

# JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP



# RIVER IMPRESSIONS



A Record of the Passing of Time  
SUMMER / FALL 2010

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## New Camp Connects Youth with Service

Pastors Shelly Wilson and Doug Long promised to introduce campers to a lifestyle of service amidst experiential work projects, and a camp environment of fun and fellowship. They delivered, as evidenced when a rush of energy and swell of enthusiasm left marks both across Watauga County and in minds of campers and leaders. Even rain couldn't dampen the spirit of laborers and house painters. 28 campers from five SOC congregations (along with youth leaders from respective churches) were navigating the Globe Road each morning by 8:30, with four or five daily destinations, co-ordinated by High Country UCC pastor Shelly Wilson. Contact "Curly" Stumb about possible youth group interest for 2011.

*Photo (right): Youth work campers brighten house with two coats of fresh paint*



*Photo (above left): Rebecca has fun with "catch of the day"*

## Tears Shower Way for Years of Smiles

"Somehow I made it through the night," says Rebecca Schiemann. She served as SCAT (Summer Camp Assistance Team) during the summer of 2010, and remembers as if it was yesterday her first camper experience at JRVC, Beginner Camp. Rebecca recalls showers of tears shed by her homesick self, and by her mother who was trying to balance emotions with reason as a Sunday afternoon registration time slowly passed. "I was never going to camp again," became a dominant thought that crowded Rebecca's mindset during that experience. She remembers her best friend sitting by her bedside that first night until the flashlight batteries burned out. "Somehow," she says, "I made it through the night." (But there is more to her story.) "I came back every summer for the next nine years, and now I work here." "This place is God working in your life. I feel I've stepped out of my life entirely and into another world."

## "Be A Hero," Says the Camp Curriculum

Unspoken heroes -- like the small boy who shared his bread or the woman who gave her two coins -- push ministry at Johns River Valley Camp to second mile levels. God's heroes at JRVC act in ways big and small as they bring leadership to camps, offer scholarships for campers, organize groups to make site improvements, and share gifts to sustain the setting. Twelve UCC ministers and one lay person provided leadership for summer camps in 2010. Campers from several congregations benefited from the generosity of persons who quietly underwrote "camperships." Projects like a new roof on the *Caretaker House*, locust runners on the bridge, and a face lift for *Corriher Cabin* all happened because leaders stepped forward to rally support and engage for action. All totaled, 135 campers from 27 SOC congregations attended a 2010 program and benefitted from the gifts and talents of these Johns River "heroes." (Numbers are up slightly from 2009, when 129 campers representing 25 SOC congregations enrolled.)

*Photo (right): Corriher Cabin gets a face lift*



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