

Chapel House News

Dear family and friends,

Our Christmas break flew by, but we're glad to know we're on the other side of the shortest day of the year. That can only mean that the frigid temps and short days won't last forever! That also means we're looking forward to some fun winter retreats. Arrowhead has a winter family camp the last weekend of January, something added new this year. I know our family will enjoy the snow fun and fellowship with friends! The weekend after that is one of Michelle's favorites, the crafting and quilting retreat. 16-20 women will spend the weekend in the lodge working on their crafts, building friendships, and worshipping together.

We celebrated 20 years of marriage on December 30 with a 2-night get-away to Duluth, just a few hours from home. We enjoyed the much-needed time of relaxing and took in some of the downtown culture. Thanks to skywalks, we could walk for blocks without even wearing coats!

The next night, our "chapel house" was full as we hosted the Arrowhead New Year's party for the 2nd year in a row. With the door connecting our living room and chapel/family room we accommodated over 50 people with room to spare. And we even got a little sleep while some stayed up most of the night playing games.



New Year's Party- Hanging out in the chapel

Progress on the cabin that we pictured in our fall newsletter has been slow. The builder has had other projects to finish, and Phil has had plenty of regular maintenance, retreat prep, and snow removal to do, so we're hoping that progress will begin again soon. Phil is still praying for some volunteers to help with getting it insulated so that our volunteer drywaller can come and work on his part. It's easy to get overwhelmed with all there is to do! Phil also needs to do some work on the lodge before summer camp season arrives. The windows are in bad shape and the bathrooms need some work due to leaky shower pipes. One of our supporting churches is working on getting the dining hall and office re-carpeted. That will be wonderful to have done!

Thank you for all your prayers and support. It means more than we can explain in words!

Phil, Michelle, Dallas and Austin Rayburn

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Financial Update

for our support team

Thank you so, so much for everyone who responded to our fall financial update. We praise God and say that we're able to continue the maintenance ministry because of the gifts that have come in and the monthly pledges that have been renewed.

In October, we decided to take a temporary 3% monthly pay decrease until we see how things are going and then Phil and the board will re-evaluate based on how our support account stands in a few months. So far, it's looking very positive! Praise God. In times when so many are without jobs we're grateful for this answer to prayer. God has met our needs, as He always does, in ways we didn't expect!

Thank you for stepping out in faith and giving of your own finances. May God provide for you also in ways you didn't expect.

Phil and Michelle

Note: For tax purposes, please make all support checks to Arrowhead Bible Camp.

How God Works *By Michelle*

Has God ever nudged you to do something? Sometimes I get an idea and it keeps popping up, which makes me reasonably sure it's God nudging.

In the weeks before Christmas a friend kept coming into my mind along with the idea that I should give her \$20 due to recent financial hardship because of her husband's unemployment.

"But God," I argued, "I can't give her enough to make any sort of a difference. What good is a drop in the bucket?"

Still, He nudged.

So I opened my wallet. I had a \$20 and a few singles. With Phil's approval, I put the \$20 in a card and delivered it to the friend who had been on my mind all week.

I'm not sure if that amount blessed her enough to make any noticeable difference in their finances at Christmas, but that's irrelevant. What matters is that it was a lesson for me in obedience and trusting God. You see, at the moment that I opened my wallet, I was convinced I truly needed to keep that \$20 for my own use. Yet over the following days, I never missed it. In fact, I forgot all about it.

I understood the lesson fully 2 weeks later when I opened an envelope that arrived in our mail. Inside, were three \$20 bills and an anonymous note from someone familiar with our camp ministry. Although this generous giver could have no idea of how God was working on my obedience, I knew immediately that this was God's way of saying, "See? I know what I'm doing."

I'm almost afraid of what God might nudge me to do next! But I know from what He has done in the past, He has a great plan. Faith isn't always easy, but it's a fantastic adventure.



Dallas's National Honor Society Induction



Austin's Deer

We love hearing from you!

We're still working on setting up a method for sending extra news tidbits for you via e-mail in between our newsletter mailings. In the meantime, here are some other ways you can communicate with us and help us stay in touch with what is happening in your life.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/michellerayburn>
<http://www.facebook.com/philrayburn>

Michelle's Websites: www.michellerayburn.com
www.TrashToTreasureDecorating.com

arrowhead **bible** camp