

# The Briarwood Vine

Providing Christian hospitality, camping, and retreat programs  
to serve, nurture, and equip the people of God for God's work in the world.  
September 2008



## WHAT A SUMMER!!

As I write this article, we are in the last few hours of the 2008 camping season. And what a season it has been.

We have heard comments such as:

- I've heard ONLY good things about Briarwood this summer.
- My child had a wonderful time. She will be coming back next year – and her brother now can't wait to come to Briarwood.
- Your staff is the greatest – they did a wonderful job at our day camp!
- Registration went so well this year – and the closing service was so meaningful.
- WOW – the camp looks better than I have seen it look in years!



I have been blessed with a superb staff - Jon Thompson, Program/Facilities Director; Matt Baumhardt, Operations Manager; Jean Oswald, Briarwood Ambassador; the best group of counselors ever; and a wonderful group of volunteers. They have made this a great summer as well as given me a lot of optimism as we look to the future of Briarwood.

And a special thank you to all of YOU! You have been very opening and welcoming as I have taken the plunge into camping ministry and into the NT-NL synod. I look forward to many years of ministry with you as we partner to make Briarwood the kind of summer camp and adult retreat center that God is calling us to be.

## How to Reach Us

**Briarwood Lutheran Ministries**

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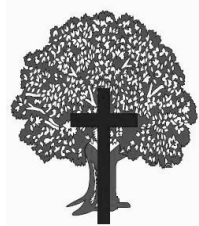
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## SAVE THE DATE!!

You are invited to a special **October Fest** gathering on **Saturday, October 25th** at Briarwood. This will be a time of fun and fellowship and a sharing of vision as we continue to seek where God is calling us as a camp and retreat center.



Everyone is invited but we are requesting that your Congregation Council appoint a confirmed and contributing member as your representative to the new *Partners in Ministry Advisory Council*. The purpose of this council will be to:

- Coordinate activities with member Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana (NT-NL) congregations
- Offer advice on Briarwood's programming for ministry support for NT-NL congregations and any other affiliated congregations
- Assist with efforts to increase Briarwood's service to NT-NL and affiliated congregations
- Increase NT-NL and affiliated congregations' support for Briarwood, including fundraising and donor development.

Additionally, the *Partners in Ministry Advisory Council* will vote on the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors of Briarwood.

Look for a separate mailing from Briarwood to that will give details (or check out our web site at [www.briarwoodretreat.org](http://www.briarwoodretreat.org)) about the **October Fest** but right now reserve **October 25th** on your calendar for a special day at Briarwood.