

Executive Director Report

Atlantic Wesleyan District Conference
July 11, 2024

Recently I was asked, “What does God believe about you that you don’t yet know about yourself?”

Have you ever wondered what God believes about camping ministry that we don’t know? What does He know that we do not yet know about discipleship and releasing a Kingdom force of lay persons in workplaces, neighbourhoods, and homes?

The 2023 summer season of camping ministry exceeded expectations. Not simply because of what we did, although the camp leadership and staffing teams at Beulah and Caton’s are both amazingly effective, but because of the powerful and anointed direction given by the Holy Spirit in how to do camping ministry. Our leadership and staffing teams pray, collaborate, ask questions, seek help, and then pray some more. Each person serving at Beulah and Caton’s do so primarily from their love of Jesus and the call He has placed on their life to disciple others in these ministry contexts. You see, being a disciple who discipled others is the call. Camp ministry is the context.

Here are a few highlights of the year:

- Both Beulah and Caton’s camp board sessions have implemented year one of their three-year strategic plans.
- Under the leadership of Director Dean Stephenson, Caton’s hosted 15 camps and 7 rental groups. Including the managers for Maintenance, Administration, Spiritual Life, and Food Services the 49 full-time staff and 37 part-time staff are excited to report that Caton’s met 97% of the 2025 goal of 2,025 campers with 1,963 campers. These campers were required to stay at least one night and hear the Gospel message. Of those that heard the Gospel and experienced the love of Jesus through interactions with dedicated staff and other Christian campers, we are thrilled to report 80 salvations and 50 commitments.
- Through Family Camp 2023 and year-round group rentals and events, *Beulah Camp and Conference Center* provided the context for hundreds of individuals to hear the Gospel and grow in their discipleship with Christ.
- The Beulah Management Team staff of 1 full-time year-round Caretaker, 1 Guest Services Manager (full-time June-September, part-time October -May); 1 part-time year-round Events Coordinator, and 1 part-time year-round Property Development Officer were the leaders who carried the greatest load in making this happen. Three summer students funded by provincial and federal grants served the Beulah community from June-August. Special thanks to Chef Hannah and her Food Services team for feeding us well, along with Acting Caretaker Wayne Clark for serving part time from April 2024 to the present date. We are very grateful for his investment in the functioning of Beulah while our full time Caretaker Mike White recovers from a health concern.
- On the recent May Workday, Beulah held an information session for interested users and leaseholders with a second session scheduled for Saturday, August 24th at 10:30 am. The feedback from the camp board’s focus on increased communication, stewardship of resources, and focus on reclaiming our spiritual heritage has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive. Be sure to sign up for the Beulah e-Newsletter at www.beulahcamp.com.
- Camp ministry infrastructure needs and maintenance are well underway. At Beulah, Phase 1 of the Tabernacle Terrace has been completed with the removal of the Riverview dorm in November and basic groundwork started in the spring. With Phase 1 completely funded by donors, we are looking forward to the activation of Phase 2 as funds are raised. Be sure to view the artistic renders of the proposal on the posted sign in the Tabernacle Terrace area. With the focus on getting our house in order before beginning this new project, much needed repairs and upgrades have been activated. In April, the

Heritage Hall roof was replaced, and repairs were done to the Tabernacle roof along with the installation of some new upper windows and the start of the restoration of the lower windows with three completed. McDowell dorm has received a new ventilation system along with upgrades to the lobby; in the Hotel/Dining Hall the walk-in cooler/freezer has been completely refurbished along with an upgrade to main floor washroom facilities for accessibility (special thanks to Mrs. Charlene Mackenzie); and the Centennial Park units have received new steps along with the removal of old ventilation systems in the preparation for new. The special assessment fee of \$700 sent to leaseholders in May is making a significant impact in providing the required funds for getting this work done. We invite all users of Beulah to donate to our deferred maintenance fund and/or general operations to assist us in facilitating improved services to the entire Beulah community. We are committed to long-term sustainability in the spiritual purpose of these sacred grounds, but we need your support to do so. Please read the financial newsletter on www.beulahcamp.com for more information.

- At Caton's Island, *The Lodge* has been completed to a high spec to provide comfortable accommodation for speakers and adults and their families who want to volunteer and offer their skills and abilities at the camps. We are thrilled to share that this new building has been paid for and ready to use for the summer of 2024! Plans are now in place for activation of Phase 2 of the construction of the new Administration Building replacing the present Main House beginning in the fall of 2024. The staff dorm has also received an upgrade in accommodation spaces and a new roof due to the repair work needed from the 2023 winter storms. We are extremely grateful to all who gave donations through the Caton's Fundraiser Dinner May 26th for a total of \$80,000. This much-needed financial boost allowed us to be effectively prepared for the 2024 camping season. Thank you for your ongoing investment in this life-changing ministry for children and youth. If you want to learn more, please visit our website. www.catonsisland.com

- Our volunteers are the key to the effectiveness of camping ministry for seasonal programming and year round services. In addition to those who share their time in making seasonal programming and Family Camp a success, we are thankful for the year round residents of Beulah and the various ways in which they contribute their gifts and expertise to the overall functioning of the community. Their focus on living as active contributing citizens within the larger community of Browns Flat is having positive impact and influence in creating opportunities to share the Gospel through basic acts of care and friendship thereby removing the mystique of the Beulah grounds. Thank you to all who make this sacred space a place of fellowship, friendship, and faith.

The Atlantic District team is committed to fulfilling the mission of unleashing churches for transformed lives. With the 2027 target of raising and releasing a core of 400+ new church leaders, I am pleased to report the contagious fervor within laity who want to grow in their discipleship and discipling of others. The first cohort of [Pioneer Leaders](#) has completed a 13-week training in which each Pioneer, with support from their Lead Pastor, has developed a strategy for how they will share the Gospel and disciple others in their workplace or community. The 2nd annual retreat of *Come Away My Beloved* resourced 65 women from NB, NS, and PEI with spiritual tools and a strengthened knowledge of who they are in Christ. As a result, women from across the district are seeking coaching in forming Discipleship Groups (D-Groups) using John Wesley's band structure. As a result of the formation of accountability groups, mentoring partnerships and spiritual direction, lives are being transformed as holiness is pursued! May this be our [Antioch moment](#) as laity come alongside clergy in fulfilling the Great Commission - through one relationship, one act of love, one conversation at a time.

What does God believe about you that you don't yet know about yourself? Is He calling you to disciple others in the contexts in which you live and work? Are you sensing a prompting to lean more into the ministry of Beulah and Caton's? As always, I'm here to chat – and more importantly – pray with you as you grow in your discipleship and investment in others.

Thanks be to God for His blessing and provision,

Tami Mutch-Ketch