



A Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Issue #9 | June 2020

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Executive Director
- John Koch

Associate Director
- Jennifer Boyd

**Buildings & Grounds
Manager**
- Caleb Baker

Bookkeeping
- Abby Holmes



A Letter From the Executive Director

A New Direction

Dear Friends:

The last few months have been a whirlwind between pandemics, murders, protests, working virtually, home-schooling, and the list goes on. It seems our world bears no resemblance to this time last year. In the beginning of March, we were merrily planning

for summer camp 2020 - the future was looking especially bright and optimistic. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, a violent thunderstorm rolled in, bringing with it the dark clouds, thunder, lightning and ferocious winds. A fast and angry storm was upon us and turned our world completely upside down.

Hospitality
- Kristen Paradis

Marketing & Development
- Jon Ingalls

Housekeeping
- Jeanne Plourde
- Jill Girard

Food Service Director
- John Pletzer

Executive Chef
- Ryan Richard

Food Service
- Kerry Holt
- Maricel Sysyn
- Seth Stoddard

BCH Center Employee Spotlight:



Mike Fenn
BCH Camp Staff

It all started about a decade ago, when a young Mike Fenn was forced to go to camp for a week by his parents. Little did he know that by the second day he would fall in love with BCH Camp and eagerly return every single summer after. Going all the way up through challenge and base camp Mike had a series of wonderful summers with amazing counselors.

Finally, summer of 2016, Mike became a BCH Camp staff member, as a Junior Counselor. From there, he got to experience

First, on a personal level for the BCH Center, we lost our beloved namesake, the Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris. The very next day, we entered a lockdown from a worldwide pandemic. The conference center was shuttered, and summer camp 2020 cancelled. Following that came the murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey and Breonna Taylor and with it, came protesters who filled the streets and curfews that ruled over the night.

All of these happening alongside the disastrous effects of a changing climate and a volatile presidential election year. An unprecedented series of events that has left 80% of Americans feeling that the country is spiraling out of control (Wall Street Journal/NBC News Poll 6/7/20).

If there was ever a time for doing things in a different way... it is now!

Before these events began to manifest, the BCH Center staff and Board of Directors were already working on updating the Center's strategic plan. We now have an even greater sense of urgency to complete the task.

While there is still work to do to redirect our plans, we are committed to re-focusing our efforts towards,

- the environment,
- justice, and
- keeping everyone safe (financially, emotionally, physically, spiritually).

We know these core commitments will resonate well with the legacy of our namesake.

But, how will we accomplish such big and lofty goals?

The answer is "one bite at a time". One board meeting at a time, one guest at a time, one camper at a time, one day at a time. One decision at a time will help to guide our future.

As an example, and to get in the spirit of making these changes, the BCH Center simply changed the direction of our one-way traffic signs. This change ultimately improves the traffic flow around our campus, but also symbolizes the attitude we need to have to "drive" in a new direction towards positive sustainability. By making small changes over time and implementing the right strategic plan, we are confident that it will inspire us to think bigger and make bolder actions helping to impact our society and world. We're determined to make Barbara proud.

Sincerely,

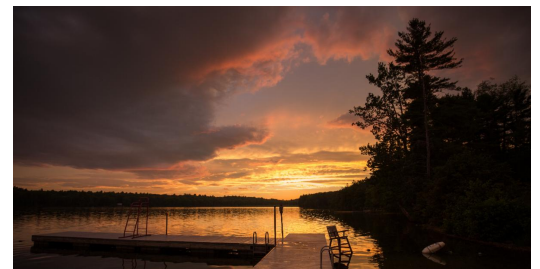
John Koch
Executive Director

BCH Conference Center News

Summer Open Guest Period

These unprecedented times call for new experiences and a little creativity...So with that in mind, we are happy to announce that the Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center will be offering an Open Guest Period for Summer 2020! For the Open Guest Period, the BCH Center will offer lodging in a "vacation rental" format for families, couples and individuals seeking a summer getaway. Guests will be in charge of their own "vacation" and will be able to enjoy: hiking, boating, swimming, fishing, biking, yard games and general relaxation.

In order to provide a safe and healthy environment for all, we are limiting the number of accommodations, activities available and length of time between stays



the magic of camp behind the scenes; going from Junior Counselor, to a General Counselor, to Head of Arts and Crafts. Last summer, he got to go even further becoming Junior Counselor Coordinator.

This summer, he is happy to be working on the Camp-In-A-Box project, which comes with a mix of self-proclaimed job titles: "Camp Captain" "Interim Camp Director" "Camp-In-A-Box Director" "Hired Help". Mike can't wait to come back next summer, once again as a core member of the summer camp team!

Board of Directors:

Andrew Foss

**The Rt. Rev.
Alan M. Gates**

**The Rev.
Michael Hodges**

Molly Hynes

The Rev. John Kaoma

John Koch

**The Rev. Patrick
LaFortune**

Linda Ouellette

Dain Perry

Tina Pickering

Elizabeth Plume

**The Rev. Mary
Rosendale**

**The Rev.
H. Mark Smith**

Bliss Austin Spooner

The Rev.

to allow for proper cleaning.

Available Dates:

Thursday, July 2 - Sunday, July 5
Thursday, July 9 - Sunday, July 12
Thursday, July 16 - Sunday, July 19
Thursday, July 23 - Sunday, July 26
Thursday, July 30 - Sunday, August 2

Lodging Options:

Five housing options are available for a flat rate with an additional per-person meal package option. Lodging options include a limited number of standard cabins, adult friendly cabins, the bunkhouse and lodge rooms.

Food and Dining:

Meals will be served cafeteria style in our dining room. Each family will have an assigned table for the duration of their stay, adhering to social distancing guidelines set forth by the State of NH and the CDC.

Please visit our website more more information and package options:

www.bchcenter.org

Contact Jennifer Boyd (jennifer@bchcenter.org) for details and availability.

What's new at the BCH Center?

Despite these strange times at our empty camp and conference center, the staff of the BCH Center have been staying busy throughout the pandemic. We found ourselves able to devote time and energy to long time wish list projects around the Center that had been historically put off or forgotten.

Staff worked individually "together" to paint the inside of the Recreation Center and inventory every single piece of camp and conference center equipment. We redesigned the entire property's trail system, with rebuilding old hiking bridges, creating new ones and blazing new trails. We placed signs at all the trailheads, remarked all the trails and re-envisioned the trail map.

Our Paris Grove is really beginning to take shape with new trees, new grasses and intentional shrubbery. Our vision is coming to fruition!



Camp News


BCH CAMP
...In-A-Box

If we are unable to camp in person, what would be the next



person, what would be the next best thing?

Answer: Camp-in-a-Box!

Thanks to a very generous grant from the Church Home Society, BCH Camp is able to offer all registered campers in the 2019 and 2020 season their very own BCH Camp-In-A-Box... for FREE!

The box will contain a mix of supplies with instructions for activities that will range from nature and faith formation, to camp songs and arts & crafts. Parents and caregivers have already received an email with necessary registration information. If you have questions about our Camp-In-A-Box, please call or email Jennifer Boyd at 603-547-3400 or jennifer@bchcenter.org.

The boxes are scheduled to be mailed in late June.

BCH Camp-In-A-Box was designed, created and assembled with BCH Camp magic & love by Camp Counselor Michael Fenn. Michael is featured in our Newsletter Employee Spotlight.



BCH Camp Sunday Service

In the times of limited group sizes and online church services, our amazing BCH Summer Camp staff has also put together a BCH Camp Sunday video. Our Board President, The Rev. Natasha Stewart is the Celebrant and Bishop Alan Gates happily agreed to do the homily. BCH Summer Camp staff got involved at all levels from the readings and music, to filming and editing. The project was finished the first week in June and has been distributed to all churches in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Our hope is that BCH Camp Sunday will be viewed by all congregations sometime during the summer. The video is a complete service and even comes with a downloadable bulletin!



Please urge your church/parish to make use of the service if they haven't already done so!

To Our Community

We want to thank our community of staff, Board Members, friends, neighbors, camp families, group leaders, guests and every single person that has helped support us during these incredibly unpredictable times. Your thoughts and prayers, your gifts, your donations and just your overall positive attitudes have helped keep the Barbara C. Harris Center for Campers & Counselors open and thriving.



Camp and Conference Center
perfectly preserved. These may
be tough times, but we continue to
have confidence in our future. The

Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center community is resilient and strong. With
lots of prayer and lots of creativity, we will find a way through.

*To make a special gift in support of the camp and conference center's operational
needs, please click below:*



Stay Connected with us:



Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center | 603.547.3400 | info@bchcenter.org | <http://www.bchcenter.org>

Refresh – Reflect – Renew