

EXPECTING ONE THING

finding another

Elaine Hoffman finds joy walking the grounds at Green Lake Conference Center, filled with so many memories. She has been coming to Green Lake for over 50 years. Last summer she visited Spurgeon Chapel, having heard that it had been renovated. "It is one of the old-time hidden gems on the grounds," Elaine said. When her father, Rev. Harold Hoffman, was a volunteer at Green Lake, he faithfully collected prayer requests written on pieces of paper and left on the altar by visitors. Each week he sat with another volunteer and they prayed for every request.

The beautiful stripped down simplicity of the chapel touched and refreshed Elaine. She saw prayer requests written on paper and left on the altar. Sitting on one of the wooden benches she was suddenly moved to tears as she thought of her dad's simple, faithful ministry of prayer in that space. Tears of grief and gratitude were a healing balm for her soul. In that space she felt not only the presence of her dad, but also gratitude for the communion of saints who surround us and remind us of simple yet faithful devotion to God demonstrated in everyday acts of kindness, prayer and service.

Tears of grief and gratitude inside a chapel that was once a root cellar, built in 1904. Not exactly what Elaine was expecting. A king born in a stable, rather than arriving as a conqueror with a sword and army. Not exactly what the world was expecting. God's gifts far exceed expectations! And yet, the prophet Isaiah had prepared us long before when he said, "Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (which means God is with us)." Isaiah 7:14

We arrive at Green Lake with a rich sense of expectation to experience a closer walk with God that will ReCreate our own soul, our families and the way we serve. This happens in sacred places like Spurgeon Chapel. This happens in sacred spaces at family camps, ministry conferences and youth retreats. This happens because your volunteer service, prayer and financial gifts make these sacred places and spaces possible.

May the presence and peace of God in your life exceed all of your expectations in the coming year!



Sandra Wimpelberg
Vice President of Development



Ben Mott
President/CEO



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In **SPURGEON CHAPEL** *I felt*
GRATITUDE *for the communion of* **SAINTS**
who surround us every day, reminding us of **SIMPLE**
yet **FAITHFUL DEVOTION TO GOD**
demonstrated in everyday acts of **KINDNESS,**
PRAYER *and* **SERVICE.** *Elaine Hoffman*

