camp!

Every morning as a CCA we go into our assigned classrooms to help with the children's program.



Halfway through the morning we attend a Bible study taught by one of the directors. The middle of the day is dedicated to hanging out with your friends and exploring camp! After dinner CCAs get split into their small groups and their CCA counselor walks them through questions and conversations about what they had learned earlier that morning at Bible study. Later we all gather together, play a fun game, and then disperse to spend the evening hanging out with our assigned kid/kids to watch throughout the week.

Not only did I get to hang out with kids, but I also got to hang out with the best friends I had made while being at camp!



The current CCA Directors, Caleb and Liz Atkins, met me when I was eleven years old. They have truly walked through life with me. As I got older, I got the opportunity to become a CCA counselor and work alongside them. The coolest part about the CCA program is all the friends you make that you continue to come back and see. Growing up at Northern Pines I have had friendships that have lasted over 20 years. For example, Mia Cox, Jeff Caringer and I met as babies and have counseled alongside one another for the past couple of years.

It is always one of the most exciting parts of the year when I get to drive to Green Lake Conference Center and see my friends. It is a blessing to have a reason to come together to love parents and their kids well, see life-long friends, and serve the Lord and His children through the CCA Program.

CLAIRE GARDNER

For more information on the CCA program, eligibility, and how to invite CCAs, email jjaderston@npines.org

Psalms 145 Legacy Fund

— AN ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE —

The Northern Pines Psalm 145 Legacy Fund will continue to make our conferences accessible and affordable for the future. As a multi-generational family camp, Northern Pines provides a unique place for children, women, and men to grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ. Building the endowment fund will provide for the future, helping ensure the sustainability of the conference for the next generation and beyond.

Use of Funds

As an endowment, the Legacy Fund will provide a sustained source of revenue for the summer conference. The managed fund will retain the investment principal with distributions from the earnings contributing to Northern Pines each year.

Money generated by the endowment goes directly to conference expenses and will not cover our annual operating overhead. By continuing to invest directly in the summer program, we will be able to make the Northern Pines experience less expensive for all. For example, depending on the size of the fund, Psalm 145 contributions would pay for speaker travel and honoraria, provide special program support, or help make registration more affordable for a specific group of people as a supplement to our current Welcome Rate, Generations, or Young Family programs. The Legacy Fund will help keep Northern Pines affordable and accessible into the next generation.

Management of Funds

The Legacy Fund will be a professionally managed endowment with oversight by the newly established Investment Committee. Consisting of Life Board members, Board members, and members with investing expertise, the committee will ensure the investments work for us and remains secure into the future. The committee anticipates a minimum annual payout of 5% of the three-year trailing average of the fund.

Goals for the Fund

A goal of \$500,000 will ensure a meaningful annual distribution to offset summer conference expenses. We currently have more than \$100,000 in our endowment fund toward this objective. Additional principal beyond the initial goal will generate more earnings to offset conference expenses. Contributions of all sizes are welcome as a way to build into the future of Northern Pines.





One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

Psalm 145:4

CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciate your prayerful consideration of contributing to the Psalm 145 Legacy Fund. There are several ways to do so:

BY CHECK

Please indicate *Psalm 145 Legacy Fund* on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to:

Northern Pines
PO Box 1864
Minnetonka, MN 55345

ONLINE

Securely give by credit or debit card at npines.org/donate

STOCK OR SECURITIES

Contact development@npines.org to donate appreciated stock or securities.

ESTATE PLANNING

To include the Psalm 145 Legacy Fund in your estate planning, talk to your financial planner or contact our development team, which includes financial professionals able to provide guidance for making a planned gift to the endowment.

If you'd like to discuss these giving options or discuss alternative options, please contact our development team at development@npines.org

Forgiveness, Freedom, & Hope

With three boys under the age of five, we first came to Northern Pines for the free evening childcare and for time to reconnect as a couple. It has become a place of hope and healing.

Depression has been a constant companion for me for most of my adult life. After the birth of my daughter, however, it took a turn for the worse. I felt a complete disconnect from the Lord, and His presence seemed to have vanished from my life. I started believing the lie that I was not truly His child. The darkness was so overwhelming that I began to think death was a better option than living. I convinced myself that others would be better off without me dragging them down. Consequently, I attempted suicide and ended up in an inpatient hospital, still contemplating ending my life.

My doctor, a believer himself, spoke with my husband and recommended a treatment that miraculously worked. The Lord indeed preserved my life. However, as a Christian, the guilt and shame of having been in such a place were immense.

The following summer, we returned to Northern Pines. It turned out to be a significant time of healing for me. It was a place where I could forgive myself and truly feel the Lord's forgiveness, which is often easier said than done. Of course, the Lord forgives, but it took me a long time to internalize this truth and believe it could apply to me.

I don't recall who the speakers were that year, but their words and the worship stirred something in my heart that I had been wrestling with for months. As a result, Northern Pines was a significant place that changed my life and helped my family as well..



Of course, the Lord forgives. It is one thing to hear that, but for me, it took a long time for it to really sink in and to believe it. That it could be true for me.

Northern Pines has also been a blessing for my husband, providing him with a community of Christian men. I am grateful that my children, still young, get to grow up attending Northern Pines, surrounded by Christian leaders who will continue to guide them. It's one thing for parents to talk to their kids about faith, but it's entirely different when cool teenagers share their faith with your kids. This has been such a blessing and one of the many reasons we love Northern Pines.

WHITNEY WOERNER



You are loved and valued. If you or someone you know needs help, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org. You can also visit SuicidePreventionLifeline.org

Men's Work Retreat

In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." Once you experience the annual Northern Pines men's work retreat at Green Lake Conference Center, you'll find Jesus' words to be so true here as well.

"The Northern Pines work groups have been an Ephesians 3:20 blessing to GLCC as more improvements have been made than we could dare hope or imagine ten years ago when the work retreats began. These improvements have allowed thousands of young people to experience a closer walk with God at Northern Pines and other Christian youth retreats as a result. We treasure the deepening of relationships, the spiritual growth, and the fun moments standing together on roof tops that have occurred along the way. All glory be to God and our profound thanks to Dean Jaderston, Scott Schoolmeesters and Chris Dart for their wonderful leadership!"

BEN MOTT

President & CEO, GLCC



SAVE THE DATE April 25 – 28, 2024



"If you haven't gone to work retreat, then you're missing it. It's not THE week of Northern Pines, but it's a great three days. I had a couple of guys come this year that have never been to Green Lake, never been to Northern Pines, and I was able to talk them into spending four days up here and driving eight hours to get here. And they're coming back next year! That's how impactful the work retreat is. It's really cool."

BILL CHEESEMAN

Additional Volunteer Opportunities

From landscaping to roofing, Northern Pines Conferees have been volunteering time at GLCC. If you'd like to get involved, email Rebecca at RebeccaReeves@glcc.org



Building a Family Legacy

Initially, when my wife Judith mentioned Northern Pines to me, I didn't love the idea of a full week of church. "I love church, I love retreats, I love weekend retreats, but a week of church? Honey, we only have so much vacation?" But I love marriage too, so I decided to give it a shot. Now we've been coming for 20 years.



**"It's ok if we don't get Christmas gifts
... we need Northern Pines."**

In my first year attending Northern Pines, I was deeply moved by the speakers, whose teachings were nothing short of phenomenal. However, it was the Victory Circle that had the most profound impact on me. I listened to high school students share their personal experiences, the challenges they faced in high school, and their journey of falling away from and returning to their faith. A recurring theme in their narratives was the sense of acceptance, love, and spiritual rejuvenation they found at Northern Pines. They spoke of how the camp had fortified their faith as they prepared to transition into college.

At that time, I was still trying to navigate the complexities of parenthood. I remember telling my wife, Judith, that I was willing to invest \$2,000 a year for the next 15 years if it meant our daughter could stand on that stage one day, confident in her faith despite our parental shortcomings. We were determined to do whatever we could to support her spiritual journey. God has indeed blessed us year after year.

Our children are now grown, but they continue to accompany us to Northern Pines to serve. When they were younger, they even told us they would forego Christmas gifts if it meant they could attend Northern Pines. This spoke volumes about the impact the camp had on them. Northern Pines has become a place where they reset for the school year, make lifelong friends, and grow in their walk with the Lord.

Our children have also expressed a desire to give back to the camp that has given them so much. They want to serve as counselors, to pour into the lives of other children just as their counselors poured into theirs. They are eager to continue the legacy of the counselors who impacted their lives so profoundly.

BILL & JUDITH CHEESEMAN



Kierin Givens Scholarship Fund

Northern Pines has always been a place where families of all ages, sizes, and configurations have been welcome. The Kierin Givens Scholarship fund will provide full scholarships for single parents and their children.

The *Kierin Givens Scholarship Fund* will grant full scholarships for single parents and their children, providing them the opportunity to attend Northern Pines. We are also planning some new opportunities next summer for different types of family groups (grandparents, single parents, blended families, first-time parents, etc.) to connect with others who are facing similar challenges as they do life together. This will help them find support as they find common ground in developing strategies to build spiritual legacies in their families.

Go to npines.org/camp-conference-details/discounts/scholarship-application to apply for this scholarship. If you have further questions, please email information@npines.org with your name and phone number and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

I had no way of realizing how many bittersweet memories Northern Pines held for me until I arrived at Green Lake for the 50th anniversary. My sister, Kierin, lost her battle to cancer on June 8th and I arrived at camp seven weeks later, still processing her loss.

Good memories of our time together at camp were around every corner, but they only made Kierin's absence feel more real. On Sunday I visited the 50th anniversary museum looking for photos from my time in Indian Village. To my surprise, the first picture in the first album I opened was a Junior High photo with Kierin in the very front row. Seeing that picture of her from the old campus brought more sadness than I was ready for, so I closed the book quickly.

I was doing better on Monday and felt distracted from grief as I taught my wonderful third grade class. Just before dinner, I was walking towards Kraft when, suddenly, the door opened and my niece, who was a CCA, came out clearly upset. With such a huge campus and very different schedules, I knew that God had put the two of us together for a specific reason: she was missing her mom, and I was missing my sister. Being at camp was good and hard for both of us. After grabbing a bench outside Kern, we talked and cried together. My niece, Ally, hadn't shared with anyone about her loss, but as we were sitting there, her CCA counselor "happened" to walk by. She could see we were both upset, and I shared about our loss. She responded with incredible compassion, and, with tears in her eyes, told Ally to take the night off, someone else would cover for her.

Ally and I went back into Kraft to eat dinner and then up to my room for the next few hours to talk about Kierin. It was exactly what I needed to help me process some of the grief I didn't even know I was feeling. God was so good to bring us together when we most needed each other. Throughout the time I was at camp, I continued to be flooded with memories of Kierin. Many more tears were shed, but the memories were somehow more welcome and the grief a bit easier to bear after our time together.

STEPHANIE RICE



A Jubilee Legacy

Kathryn was having a difficult summer. Recovering from surgery, she wasn't able to work and couldn't afford a vacation. She applied for a scholarship and was able to join her family for a week at Northern Pines. That week, while I was serving as a CCA counselor, I met Kathryn. Now we attend with our three young children.

Growing up, attending Northern Pines was a significant part of my spiritual journey. It was a place where I could explore and deepen my relationship with God, away from the daily grind and the familiar surroundings of home. It was a retreat, a sanctuary, a place of spiritual rejuvenation.

Now, as a father, I have the privilege of sharing this experience with my children. Even though they are still young, I can already see the spark of spirituality being kindled within them. This year, a simple walk with my three-year-old son turned into a profound theological discussion that left me in awe of his understanding.



As we walked past the chapel, my son pointed to the stained-glass image of Jesus and said, "That's Jesus." His recognition of Jesus was the beginning of a beautiful conversation about the Gospel. He knew that Jesus is God, and Jesus died for his sins. And Jesus rose once again. That is the Gospel in my three-year-old.

It was a heartwarming moment to hear my son, at such a young age, grasp the essence of the Gospel story. It was a testament to the power of Northern Pines in instilling faith and understanding in the hearts of its attendees, regardless of their age.

Teaching my son about Jesus at home is one thing but seeing him internalize these teachings in a different environment, like Northern Pines, is an entirely different experience. It's confirmation that the seeds of faith we plant at home are being nurtured and grown at camp.

Northern Pines has been a significant part of my spiritual journey, and now it's becoming a part of my children's spiritual journey as well. It's a beautiful generational aspect that I am grateful for.

JOSH & KATHRYN WINKLER

What's your Northern Pines Story?

We'd love to hear how God has used Northern Pines in your or your kids' lives. Email jjaderston@npines.org to share.

We'll connect with you before using your story in any marketing materials.

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From the first time Tom Warner had a vision of starting a premier non-denominational Christian family camp in the upper Midwest, God has blessed the ministry of Northern Pines. Those who have chosen to make a "Vacation with a Purpose" part of the spiritual legacy they share with their families have seen multiple generations encounter God in powerful ways. For a couple needing healing in their marriage, a student who was struggling in their faith, or a child inviting Jesus to be the Savior for the first time, Northern Pines has consistently provided a vacation experience like no other since 1974.

We are now poised for an exciting future. Overflowing with young families who are now realizing the value of investing in a generational spiritual legacy, we have sharpened our vision of multigenerational family ministry. With quality speakers and worship leaders, and talented new staff who love Jesus taking on the challenge of leading our youth programs, the quality of our our conferences continues to improve. There is, however, a cost to continuing to provide this premier level of programming.

Would you help us reach new generations of families, helping them change the arc of their family by experiencing a vacation at Northern Pines? There are various ways to give. Some choose to partner with us on a monthly basis while others give at our conference or to our year- end appeal. Others have turned moments of grief and loss into ongoing scholarships and programs that continue to impact lives long into the future. Some have also chosen to make Northern Pines part of their planned giving or estate plans. We can also accept gifts of appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, donor advised funds, and other property.

We invite you to partner with us as we look to the next 50 years of multi-generational family ministry. You can give directly by clicking on the "Donate" button on our webpage or send a check to the address below.

Thank you for helping us reach a new generation of families!

The Northern Pines Board of Directors

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Northern Pines
A VACATION WITH A PURPOSE