



Pinerock

Camp & Retreat Center

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 2020

Update from the Director - Quarantine? Kick Rocks!!

Greetings friends of Pinerock Camp and Retreat Center,

We are three weeks into self-isolation and it is really upsetting me to witness my wife standing at the living room window gazing aimlessly into space with tears running down her cheeks. It breaks my heart to see her like this. I have thought very hard about how I can cheer her up. I have even considered letting her in - but, ya know, rules are rules!!

And...if you know my wife Trish, you know I would be the one on the outside looking in! I trust you are doing well as you shelter in place in your home. What crazy times we are living in. Just like everyone else we are completely shut down and we have no idea when we will be re-opening. However, in the down time our staff has been working on projects to improve the look and effectiveness of Pinerock. Allow me to fill you in. When I say "our staff" I am talking about all our managers and a few of our Maintenance staff who have not been furloughed. At this point we have had to furlough our part-time Housekeeping, Dining Hall, and Activities staff.

In the short time we have been shut down we have replaced more sewer pipe, (150 feet near the Fiesta Condos). Our staff worked hard, and we completed the work in 3.5 days. Though you won't notice a difference it is something that has been needed for years and we will continue to look for ways to improve this important part of Pinerock. (Workers: **John Hogg**, **John Ross**, **Davin Simms**, **T.J. Washburn**, **Zach Schultz**, **Rich Stoffan**, and **Chris Robillard** - Volunteer)

We are also in the process of completing the replacement and upgrade to tile showers in the Vanderpool Dorm. **John Ross**, one of our Maintenance men, has been working on this project over several months due to scheduling issues. Now he is finishing the project and the showers look great!! We have replaced some plank flooring due to a bad leak from one of the showers and replaced sinks in each room of Vanderpool Dorm as well. **Trish Stoffan** and her Office Assistant **Karrah Stults** are now repainting each one of the dorm rooms to complete the overhaul. The rooms that are completed look great! We are very excited to get this work done.

While all this is going on **Teghan Stults** and **Terra Stults** are starting to repaint parts of the Dining Hall. Now is the time to do this and these girls are stepping up. Prior to beginning the paint projects, we have all been bagging up pine needles to make sure we are fire safe. We have tossed away over 250 bags and we still have more work to do.

A few months ago, we lost our part-time landscaper to a better opportunity. Since then **John Hogg**, our Maintenance Manager, has filled the gap. The week before the shutdown we had a 6-inch snowstorm that was a very heavy snowfall. Due to the heavy snow we lost many trees (one large oak tree in front of the Tabernacle for instance). John has been cleaning up and cutting up the trees which will be great firewood. John also led the sewer line work project. He spent many hours running the backhoe and grabbing a shovel and jumping in the ditch as well as making sure we had all the components needed to finish the job. He has been an amazing addition to our staff in the 15 months he has been at Pinerock. **Zach Schultz** our Activities Manager has also worked many hours doing cleanup and repair and tightening up of our Activities apparatuses.

Con't. on pg. 3

PROJECTS

John 16:33
“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. BUT take heart, because I have overcome the world.”



Sewer Project 2020

The collage shows various stages of the sewer project. It features a yellow backhoe loader, workers in a trench, a person in a trench, and a person in a trench. The backhoe loader is shown in several different positions, including one where it is dumping dirt into a large pile. The workers are shown in various poses, some standing and some kneeling in the trench. The trench is deep and appears to be in the middle of being excavated. The overall scene is one of active construction and labor.

Update from Director

(Continued from pg. 1)

Dave Neville, one of our Maintenance men, is working on replacing the heating system in one of our deluxe cabin's. We are replacing a gas heater with electric wall units in each room. It is a big job and Dave is volunteering his hours. What a blessing!!

Mike Simms and **Dave Neville** also patched ceilings in Vanderpool Dorm and fixed a roof issue that caused the ceilings to need to be patched.

Just a little more - **Davin Simms**, has been doing a fantastic job of maintaining our Pinerock owned vehicles. Recently he rebuilt the motor and fixed our hydraulic wood splitter. Now is the time to get caught up on the stuff that gets pushed to the side during normal operations.

In the downtime **Georgette Minton**, our Housekeeping Manager, has kept busy doing deep cleaning of our meeting rooms, cabins, and dorms. She has also shampooed several of our rugs and carpeted rooms. She is amazing! I know she and her crew will have all our facilities looking beautiful when we open up again!

I have personally worked on several of these projects as well. I can't say that raking up and bagging pine needles or digging in the ditch as we replaced the sewer line is my favorite thing to do, but I love this staff and I always enjoy the time we spend together when we are working on a project. We are blessed with wonderful people who look forward to serving you, our guests.

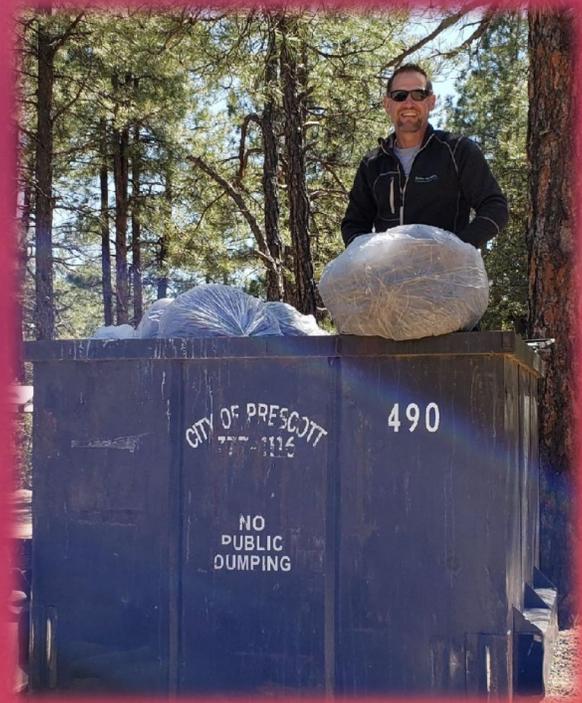
We have stayed busy!! When the quarantine is lifted and we get to bring back our friends, site-license holders, and guests we will also be able to bring back the rest of our incredible staff. It is awfully quiet around here - tooo quiet, we can't wait till the day arrives that you are back with us at Pinerock. We will be ready!!

Our last group before we shut down was Tapestry Women's Ministry. One of their young women gave Trish and I a wonderful note before she left for home. Brandy is a blessing in our lives. A Quote from **Brandy**: *"Thank You For Making This Place (Pinerock) My Happy Place And A Place Where I Can Find True Rest."*

In closing, when you read an internet story or watch TV, keep in mind that bad news sells, and the media is compelled to put a negative spin on everything--even good news.

Bad news sells. The News Media know it. Politicians know it. Self-appointed prophets know it.

However, for anyone committed to speaking God's truth, bad news is a weapon we simply don't have in our arsenal. Nor is bad news a threat to our security. We're in the unique position of being able to find something good in any situation, no matter how troubling things may appear on the surface.



Paul said: [28] *"We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28)

Whatever happens day-to-day--whether business is good or bad, whether we add groups coming to Pinerock or lose groups, whether we succeed or fail--God is at work to make things work for our own good.

We have a choice in how we interpret the events of our lives. If we want to fit in with the rest of the world, we can put a negative spin on everything that happens. If we want to look at life through the eyes of faith, we can learn to find something good in any situation.

This isn't about being a Pollyanna or pretending tough times don't really hurt. It's about taking God at his word. If we love him, if we trust him, he will make things work out for our best. With that in mind our best days are ahead!!

Please keep us in your prayers, stay safe, and come see us when things get back to normal.

In His Service, your friend,

Rich Stoffan

Rich Stoffan, Executive Director