

The Beech Tree



Bluestone Day St. Andrew's Style!

by Valerie Cowley

On Sunday March 14th, St. Andrew Presbyterian of Pinch, celebrated their annual **Bluestone Sunday**. This is a special Sunday we look forward to each year as we kick off our campaign to raise funds from the congregation to help with the costs of summer camp for our youth. Our worship service revolved around the Bluestone ministry and included a counselor's testimony as to the impact of this ministry on campers. Music was provided by Mark Miller and Daniel Heidt, accompanied by the Bluestone staff and our congregation's campers. We were fortunate to have in attendance Mark Miller, Camp Director; Jodi Myers, Program Director; counselors Ben Calderwood, Sarah Pettus and Alison Cowley; lifeguard Michael Aab; and former Counselors in Training (CITs) Taylor Aab, Amber Simmons and Kaity Dyer. The congregation actively participated by wearing their Bluestone shirts and we were all in "camp mode" as we tried to participate in "energizers". After worship we shared lunch and watched a slide show of 2009 summer camp pictures taken by our own Taylor Aab. Mark and the counselors were on hand to answer questions and provide very entertaining stories of camp life! It was a wonderful way to celebrate the ministry of Bluestone!

The congregation of St. Andrew contributes to a "Summer Camp Fund" from March until early registration in May. To receive funds the youth must complete the early registration and make their \$50 deposit through the Christian Education Committee. All funds collected are then divided evenly between these children and remitted on their behalf by the church. (In 2009 we had 14 youth attend and in 2010 we have 8 youth attending summer camp and were able to contribute over \$150 per child.) This is especially helpful to families that have more than one child attending camp! We encourage your congregations to consider this campaign for future years – it is a great way to show your youth how much you appreciate them.

Valerie Cowley is a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church; she also serves on the Board of Directors of Friends of Bluestone.

Since 1953, Bluestone has been a place apart where thousands have heard and learned about Jesus Christ, his church, and his promise. It is sacred space where people have forged lifetime friendships as they become part of the Bluestone family. It is our belief that Bluestone is a blessed place, where the magnificence of God's creation is equaled by the exemplary community of faith that is created there.

Friends of Bluestone is a West Virginia Non Profit Corporation organized solely to support the ministries of Bluestone Camp & Retreat. Our purpose, as Friends of Bluestone, is to raise funds for the maintenance and upkeep for this special place, thereby enabling and advancing Christ's ministry ... with faith and in the great hope that God will bless many, through Bluestone, for years to come.

We invite you to join our cause to provide and invest in Bluestone's future by giving generously and faithfully. All donations are tax deductible.

We will gladly receive any amount of money in support of our cause. Please send your donation to the address listed at the bottom of this page. Checks may be made payable to: Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

We welcome as well your abilities and talents as we endeavor to support Bluestone's ministry. We are currently seeking ambassadors from congregations across the state to help us fulfill our mission. Please contact us at bluestone.friends@gmail.com



Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

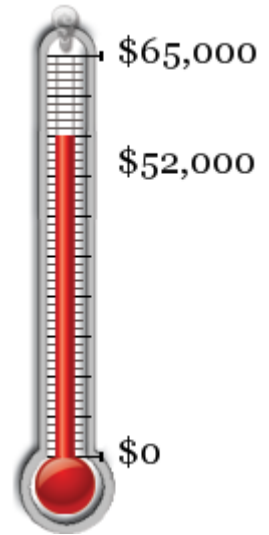
P.O. Box 827 • Charleston, WV 25323

www.bluestonecamp.com/FriendsofBluestone.htm

Friends of Bluestone Update

The Friends of Bluestone Board of Directors met at Bluestone on June 4, 2010. The Board is not short on ideas, but they need your help and support to help implement them! Please let us know if you are interested in helping in anyway, big or small! Some of the upcoming events that Friends of Bluestone needs volunteers to help plan, participate and support include the following:

- **Phone-A-Thon 2010.** Friends of Bluestone plans to hold an event where current and former staff gather together and reach out via a personal phone call to those who have been part of the Bluestone family over the years.
- **Electronic Giving.** Soon Friends of Bluestone will be able to accept donations through electronic deductions from your checking account. This will enable supporters to set up automatic deductions from their checking accounts that will go directly to Friends of Bluestone. More information to come!
- **More Frequent Communication.** The Beech Tree will continue to be published quarterly and distributed via email, Facebook and through Presbytery of West Virginia congregations. Updates between Beech Tree newsletters will be provided to congregations through their clerks of session. To be sure you are included in our mailings, please contact us at bluestone.friends@gmail.com
- **Facebook.** Please check out our Facebook page for updates! Type, "Friends of Bluestone" in the search box to find us!
- **A Blue Carpet Event.** Friends of Bluestone plans to host a supporter and volunteer get-together in the late fall in the Charleston area. You can count on food, fellowship, and entertainment! Please stay tuned for details!



As per the Covenant between Friends of Bluestone and the Presbytery of West Virginia, our goal for 2009 was to raise \$30,000. Thanks to the generosity and faithfulness of many, we have reached that goal and we are grateful!

Thank You!!

Friends of Bluestone must now achieve the goal of at least \$65,000 in total receipts by the end of 2010. To date, \$52,000 has been raised. Please consider supporting the Bluestone ministry in addition to your regular donations.

BLUESTONE SUMMER YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 26 – 30

For Middle School, High School & College Age Youth

We will explore how God can use your faith in whatever you may do!

Registration packets will be in churches soon!

St. Andrew Family Retreat - 2010



Board of Directors

Scott Adams – President

Ed Pettus – Vice President

Valerie Cowley – Treasurer

Allison Westlund – Secretary

Kristin Eagan

Tom Hastie

Mark Miller

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