

The Immediate Needs of Peterkin

Members of the Peterkin Task Force met February 6-7, 2009 at Peterkin. The Task Force's current responsibility is to ensure that the camp is in operable condition for the 2009 summer season. We have identified the following needs as "immediate", to enable the camp to provide the basic functions that it always has.

After inspections and discussions, for the camp to operate this summer within the expectations of past campers, the Task Force is confronted with three major construction and repair projects:

1. The Hampshire County Health Inspector will not allow us to prepare food in the kitchen of the Dining Hall after May unless the floor of the kitchen is entirely replaced. The existing floor is warping and not cleanable. It has served its purpose well: mathematically, it has probably served over 300,000 meals since 1945. The Hunters that use Peterkin property have generously donated their time this Spring to install new subfloor where needed and hardwood laminate flooring throughout. Daisy McBride and her husband, Gary, are generously donating the construction materials for this project.
2. The pool, though not a dire necessity for camp to take place, is very appreciated by campers young and old. If the pool is filled for the summer, it will leak approximately 15,000 gallons of water per day. This requires a constant influx of cold water, which creates the need for more chemicals. The decking, plumbing, and filtration system need upgraded as well. One option that is being explored for its repair would involve filling the current cement with sand, and installing a new liner. This would reduce the depth of the pool entirely. The shallow end of the improved pool would finally bring it to a depth of 3 feet, making it more navigable to the youth for whom it has always been intended. Estimates for different repair/replacement options are currently being gathered.
3. The two-story Campbell lodge is in need of major repairs. According to a building inspector, the following conditions need immediate attention: The second-floor front deck needs repaired. There is mold growing throughout the first floor. The Bishop is looking into these matters and exploring multiple options.

For more than 60 years, Peterkin has served a central role in the spiritual development of its youth as well as its adults. Friendships, marriages, families, careers, discernments to the cloth, and many existential questions began here. This holy place has served the Diocese well. The issues identified above are clearly not cosmetic; they are fundamental issues to the core function of camp and warrant immediate attention. The remediation of these issues, however, goes beyond our current financial capabilities. Early estimates place the needed repairs in the ballpark of \$100,000. Good stewards have generously donated to our camp in the past. On behalf of Peterkin Camp and Conference Center, the Task Force asks for your continued generosity and contributions. If you would like to make a donation, send a check payable to the Peterkin Camp and Conference Center or to the Diocese of WV (memo line Peterkin). The address is: The Episcopal Diocese of WV, PO Box 5400, Charleston, WV 25361. Any contributions would be tax deductible.

If anyone has further questions and/or concerns regarding Peterkin, feel free to contact any of the members of the task force.

Sincerely,
The Peterkin Task Force

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