

RUGGLES CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



1873 - 2023

Great is Thy Faithfulness



Symphony of Praise

Sesquicentennial Celebration

July 19 - 30, 2023

(151th Camp Meeting)

Ruggles Camp 150 Years—Great is Thy Faithfulness!

Welcome to this special commemorative magazine edition of Ruggles Camp. We pray this will be a keepsake for Ruggles families for years to come. There is such an abundance of history to Ruggles it is impossible to capture it all in words or in pictures. We invite all to go to the Ruggles Camp Facebook Page and our website where you can see a multitude of pictures and music videos that covers much of the Camp.

150 years is a great milestone and we have been in a celebrative mood since we began our 150th Camp Meeting last year - July 20-31st, 2022. Ironically, Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, KY, where I went to school in the 80's is having their 100th Anniversary this year. They are using the hymn "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*" for their special edition—as we, but for different reasons. Ruggles focus on this wonderful hymn is namely the *second verse*:

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

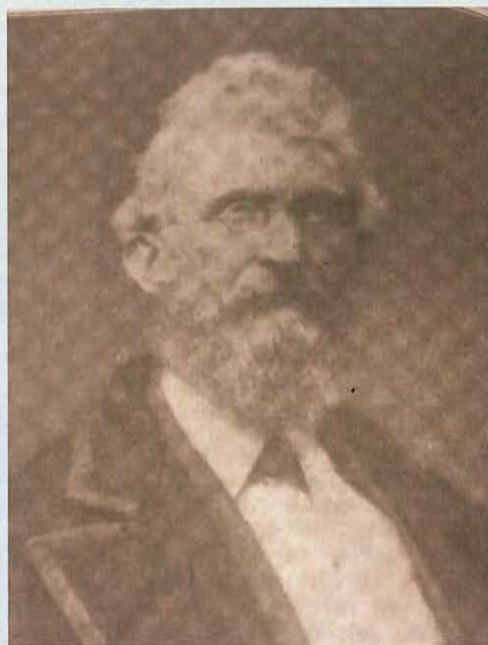
Summer is the peak time for Camps and truly *great* is the Lord's faithfulness that has brought pilgrims to Ruggles for all these years. The testimony of Ruggles is about God. For 150 years campers of all ages have descended on the holy grounds for hearts to be strangely warmed and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land. One of my favorite quotes (*among many*) is from 1910 "*The last day is here and no one wants to leave.*" The sentiment of this statement lives in every Camper's heart.

Yet, we *do* leave...we come down from the mountain - like Jesus on the Mt. of Transfiguration as there was great need awaiting Him. We too, don't run from it, we don't hide, we march and go forward, even when life reduces us to a crawl - we keep going *Forward in the Faith*.

The joy of summer gives way to the splendor of fall. Ruggles is spectacular with fall's colors. It's a time of great reflection on the beauty and splendor of the Almighty. The Christian singer CeCe Winans has a "Great-is-Thy-Faithfulness" like song that is currently popular, called "Goodness of God". A line in the song is "*All my life You have been faithful, and all my life You have been so, so good*". The faithfulness of God is life changing in 1873, 1923 and in 2023. God's faithfulness transcends the years!

Fall's beauty gives way to the challenge and silence of winter. The Camp has had its share of "winters" in her history---the latest would have been Covid 19. Like before, we press forward—during this time the Camp received perhaps the largest financial gift ever and we were determined to not be stagnant. We've been blessed to wisely use much of this gift for many needed improvements we have put off for a long time. We are "*marching through Emmanuel's ground*" to further God's kingdom! Great thanks to all who have labored with your prayers, service, giving, and tears for Christ at Ruggles Camp. Join us as we continue in the journey!

In Christ, Eric (*President, Ruggles*)



William C. Ruggles
1814-1903

*Campers of all ages were invited to share a few words of testimony - we are calling these testimonies a **T.O.R.C.H.**, an acronym for Testimony Of a Ruggles Camp Herald.*

T.O.R.C.H.

Rev. Jack Brewer

Ruggles Camp is a part of my spiritual DNA. My grandparents (Brewer and Clark) attended regularly and my Grandfather, Harry Clark, built a substantial cabin that still exists on the grounds and is still in our extended family. My parents took me to camp regularly and sent me to youth programs. My wife, Corinne and I served as youth counselors for several years and I was camp president for about ten years. I have also preached two camp meetings. Both of our children attended with us as they grew up and our son Brad and his family are still very active at Ruggles.

So not only has Ruggles Camp provided a wonderful family experience for us but more importantly it has been the basis of the opportunity to meet Jesus and also to help mold my spiritual development.



RUGGLES CAMP 1923

Gentleman leaning against the tree in the middle is Major John Walsh,
a Union veteran of the Civil War.

These words are found on the back:

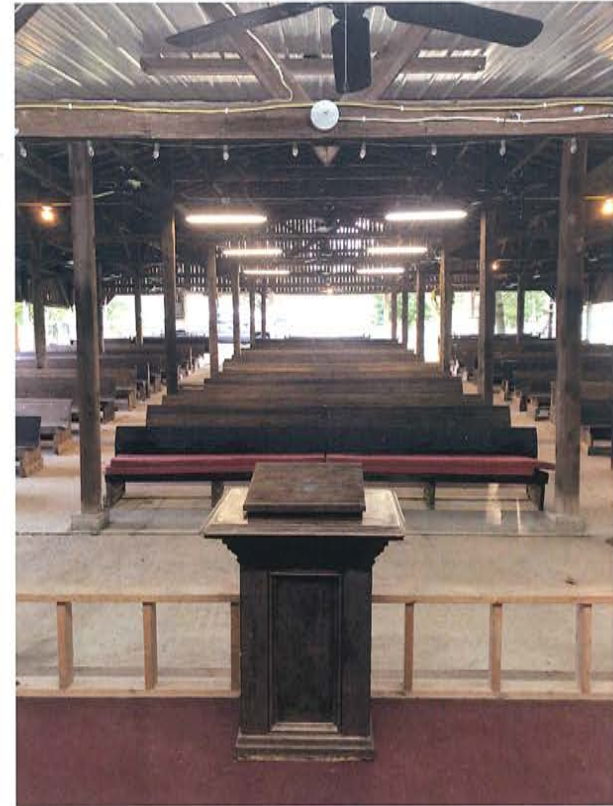
Presented to Harry J. Hord, 1977 by Jack Consor Family. Maysville, KY.
A Great Treasure to me.

Picture taken in 1923 at Old Ruggles Camp, Given by Rosa Todd, Maysville, KY 1977
(she died 1977)

Presented In Memory of Harry J. Hord, by wife Edna Lyle Hord, March 22nd 1995.
To be kept as a Great Treasure



*Bell given July 28, 1923
 "...Colonel says it's the best bell in Lewis County."
 (Three bells total at Camp)*



T.O.R.C.H.

Rev. Bill Henry

I first became involved at Ruggles Camp in the early to mid 1990's. I have since taken part in numerous Emmaus Walks, attended many campmeetings, worked several different volunteer positions at Marketplace, and enjoyed watching young people respond to God's Word during youth camps. It seems as though every activity I have been a part of at Ruggles has produced changed lives. I know that because of the presence of the Holy Spirit and the grace shown me by so many brothers and sisters in Christ, my Spiritual journey has been positively influenced.

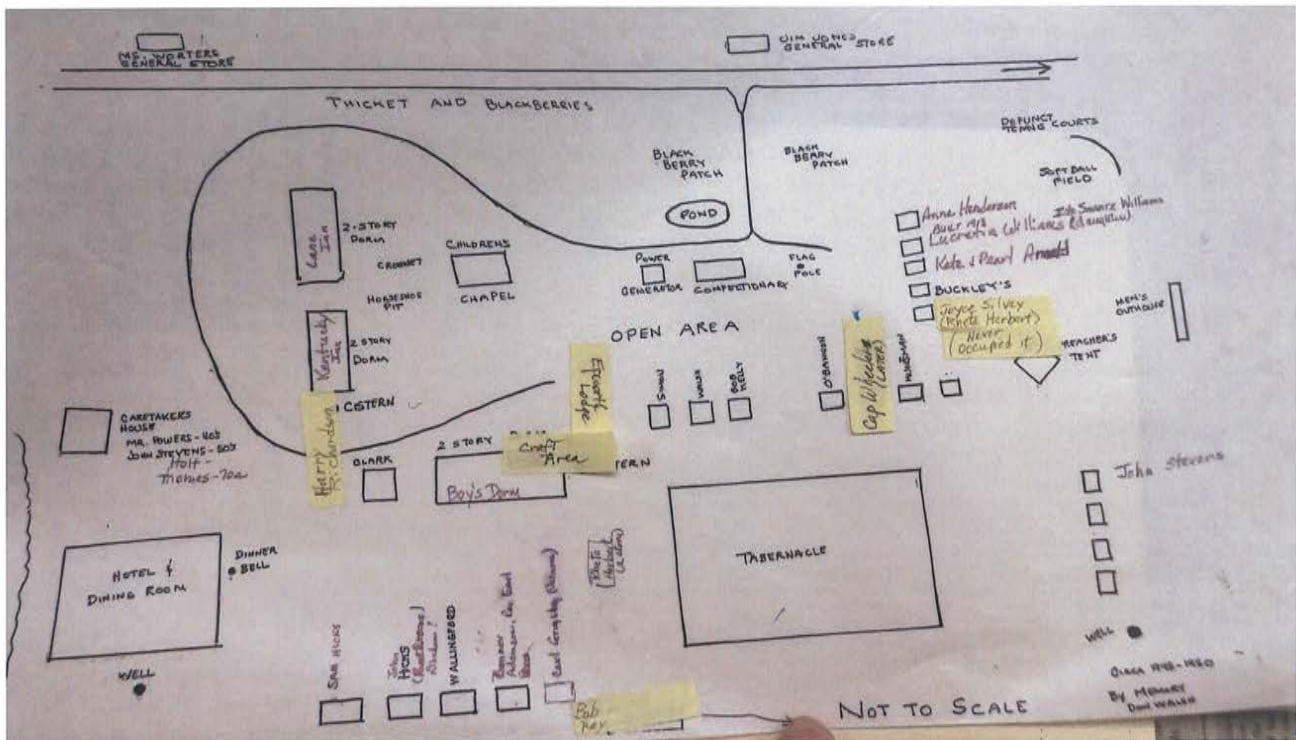
I once read that instead of choosing a ministry of our own for God to bless, we should seek where He is already working and join Him in His ministry. I believe that is what I have done in my involvement at Ruggles Camp. I am blessed to have been a small part of the Ruggles family and I know God will continue to do a mighty work on this Holy Ground.

Rev. Adam Gulley

Ruggles is where trees grow. They grow tall with branches stretched out toward the Son. The roots grow deep watered by the stream of the Spirit. Like patriarchs and saints of old they cast a large shadow of faith that acts as a cool shade to foster and plant other generations. Ruggles is where stars shine brightly in the night sky, looking up knowing that a sovereign God is looking down in love. Each of the trillion lights serves as a reminder of the His everlasting presence, knowing that even though there may be clouds in the night sky, like the stars, He is still present.

Ruggles is where an old tabernacle stands, a structure for worship, a location to gather, a place for rest, a pulpit for Good News to be proclaimed, an atmosphere of praise, and an altar for tears. Ruggles is where He is calling me to GO.





Memory Map by Don Walsh of Ruggles Camp Ground around 1945-1950 *not to scale*



T.O.R.C.H.

Mason & Avenelle Harrod

My first camp meeting was Wilmore in 1948 with three preachers. Avenelle and I were part of Wilmore Camp both in attendance and having Young People attend in the years after. Callus Grove in Trimble County was another part of a history of Camp Meetings in our ministry.

1987 was the year we moved to Maysville and Ruggles Camp was an extension of Ministry for all churches in the area and Seddon Church and Orangeburg Church were very involved in the continuation of the camp and its ministry to the area.

It was a privilege to have been part of the camp through its outreach to all ages and all the churches through the Marketplace Program, Youth Ministries, and the most meaningful Camp Meeting Sessions.

Preaching the Gospel and offering saving grace and eternal life through the Cross is the reason Ruggles Camp exists and will live on till Jesus comes. To God be glory and praise forever.

Fall's Beauty at Ruggles



T.O.R.C.H.

Lee Williams

Oh how I love my time at Ruggles, so many memories. The children singing and laughing throughout the camp grounds. I also look forward to the revival and meeting the evangelist. But I have to say one of my favorite things is the AFTERGLOW. That is when the cottage owners, evangelist, and occasional guests meet up at the dining hall for a light snack and fellowship after each nightly service. My Ruggles family, young and old, is so special to me.



T.O.R.C.H.

Minnie Emmons Doyle

I have been blessed to be a part of Ruggles Camp my entire life. I've never missed a camp meeting and even attended the "drive-in" meeting during Covid. In fact, my ancestors have been in attendance at Ruggles since its inception and my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have attended as well. Camp meeting was a time to reconnect with my mother's cousin, Poyntz Foxworthy O-Bannon, and her family. My mother, Helen Foxworthy Emmons, loved Ruggles Camp, too. She always hoped the Rapture would happen during camp meeting.

There have been so many wonderful evangelists, song leaders, missionary speakers, vocalists, and instrumentalists over the years. Generations have been blessed by them. I often sang solos and remember fondly soloists Shelby Osborne and Hershel Polley who were part of my generation. Being asked to sing on my 90th birthday, July 18, 2021 at the Sunday evening service was a highlight of my life.





Jim and Ruth Finch

T.O.R.C.H.

Rev. James O. Finch, Sr.

Camp Meetings are an important part of my life. I got saved when I was 6 years old at an Arbovale West Virginia Camp Meeting the year it was founded by my grandfather. At the age of 91, I still see in the mind's eye that little preacher as he made hell real and a life with Jesus so wonderful and necessary.

I remember the first time I saw Ruggles Camp Ground at Pastor's School in July of 1987. At the gate you were greeted by an indescribable building which was falling down. As you passed through the gate on the right was a strand of barbed wire held up by intermittent iron posts. Behind that was a grown up swamp as far as one could see. You arrived at a small scummy pond with an old wooden, decayed bath house occupying the North edge and then a house trailer with empty cans and junk scattered around... Across from the trailer was a combination chapel and garage which really was a horse stall with all of its natural beauty. The Lane building, a decaying mess of a dormitory, stood on the left and as you progressed past the dining room you faced a grown up woods. The grounds were surrounded by a rusty fence which had fallen down in the midst of rampant undergrowth. Some of the cabins were in disrepair and the tabernacle needed a coat of paint.

I wondered what the Lord thought of His Meeting Place, even though in all of this mess people were wonderfully saved and lives were changed - a picture of this old world since Jesus came.

We students slept in the girl's dorm on iron army beds and flat springless mattresses in the sweltering heat. We stuck to our mattresses at night during an unforgettable experience while during the day we were introduced to the art of preaching by folks named Sweazy, Gibson, Cropper and others.

Then in 1992 I graduated from Seminary and became a United Methodist Minister assigned to the church in Vanceburg, KY. Being a Camp Meeting kid, I became attached to nearby Ruggles Camp, eventually building a cabin in 2005 and marrying my childhood sweetheart in the Tabernacle in 2008 while helping some wonderful people clean up a mess and replace it with beauty. A challenging pickingup sticks, chainsawing, tearingdown, building adventure!

Ruggles Camp resembles my life since I first saw it in 1987. It became a changed place and so did I. Lives are still being renewed in a beautiful place which some folks think of as being next to heaven.



Marketplace Praise!
26 years and going strong!



**Youth Worshipping in
Retreat Center**

T.O.R.C.H.

Emiley Mattingly

Everytime you enter the gates, it feels like God is just hugging you! This place is truly holy ground.

T.O.R.C.H.

Donna Shoemaker and Debbie Taylor (mother/daughter)

We were so blessed to be part of the team on "healing night". It was such a blessing to pray with the young people as they ask for prayers on going back to their churches and going to school.



T.O.R.C.H.

April Jolly

Attending Ruggles as a camper and counselor, paved the path for me to be the minister I am today. Singing at camp meeting, speaking and singing on the radio during camp time, and making lifetime friends are gifts from Ruggles.

*Radiant Joy
from Christ!!*

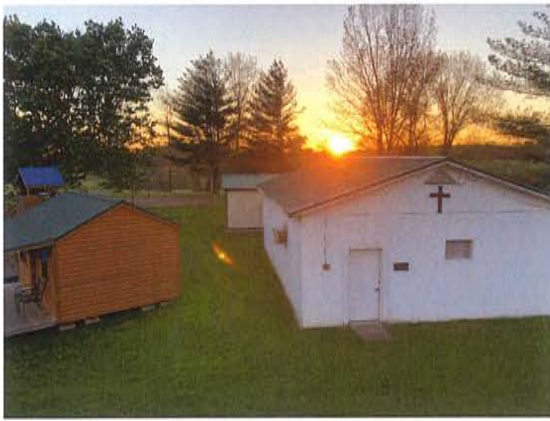


T.O.R.C.H.

Adam Caskey

Ruggles Camp has remained a special place of my life as a landmark for my Christian walk. Ruggles Camp has always been a place where the love and spirit of God can be easily found - this was no exception to my life.

One year as I was counselor at Junior High Camp, the Holy Spirit spoke to me in a way that I had never experienced before. The spirit led me - like a father leading a child - to a quiet place on the banks of the lake. At this spot, with my Bible and a broken down chair, I prayed a prayer and was given direction that would change my life forever. That evening I found myself at the altar in the Tabernacle praying the lyrics to a Fanny Crosby song. I prayed - "Lord, let me have blessed assurance, that Jesus is mine. Oh what a foretaste of glory divine. Lord, make me an heir of salvation. Purchase me. Let me be born of Your spirit and washed in Your blood." That night I dedicated my life to God and will always remember Ruggles as a landmark to my faith.



***Winter's Rest
and Stillness***



***Paul Brewer Chapel
Strength/Shelter in
Winter's Cold***

T.O.R.C.H.

Rev. Dr. Charlie Shoemaker

The altar railing in the front of the Tabernacle at Ruggles is a sacred place. It's a place of salvation, healing and hope. Once I had to pray with someone at the altar that I didn't really care for. In fact, I tried to avoid them, but I knew God was leading me to go. That experience mended the brokenness and healed our relationship. I don't think either one of us would have been able to have experienced God's grace in this way except at the altar at Ruggles Camp.

150 Years - 1873-2023

The Decades At A Glance

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Camp Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>At-A-Glance</u>
1873	1	--	<i>"Finally, after much persistency and disappointment...Canaan church became the birthplace of the first campmeeting....."</i>
1883	11	Aug. 9-19	<i>"The eleventh session of the Ruggles Camp Meeting will begin Thursday, August 9...."</i>
1893	21	July 27-Aug. 7	
1903	31	July 23-Aug. 3	<i>"The attendance last Sunday was an estimated 5,000...."</i>
1913	41	<i>To date--for reasons unknown no records are available.</i>	
1923	51	July 23-Aug. 5	<i>"Ruggles Camp Meeting Golden Jubilee, 1873-1923. Admission fee on Sat/Sun: Adults .25, children .15 all other days including the big semi-centennial day—admission free."</i>
1933	61	July 16-30	<i>"Rev. R. Kenner created quite a good deal of interest by driving into camp Monday afternoon with a completely equipped "house on wheels" trailing his automobile."</i>
1943	71	July 8-18	<i>Front page of local paper: ALLIES RAIN BOMBS ON ROME (7/19/43)</i>
1953	81	<i>To date--for reasons unknown no records are available</i>	
1963	91	July 18-28	



1973

101

July 19-29

Centennial Celebration

100th Annual Encampment

RUGGLES
CAMP MEETING

JUST OFF HIGHWAY 57 NEAR TOLLESBORO, KY.

JULY 19 - 29, 1973

PREACHING SERVICES DAILY AT 10:30 A.M. & 8:00 P. M.


SONG EVANGELIST: Shelby Osborne of Maysville

DIRECTORS OF YOUTH WORK: Bob Dunbar Steve Engelhardt

For Further Information: Contact The Camp President
Rev. Jackson Brewer Washington, Ky. 41096

Centennial Celebration Sunday July 22, 2:30 P.M.

EVANGELIST



Dr. Warner P. Davis
of Lexington, Ky.

EVANGELIST



Dr. H. M. Deuchenour
of Vincennes, Indiana

1983

111

July 21-31

110th Annual Encampment


RUGGLES
CAMP MEETING

Just Off Highway 57, South of Tollesboro, Kentucky

JULY 21 - 31, 1983


Youth Program Provided For All Youth Ages 12-18

EVANGELIST



REV. W. ROBERT WOOD
Ashland District
Superintendent
Preaching Services Daily
At 10:30 A.M. & 8:00 P.M.

EVANGELIST



REV. DONALD TIPTON
Wilmore, Kentucky
Preaching Services Daily
At 10:30 A.M. & 8:00 P.M.


YOUTH COUNSELORS: MR. AND MRS. MARTY LOCKY, MARK CHENEY, MELANIE HILL
YOUTH COORDINATOR: Mrs. Mike Rice, Ashland, Kentucky
For Further Information: Contact The Camp President
Rev. Paul Brewer, 504 East Second Street, Maysville, Kentucky, Phone - Area 505-564-3508
Contact The Publicity Chairman, Rev. Edward Mills, Route 4, Box 325,
Maysville, Ky. 41056, Phone 742-2275 or
Mr. Charles Russell, Chairman of Ruggles Camp Board

Organist: Mrs. Ruth Dixon,
Tollesboro, Ky.

Special Singing:
Nobleman Quartet
Vanceburg

"OLD TIMERS" DAY & SONGFEST
Sunday, July 24, 2:30 P.M.

MISSIONARY DAY -July 31, At 2:30 P.M.



1993

121

July 15-25

120th Annual Encampment

RUGGLES
CAMP MEETING

Just off Highway 57 - 3 Miles South of Tollesboro, Kentucky

July 15—25, 1993 7:30 p.m.

"Down East Boys" July 15, 7:30 p.m.

An Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting Modern Needs

MUSIC: Kenny Roberson and John Zeigler

Dr. Mark Heller
Evangelist



The "Down East Boys"



Dr. Carter Reynolds
Evangelist






2003

131

July 17-27


1873 TO 2003

RUGGLES

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
BETWEEN FLEMINGSBURG AND TOLLESBORO Hwy 1237 E)


JULY 17 - 27 7:30 PM

EVANGELIST



GALE WEIZEL

MUSIC LEADER



SHELBY OSBORNE

BIBLE STUDY - Jim Finch ORGANIST - Jean Bellman PIANIST - Amanda Harrod

YOUTH CAMP -- JULY 20 - 26
ROBBIE MADDOX, YOUTH CAMP LEADER

BIBLE STUDY -- 10:30 AM CHAPEL
GOSPEL CONCERT - "GOLDEN CHORDS" 7/17
PICNIC/AUCTION - JULY 26 11:30 AM & 1:00 PM
MEMORIAL SERVICE - JULY 24, 10:30 AM
PRAY FOR REMEMBER - "MARKETPLACE" JUNE 24, 25, 26
PRAY FOR, ATTEND, EXPERIENCE REVIVAL

2013

141

July 18-28

~140th Annual~

RUGGLES

CAMP MEETING

"Forward in the Faith!"

JULY 18TH - 28TH

7:00PM



Roy Lauter, Camp Meeting Evangelist
Retired Professor, Ashbury University

Gary Biddle, Song Leader

More Than the Music Concert
Thursday, July 18th
7:00pm

Daily Bible Study - 10:30AM

"Marketplace" Camp, June 25-27
Dean: Gayle Massie

Jr. High Camp, July 15-20
Dean: Donna Shoemaker

Sr. High Camp, July 21-27
Dean: Kyle Carpenter

Located on KY Hwy 1237, 12.37 miles South of Tullahoma, TN, 10 miles South of Tullahoma, TN, Kentucky

More Info Contact:
Rev. Kevin Courtney (606) 735-2356
Rev. Eric Patterson (606) 264-4460
www.rugglescampa.org

Ruggles Camp

2023

151

July 19-30

SESQUICentennial Celebration

150 Years of RUGGLES CAMP

July 19th - 30th, 2023 7:00 p.m. nightly
(50th Campmeeting)

Symphony of Praise

Opening Three Nights
Rev. Robbie Shrout,
Youth Evangelist
Vice Family, Song Leaders
July 19th - July 21st



Marketplace
A Bible Times Experience
June 20th - 22nd
Donna Shoemaker, Dean

Sunday through Sunday
Rev. Roy Lauter, Evangelist



Bryan Hutson, Song Leader
July 23rd - 30th



Jr. High Camp
(Rising 7th - 8th grades)
July 17th - 22nd
Lorant & Debbie Taylor, Deans

Sr. High Camp
(Rising 9th - 12th College)
July 23rd - 29th
Lorant Taylor, Dean



Saturday Concert
Darrell Polley
His Friends of Faith

SESQUICentennial - not SASQUATCHcentennial... or is it?
Located on KY Hwy 1237 Near Bartonsville, 2 1/2 miles South of Tullahoma, KY
More information available at rugglescampa.org or Facebook @ Ruggles Camp and Retreat Center

Ruggles Camp



Photo taken March 24, 2022



T.O.R.C.H.

Jacob Harmon (7th grader)

I love praising the Lord everyday with songs, prayers, and worship!

T.O.R.C.H.

Lorenzo Mata-Reina

I had fun learning about God and I'm happy that I made new friends.



Annual Soup/Supper and Auction
(April)

T.O.R.C.H.

Laura Poe-Williams

I came to Ruggles not by accident but by invitation from one who worked Ruggles diligently to pass the torch.

I immediately wanted to be a part of the Ruggles family and after working different jobs for several years; I even learned my paternal grandparents were married on the grounds. Now my spirit was enlightened and every time I enter the gate, I feel the Holiness of the Spirit and know that I am loved as much as I love Ruggles Camp. It is truly Holy Ground.

NEW IMPROVEMENTS



Girl's Dorm
Painted Inside and Out



Dining Hall
New Appliances and Painted



Renovation of Workers Cottage



New Life to the Snack Shack
(2023)



Complete Renovation
Evangelist's Cabin



Ship and playhouse for
kids (private donation)



Basketball & Volleyball
Courts Upgraded

T.O.R.C.H.

Larry & Garnetta Applegate

I remember when the floor was saw dust. A few years ago the Olivet & Tollesboro Methodist Churches and other area churches built the pews. We really have enjoyed the Camp and remember a lot of the things Brother Eric has been reading about from the record of year's past. Larry has been here 74 years and I have been here 55 years.

T.O.R.C.H.

Rebecca Debakey

My niece (Hannah) got married (2019) at Ruggles and baptized her son (Casey) at Ruggles (2022).



Gayle Massie
Plug for the Mug -
150th Camp Meeting



Minnie Doyle
Continues to sing
for our Lord!



"...that you should
do as I have done to
you" John 13:15

T.O.R.C.H.

Eric Patterson

One of the greatest servants of Christ I've known was a Catholic Priest. Father Ralph W. Beiting was from Northern KY but went to the mountains of Eastern KY and was the founder of the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP). Robin and I were serving in Inez, KY in the 90's when we got to meet and work with Father Beiting.

He shared his testimony once by simply saying, "I came to the mountains and I fell in love." Those words touched my heart. His love for Jesus poured out in service for God's people till his dying days. I feel a similar passion when I came to Ruggles Camp. I fell in love with Ruggles when I first came in 1987 at the License to Preach School. (Brother Jim Finch was in that same school who I also greatly admire!) I fell in love when I returned in June of 2008 when Tom Coe of Maysville Trinity said "go and check out what's going on at Ruggles—Marketplace." I did and my heart was warmed with joy even though I got lost on the way back! Perhaps my love deepened as I further learned that my great grandfather, Rev. David Johnson was a preacher in 1935 at Ruggles. He worked the Camp for several years as he served in Ashland.

Church Camp was transformational to me in childhood/youth and I've always wanted to give back. The Bible says we love only because God first loved us. My prayer is that this will be my mission—likened to my great-grandfather, Rev. Johnson, Rev. Jim Finch and Father Ralph Beiting.

Report to the Ruggles Board of Directors

March 23rd, 2023 7:00 p.m.

I am happy to report to the Board that the legal transfer of property of Ruggles Camp has now taken place and this took place legally on February 10th, 2023. The Deed is recorded in the Vanceburg, KY Courthouse. *For history buffs....here is a brief overview and timeline:*

- 1) **1873** - Ruggles Camp is established, the first Camp Meeting took place (August)
- 2) **1880 - March 20th** - William Ruggles deeded his property to the "*Board of Directors of the Maysville District Camp meeting association of the Methodist Episcopal Church. (The cost was \$500 - "to be paid on the 1st day of September 1883")*"
- 3) **1947 - March 5th** - Ruggles Camp Meeting Association of the Methodist Church, (successor to Maysville District Camp Meeting Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church) deeded the property to the Board of Evangelism, as Trustees, for, Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Church ("*in consideration of the sum of One Dollar, cash in hand paid...*")
- 4) **2005 - December 20th** - The Camp purchased the adjacent farm and received the Deed from Barbara Holt, Executrix for Estate of Nancy Bartolin, deceased, for the sum of (\$148,000.00). (*This is the amount recorded in the Deed—there were some other expenses involved in the transfer...this was paid off in 2017 with a note-burning the final night of Camp Meeting—enlarging the Camp by 61 ½ acres.*)
- 5) **2021 - December** - The Ruggles Board of Directors authorized the Ex. Committee to enter into conversation with Tom Coe, of Maysville, KY, a KY Conference Trustee about exiting out of the property agreement with the KY Annual Conference - thus "Deeding" back the property to the Ruggles Camp Board of Directors.
- 6) **2022** - Various discussions take place regarding the Deed transfer with Tom Coe, and the KY Conference Chancellor, Courtney Preston Kellner. The KY Conference Trustees agreed to transfer the Deed back to the Ruggles B.O.D. However, various delays took place as 57 churches disaffiliated from the KY Annual Conference in December of 2022, requiring much legal work plus Tom Coe passed away in August 2022.
- 7) **2023 - January 6th** - The Quit Claim Deed comes by way of E-Mail for review from the Chancellor's Office. *However*, upon review there is confusion about property lines, boundaries, etc. The Deed had to be rewritten to be correct. At this time, there are hundreds of churches discerning disaffiliation from the KAC. Because of this, there was concern that there would be further delay in the final transfer of the Deed.
- 8) **2023 - February 10th** - The *correct* Quit Claim Deed is filed in the Vanceburg, KY and much gratitude and thanks to God and to Rev. Jim Finch for pursuing the correct legal paths to ensure the proper transfer of the Deed. The entire property (approx. 81 ½ acres) is owned by Ruggles Camp and Retreat Center INC.

Ruggles Camp Meetings, Notes/Days & Evangelists

A Brief, Historical Perspective

This document is a small attempt to help the Ruggles Camp family and friends walk through time with a few of the highlights during the past 150 years of the Camp, namely the Camp Meeting. One of the greatest resources we have has been the local newspapers and in particular, one newspaper editor by the name of J. Harry Richardson (often referred to as "J.H."). J. H. Richardson wrote for the Maysville Public Ledger and served on the Ruggles Board of Directors, serving as President at times. Mr. Richardson was passionate about the mission of Ruggles and wrote and published the daily activities of the Camp Meeting for approximately 50 years!

We are also blessed by the great work of James Columbia, who put 40 years of numerous newspaper articles in one Volume called "Dispatches From Ruggles 1882-1922". This is a tremendous resource! Also, the late Rev. Kenny Jett, who served as Chairperson of the Archives and History Commission of the KY Conference, and worked on the historical records of the Camp and brought valuable resources and information.

The history of Ruggles Camp is remarkable—truly and only by the grace of God! Because of the local newspapers, computers, diligent research on behalf of *many*, we have been able to come up with the actual dates and a few notes of virtually all of the 150 Camp Meetings! Looking at the dates and numbers closely, we begin to see various number patterns in the 150 years. For example, the following chart:

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Camp Meeting or often called "Encampment"</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1873	1	Inaugural Camp Meeting
1882	10	The 10 th Camp Mtg is in 1882
1883	11	
1922	50	
1923	51	It is accurate to celebrate "50 Years" in 1923 ("Semicentennial Celebration"), and in 1923 the Camp has its 51 st Camp Meeting.
1972	100	
1973	101	"Centennial Celebration"
2022	150	
2023	151	"Sesquicentennial Celebration"

There are other number patterns if you wish to do further research. This is noted only to state that there has been some confusion over the dating of Camp Meetings over the years and it has come up in some of the advertising.

Ruggles celebrates and concludes our 150th year with a special sesquicentennial celebration July 19-30, 2023. We are having some lighthearted humor with the similarities of the word "Sesquicentennial" and "Sasquatchcentennial". Come and see!

We are blessed by God to be the longest, continual Methodist/Holiness Camp Meeting in KY. We invite all pilgrims on this faith journey to travel once again to the holy grounds called Ruggles.



<u>DATE</u>	<u>Session of Camp Meeting</u>	<u>Notes/Days</u>	<u>Evangelist(s)</u>
1872	0	"It was in the 1872 that the first attempt was made in what was then known as the Maysville District, to establish a Campmeeting.....the early spring of that year they set out to find a suitable location, directing their search in the county of Robertson, near Mt. Olivet. The effort, however, was without success."	-none--
1873	1	"in the following spring (of 1873), their efforts were renewed. Finally, after much persistency and some disappointment, there was a place found that could be used for the campmeeting- a Methodist Episcopal Church called Canaan, about one mile north of Ruggles Campgrounds. Thus, Canaan church became the birthplace of the first campmeeting in this section of the State. to Canaan church they all went: pastors, local preachers, Presiding Elder, and a multitude of others."	?
1874	2	<i>"Their lies before me, as I write, a copy of the act incorporating the "Maysville District Campmeeting Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church," bearing the date of Feb. 5th, 1874."</i> "The quest for a permanent campground, however, continued. Just as they were about to give up in despair, William Ruggles came forward with an of a twenty-acre field on his farm—a part of the present Campground....quite a number of family cottages were erected this first year....great was the anxiety felt by the Methodist people, and many were the prayers made for the success of the campmeeting in saving the unsaved.....When the time arrived for the first services on the new campground sometime during the month of August there were from twenty-five to thirty cottages occupied, and a number of pastors and the presiding elder of the District present."	?
1875	3	"No Huckstering Allowed" "The first known Ruggles Campmeeting flyer or advertisement, from 1875, just the third year of the annual camp", was created. Aug. 18-27	Rev. H.C. Northcott, Pres. Assoc., Rev. Duke Slavens, Pres., B.O.D.
1876	4		?
1877	5		?
1878	6		?
1879	7		?

1880	8	<p>“...March 20, 1880, the Campground was deeded to the association by William Ruggles. It was described as: “That certain parcel of land, lying and being in the County of Lewis, State of Kentucky, and described as follows: Beginning at a stake in the County Road which runs on the West side of said Camp Ground; thence N. 57 poles to a stone In said road, thence N. 81 E. 49 poles to 2 white oaks and an ash corner to Dodd; thence with Dodd’s line S. 83 poles to a stake, to a corner in Dodd’s line; thence N. 77 W. 46 poles to the beginning, containing twenty acres, be the same, more or less.” (We Call It ‘Ruggles’—Rev. Kenneth Jett/James Columbia)</p>	?
1881	9		?
1882	10	<p>Aug. 17-28 (Thur-----Mon.)</p> <p>(Note that <u>1882</u> is the 10th Campmeeting)</p>	<p>Rev. H.C. Northcott, Rev. H.W. Bailey of Hillsboro, Rev. S.G. Pollard, Rev. Bidwell Lane (others)</p>
1883	11	<p>Aug. 9-19 (Thur----Sun)</p> <p>“The <u>eleventh</u> session of the Ruggles’ Camp Meeting will begin Thursday, Aug. 9”</p>	<p>“Temperance day tomorrow, and we hope King Alcohol will get some hard knocks.”</p>
1884	12	<p>July 30-Aug. 9 (Wed----Sat)</p>	
1885	13	<p>Aug 6—16 (Thur---Sun)</p>	<p>“It is estimated that fully 5,000 persons attended last Sunday”</p>
1886	14	<p>Aug 5---15 (Thur---Sun)</p>	
1887	15	<p>Aug. 4—14 (Thur---Sun)</p>	
1888	16	<p>Aug. 9—19 (Thur---Sun)</p>	
1889	17	<p>Aug. 1---12 (Thur---Mon)</p>	<p>“The grove in which this Camp Meeting is held is more beautiful than ever.”</p>
1890	18	<p>Aug. 14—25 (Thur---Mon)</p>	
1891	19	<p>July 29---Aug. 10 (Wed----Mon)</p>	
1892	20	<p>July 28---Aug 8 (Thur----Mon)</p> <p>(Note the <u>20th</u> Campmeeting is in 1892)</p>	

1893	21	July 27---Aug 7 (Thur---Mon.)	
<i>(It can be said that the Camp is celebrating "20 Years" in 1893—as the Camp celebrates 20 complete years, and in 1893 the Camp is having its <u>21st</u> Camp Meeting)</i>			
1894	22	Aug 2 nd ---16 th (Thur---Tues)	
1895	23	July 25---Aug. 7 (Thur---Wed) *2 nd Thur/Memorial Day	<i>"At 10:00 a.m. the Memorial service began.....names were read...."</i>
1896	24	July 26—Aug. 9 (Sat---Sun)	
1897	25	July 22---Aug 2 (Thur---Sun)	
1898	26	July 28---Aug 14 (Thur---Sun)	
<i>(The Camp celebrated 25 years —and in 1898 the Camp had the 26th Campmeeting.)</i>			
1899	27	July 27—Aug. 7 (Thur---Mon)	
1900	28	July 26---Aug 6 (Thur---Mon)	Rev. Mr. Watkins, D.D. of Union Church, Covington. "Bishop Hamilton ...will preach one Sunday.
<i>(The math <u>is</u> tricky, 1900-1873=<u>27</u>, seems kind of "natural" to have the <u>27th</u> Campmeeting in 1900, but in 1900 the Camp had its <u>28th</u>.</i>			
1901	29	July 25—Aug. 5 (Thur---Mon)	Rev. T.C. Iliff D.D. was a missionary in Utah. "He preached for us two days and set the camp on fire. God give us more of such men."
1902	30	July 24 th —Aug. 4 (Thur---Mon)	
1903	31	July 23---Aug. 3 (Thur---Mon.)	E.S. Dunham, Rev. H. C. Northcott is in 82 nd yr. "The attendance last Sun. was estimated 5,000."
1904	32	July 28—Aug. 8 (Thur---Mon)	

1905	33	July 27—Aug. 7 (Thur—Mon)	<i>"The Tabernacle will be improved by raising it four feet and putting on a new roof, changing choir platform and the seats."</i>
1906	34	July 26---Aug 6 (Thur---Mon) <i>The second Sunday is always the big day—est. 4,000-7,000.</i>	<i>Rev. H. L. Baker of Berkeley, Cal., the great Singing Evangelist will have charge of the singing</i>
1907	35	July 25---Aug 5 (Thur---Mon)	<i>"The roof of the Tabernacle is receiving a coat of tar today... one of the dignified Presiding Elders...his only hat was where the tar leaked through on top of it; however, he says that he was tar-ed of it anyway."</i>
1908	36	July 23—Aug 2 (Thur---Sun) <i>"There are an unusual number of good-looking girls out here this year." (Writer was a bachelor)</i>	<i>"The aim of Ruggles Camp-meeting is to get people to be Christian no matter what Church they wish to join."</i>
1909	37	July 22---Aug. 1 (Thur---Sun)	<i>"Brother Northcott was prevented by the infirmities of age---his letter was full of tenderness...."</i>
1910	38	July 28—Aug 7 (Thur---Sun)	<i>"The last day is here and no one wants to leave."</i>
1911	39	July 27---Aug. 6 (Thur—Sun)	<i>Bishop D. H. Moore—a great favorite at Ruggles---is to preside over the coming session of the KY Annual Conference</i>
1912	40	July 25---Aug 4 (Thur—Sun)	<i>"It might be called automobile Sun. ..there were so many machines-we counted 15 beside several motor-cycles. And buggies, the woods were simply jammed with them." "By noon...4,000 on the grounds."</i>
1913	41	<i>(No issues in local papers)</i>	
1914	42	July 23---Aug 2 (Thur---Sun)	<i>"Brother Ramey died—in 1873 he was one of the founders..."</i>
1915	43	July 22—Aug 3 (Thur---Sun)	<i>"D.S. of the Ashland & Covington Districts will be in charge." (Letter from Rev. Northcott—93)</i>

1916	44	July 27---Aug 6 (Thur---Sun)	"This year promises to be one of the biggest the Campmeeting has ever had"
1917	45	July 26---Aug 5 (Thur---Sun)	This is the first time this Camp Mtg has ever been favored with two Bishops in one year.
1918	46	July 25---Aug 4 (Thur---Sun)	1 st time a picture of Evangelist was in paper---Rev. Don W. Nicholas. <i>"Dr. Nicholas is one of our best preachers, a safe and sane evangelist."</i> Rev. Northcott dies in Dec.—96 years
1919	47	July 24---Aug. 3 (Thur---Sun)	I.M. Lane dies---at 79 years of age. (Some debate over the history of the Camp went on in print..this was firm: <i>"The offer was accepted and in the following year 1874, the first Camp-Meeting was held on Ruggles Camp-Grounds."</i>)
1920	48	July 29---Aug. 8 (Thur---Sun)	Rev. Hubert Humble of West Ohio will preach every night....20-30 Ky's best preachers will attend.... (idea for "Workers Conference" or a "School of Methods" for Sun. School workers discussed.)
1921	49	July 28---Aug 7 (Thur---Sun)	New 12 room building "Lane Inn" Existing building was "KY Inn" "Northcott Lane" was named (?) (Attendance est. over 5,000)
1922	50	July 27---Aug 6 (Thur---Sun)	"Epworth League Institutes" will make of Ruggles a training center for young people....will add greatly to the effectiveness of the campmeeting." (record crowd at Ruggles on Sunday)
1923	51 (Celebrated 50 years of Camp— the math is tricky (1923-1873=50) and in 1923 the Camp is having its 51 st Camp Meeting. "Admission fee on Sat/Sundays: Adults .25, Children .15. All other days including the big semi-centennial day-admission free."	July 23---Aug. 5 *There is a nice photograph of about 160 persons across the front of the Tabernacle this year. "The lure of the woods is irresistible." John R. Brodt-Pres. B.O.D.	Rev. Ernest Wareing, D.D. "Methodism's leading editor" Evangelist. "The management is sparing no expense to make the day the best in the history of the campmeeting." (7/26/23) Souvenir ribbon badge-"Ruggles Campmeeting Golden Jubilee. 1873-1923" Rev. E. R. Overly-"Big Preacher/Big Mess."
1924	52	July 19-Aug 3	Rev. H. R. Debra, D.D. (Phil.) Evang.

1925	53	July 18-Aug 2	Dr. Ernest Wareing, Evang. Rev. E. R. Overley, Evang.
		<i>The Camp was initially called the "Maysville District Camp Meeting Association". Then it became the "Ashland/Covington Camp Meeting Association" This year the B.O.D. made it Conference-wide and called it Ruggles Camp Meeting Association." J. H. Richardson, President.</i>	
1926	54	July 17-Aug 1	Rev. Andrew Johnson, D.D.
		<i>"A new tennis court has been made ready for lovers of that popular sport. (Two courts)</i>	
1927	55	July 21-Aug 7	Dr. Andrew Johnson
		<i>"Three Big Sundays—24, 31, 7"</i>	
1928	56	July 19-Aug 5	7/22 Rev. D.C. Johnson, D.D. Ashland (*This is Brother Eric's great-grand-father) 7/29 Rev. George Douglas, Cincinnati 8/5 Rev. Robert Foster, Defiance, OH
		<i>"The management invites people of all denominations to share in the good things offered at our campmeeting."</i>	
1929	57	July 25-Aug 11	Rev. Ivor G. Hyndman, Evangelist Rev. Worth S. Peters, Dean E. L. I.
1930	58	July 24-Aug 10	Evangelist T. Otto Nall, Chicago Rev. Robert L. Stuart D.D. Kansas
		<i>Drought—but "plenty of water at Ruggles". "Never failing wells supply all needs."</i>	
1931	59	July 23-Aug 9	Dr. Albert Edwin Smith, Ada, OH "Ministers of the KY Conf. will preach at the morning services." "Rev. Worth S. Peters, of Barbourville is bringing the best cook in southeastern Ky to prepare food for Ruggles Campers. There will be an abundance of good things to eat, pure water to drink,...a sociable group..to fellowship with. Go to Ruggles for a good time."
		<i>"The Camp is in splendid condition for the campmeeting and institute which begins 7/23 and runs till 8/9."</i>	
1932	60	July 17-31	Rev. R.H. Harrison, Tollesboro, Evang. Dr. Horace A. Sprague of Centenary Methodist, Lex. KY Evangelist
		<i>"The camp office has been moved from the KY Inn to Room 4 in the Grandview Inn."</i>	
1933	61	July 16-30	Dr. Horace A. Sprague, Lex. Evangelist "Rev. R. Kenner created quite a good deal of interest by driving into camp Monday afternoon with a completely equipped "house on wheels" trailing his automobile."
		<i>"Rev. O. J. Polley was elected historian for the Association."</i>	

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| 1934 | 62 | July 15-30 | Rev. Don A. Morris
<i>"Due to what took place last week in relieving the financial strain and the great spiritual revival among the instituters, the morale of the camp has been raised many degrees."</i> |
| 1935 | 63 | July 18-July 28 | Rev. D.C. Johnson (Ashland D.S.),
Rev. E.P. Hall, D.D. (Covington D.S.)
<i>(Rev. Johnson is Rev. Eric Patterson's great grandfather.)</i>
Rev. O.W. Fifer, Cincinnati, Evang. |
| 1936 | 64 | July 19-Aug 2 | Evangelist Dr. E.D. Edelmaier
of Immanuel Church, Covington, Ky
Guest Bishop David H. Moore D.D.
of Cincinnati. |
| 1937 | 65 | July 18-Aug 1 | Evangelist Dr. John Owen Gross
(President of Union College)
Miss Elizabeth Hoage
<i>(40 year missionary in India)</i> |
| 1938 | 66 | July 17-31 | Rev. E. D. Edelmaier, Covington,
J. Ralph Wood, Cattlesburg |
| 1939 | 67 | July 16-30 | Dr. Howard W. Whitaker, Lex. 1st
<i>"Ruggles is very fortunate in numbering with its B.O.D. this new man coming from the former southern branch of its church. The past week has proven again how splendidly the new church is working...a great boon to Methodism...a new day for Ruggles Camp." (Merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Methodist Protestant Church took place officially at Gen. Conference in Kansas City, MS, in May of 1939. The new name was "The Methodist Church")</i> |
| 1940 | 68 | July 12-21 | Bishop U. V. W. Darlington, Evang.
Dr. Harry Denman-Lay Evang.
Director of Camp Mtg—Dr. W. L. Clark-Paris
Services are <i>"for the conversion of sinners, the reclamation of backsliders, the sanctification of believers and the edification of the saints."</i>
<i>"Those who came for the first time were enraptured with the attractiveness of the place."</i> |

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| 1941 | 69 | July 18-27 | Rev. J.R. Parker, Wilmore, Evang. |
| | | <i>"People, including ministers, for miles around are coming."</i> | |
| 1942 | 70 | July 10-19 | Rev. J. B. Kendall, B.D. Evang. (Lex) |
| | | <p>Worries about attendance because of "sesquicentennial at Vanceburg and the war-time limitation on automobile traveling."</p> <p><i>(No fees anytime for Campmeeting)</i></p> <p><i>"The Sunday Service Times will be the usual hours:</i>
 <i>Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. Central War Time</i>
 <i>Afternoon at 1:30 p.m.</i>
 <i>Evening at 8:00 p.m."</i></p> <p><i>Re: Ruggles Water-- "We have three never failing wells that have as fine water as can be had anywhere...been tested and treated by Mason Co. Health Dept."</i></p> | |
| | | | <i>"...one marvels that there is so much preaching in such a little man."</i> |
| | | | <i>"Kenneth Walsh died last Oct. 1st," (War) Son of Mr. & Mrs. Ones Walsh."</i> |
| 1943 | 71 | July 8-18 | Rev. J. B. Kendall, B. D. Evang. (Lex) |
| | | Front page: "ALLIES RAIN BOMBS ON ROME" (7/19/43) | |
| 1944 | 72 | July 20-30 | Rev. J. R. Parker, Wilmore, Evang. |
| | | <p>S. I Hicks—Pres. B.O. D. of Camp</p> <p>Headlines: 7/20/44 Attempt Made on Life of Hitler</p> | |
| 1945 | 73 | July 19-29 | Rev. Vallis Hill, Evangelist |
| | | <p><i>"...others will attend according to what gas they can get for travel."</i></p> <p><i>"After World War II the Camp fell on lean times, and followers of the Camp were indeed thankful for President Sam Hicks who guided the Camp through this time. On August 27th, 1945 the deed for the Camp was transferred to the KY Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, and placed under the control of the Board of Evangelism."</i></p> <p><i>(We Call It 'Ruggles'—Rev. Kenneth Jett, James Columbia)</i></p> | |
| 1946 | 74 | July 26-Aug. 4 | Rev. Dr. E. J. Rees, Norfolk VA |
| | | <p><i>"Ruggles Camp has gotten to be a paradise for wood-peckers. From the dawn of day on, one can hear their rat-a-tat-tat all about camp."</i></p> <p><i>Burning of Note on last night—last year it was \$1,400.</i></p> <p><i>Women of Ladies Aid Society worked for this.</i></p> | |
| 1947 | 75 | July 18-27 | Rev. Dr. W. L. Clark and his singer and pianist, Rev. & Mrs. Homer Cox of Wilmore. |
| | | <p><i>The Old Settlers Reunion was still meeting on Independence Day, the first meeting 1888 at Ruggles and notable speakers: Gov. W. J. Fields, Senator Richard Ernst, Senator and then Vice President Alben Barkley.</i></p> | |
| 1948 | 76 | July 16-27 | Rev. Dr. H. E. Burge, Olney, Ill, Evangelist |
| | | <p>Note: July 4 evening program... ("The diamond jubilee year")</p> <p><i>"...which was held in the tabernacle under the direction of W. H. Ruggles, was attended by 300 persons."</i></p> | |
| | | | Rev. Cecil Ogg, Music Leader Williamson Methodist Church |

1949	77	July 14-24	Rev. Dr. Huber E. Burge, Salem, ILL. Evangelist Rev. D.W. Taylor & Mrs. Taylor-Music Directors
1950	78	July 27-Aug 6	The Gaddis-Moser Evang. Party T.H. Gaddis—lead Evang. (...13 instruments are played by the evangelistic party.)
1951	79	July 19-29	"The Gaddis-Moser Gospel Party again will be in charge of the two services daily."
1952	80	June 27-July 6	Dr. T. H. Gaddis, Evangelist Assistant: Rev. W.B. Garriott, Pastor of Flemingsburg Methodist Dr. J. T. Johnson—President, Asbury College Preaching 2:30 p.m. Sunday ?
1953	81		
1954	82	July 15-25 "President Rev. G. Townsend, of Carlisle is in charge of the camp this year and things are really humming. He says he is determined to resurrect Ruggles." Note: *Wednesday, July 12 th , 1954 was 103 degrees, July 21 st 1934 was 106 degrees—"hottest in USA was in Maysville, KY—Phoenix was 2 nd at 105 degrees" July 10 th , 1936 was 103 degrees in Maysville, KY)	Rev. Carl D. Mitchell, Alton, ILL Rev. Warner P. Davis, Carlisle D.S. Rev. G. Townsend, Carlisle Rev. Sewell Woodward, Youth
1955	83	July 14--24	Evangelist Ford Philpot Evangelist Robert L. Anderson Mr. and Mrs. Joe Crouse, Music Rev. Sewell (Sonny) Woodward-Youth
1956	84	July 12-22 "The grounds are in the best condition the writer has ever seen them in, thanks to the cooperation of the people and pastors of the district, who came to camp on cleanup day and brought power mowers and plenty of elbow grease and cleaned up the grounds." (Note: the "writer" was S.I. Hicks)	Rev. C. M. Yates, Trinity-Centenary/Lex. Rev. Carl M. Mitchell, Greenville, ILL Rev. & Mrs. Ivan Insko, Wilmore-Music "The road from the highway into the camp is in first class condition. It has been black-topped and is a far cry from the road that "we old- timers" traveled to get to camp."
1957	85	July 18-28 "Though Ruggles is a Methodist Camp, persons of many denominations attend its services with great profit and the general public is being invited." "Put into operation with the opening of the 1957 meeting was the new dining room and cafeteria—about 175 persons.)	Rev. Dr. R.L. Anderson, Evangelist (Pastor-Wilmore Methodist, KY) Rev. & Mrs. Ivan Insko, Music Rev. Sewell Woodward, Youth

1958	86	July 17-27 <i>The Current Tabernacle was constructed in this year</i>	Rev. Ford Philpot, Evangelist
1959	87	July 16-26	Rev. Carl Mitchell, Greenville, ILL Clarke Brandt, Greenville, Ill, Music Rev. Albert Savage, Youth
1960	88	July 14-24 "Don't Touch Cuba!" Russia warns U.S.--Military Might Would Be Used If Fidel Asks" (Front page 7/19/60)	Rev. Robert Anderson, Evangelist Clarke Brandt, Greenville, Ill, Music Rev. Sewell Woodward is serving the Youth for his sixth year.
1961	89	July 13-23	Evangelist Dr. B.C. Gamble (Atlanta, GA) Rev. James Kirk, Grayson Meth. (music) Rev. Sewell Woodward, Youth (7 th)
1962	90	July 12-22 "Over 800 persons were in attendance ...to hear Dr. James DeWeerd of Fairmont, Ind."	Dr. James DeWeered, Evangelist (Nation's Family Prayer Period-WLW, radio broadcast) Dr. Robert Coleman, ATS, Evangelist Mr. & Mrs. Ben Underwood, music Rev. Sewell Woodward, Youth (8 th yr)
1963	91	July 18---28 ("Girls" Dorm is built/dedicated) "Youth registrations are being taken by Terry Faris, 939 E. 5 th St, Maysville."	Evangelist Dr. James Gibson Evangelist Dr. Robert Coleman Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rollings--Music and Youth Counselors
1964	92	July 16-26	Evangelist Dr. H. Gilbert Williams Evangelist Dr. G.R. Tomlin Rev. Charles Bertrand Youth Worker Mr./Mrs. Ben Underwood—Music
1965	93	July 15-25	Evangelist Harry Hitch, Wilmore Rev. & Mrs. Darrell Taylor, Santa Barbara, Calif.—Music Rev. Robert C. Pugh—Youth
1966	94	July 21-31 "The Camp consists of 20 acres of beautiful woodland with a large tabernacle which will seat about 1,000 persons, dining room, three dormitories, canteen, and numerous private cabins. Modern bath facilities are available for the campers."	Evangelist Robert E. Coleman Mr. & Mrs. Don Rollings—Music Rev. & Mrs. Robert Pugh—Youth
1967	95	July 20-30	Evangelist Jimmie Rose, Wilmore Dr. Don Rollings—Music Rev. and Mrs. Charles Denger and Rev. & Mrs. Bob G. Ray-Youth Directors

1968	96	July 18-28 <i>"Dining room facilities at the camp have been doubled, by extension, to accommodate approximately 250 persons."</i>	Evangelist Roy Cole (Mcleansboro, Ill) Rev. Ray Vaughn, Clermont, FL—Music Rev. Bob Ray, Rev. Jack Brewer—Youth
1969	97	July 17-27	Evangelist Dr. R.R. Patton, (Lex. KY) Rev. Wayne Johnson, Director of Music Youth Workers—Rev. & Mrs. Jack Brewer Rev. Don Scilley—Assist. Youth Workers
1970	98	July 16-26 <i>"Ruggles is one of the oldest camp meetings in the world and still features some of the past with the "sawdust trails" and the open tabernacle."</i>	Evangelist Dr. James A. Deweerd (Pennville, IN) Evangelist Rev. James Gibson Shelby Osborne—Song Leader Rev. Jack Brewer—Youth Director Rev. & Mrs. Bob Ray—Assist. Youth Directors
1971	99	July 15-25	Evangelist Rev. Russell E. Ford (Ind.) <i>(The Singing Preacher)</i> Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Crouse—Music Directors Mr. & Mrs. Bob Dunbar and Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Earehart—Youth Directors
1972	100	July 20-30	Evangelist Dr. Robert Anderson (Cynthiana) Mr. Bob Underwood—Music Director (Maysville)
1973	101 <i>(A 100 year celebration took place this year—a great blessing—in 1973 Camp had the 101st Camp Mtg)</i>	July 19-29	Evangelist Dr. Warner P. Davis (Lex. KY) Evangelist Dr. H. M. Couchenour (Ind.) Song Evangelist: Shelby Osborne—Maysville Bob Dunbar, Steve Engelhardt—Directors of Youth Work
1974	102	July 18—28	Evangelist Rev. Tal Murphree (Wilmore) Evangelist Rev. Gale Wetzel (Franklin KY) Song Evangelist Rev. Steve Englehardt (Hillsboro) Director of Youth Work—Mr. & Mrs. Bob Dunbar
1975	103	July 17—27	Evangelist Rev. Andrew F. Gallman (Miss.) Evangelist Jack M. Williams (Ind.)
1976	104	July 15-25	Evangelist Dr. H. Gilbert Williams (Ky) Evangelist Ronald Ball (Louisiana) Singers: The Lyrical Laurences, Terry, MT Bicentennial Speaker—Dr. A. L. Sweazy
1977	105	July 21-31	Evangelist H.M. Couchenour (Ind.) Evangelist Alan Moran, Somerset KY Singers: Tom & Karen Cobb—Nebraska
1978	106	July 20-30	Evangelist William M. Arnett (Wilmore) Evangelist Charles T. Pinkston, Russell KY
1979	107	July 19-29	Evangelist Maurice W. Stevens (Wilmore) Evangelist Wayne A. Patton (Indianapolis)

1980	108	July 17-27	Evangelist Allen Moran (Somerset, KY) Evangelist Mike Rice (Ashland, KY) Youth Counselors: Rev. & Mrs. Thomas Duley Rev. & Mrs. Charles Ketchum Special Singing Gloryland Quartet
1981	109	July 16-26	Evangelist Larry Buskirk (Richmond, KY) Evangelist Jim Stratton (Pikeville, KY) Youth Counselors: Mike Furmall (others) Special Singing Nobleman' Quartet
1982	110	July 15-25	Evangelist Jackson Brewer (Crestwood) Evangelist William B. Coker (Wilmore) Youth Counselors: Mike Furmall (others) Youth Coordinator: Mrs. Mike Rice, Melody Hill Special Singing: Gloryland Quartet
1983	111	July 21-31	Evangelist W. Robert Wood (Ashland D.S.) Evangelist Rev. Donald Tipton (Wilmore) Youth Counselors: Mr. & Mrs Marty Lucky, Mark Cornett, Melanie Hill Youth Coordinator: Mrs. Mike Rice Special Singing: Nobleman Quartet
1984	112	July 19-29	Evangelist Rev. Roy Cole (Merrin, ILL) Evangelist Rev. Luther Stokes (Lakeland, FL) Youth Counselors: Mrs. Alice Rice, Rev. & Mrs. Marty Luckie, Mark Cornett Special Singing: Gloryland Quartet
1985	113	July 18-28	Evangelist Sewell Woodward, Jr (Lex. Ky) Evangelist Rev. Michael Rice (Ashland, Ky) Special Singing: Gloryland Quartet
1986	114	July 17-27	Evangelist Dr. Wayne Patton (Carmel, Ind.) Evangelist Dr. Charles Pinkston (G-town Ky) Youth Leaders: Rev. & Mrs. Phil Hogg Rev. & Mrs. Tim Cane (<i>Cain</i>) Special Singing: The Nobleman Quartet
1987	115	July 16-26	Evangelist Rev. Alan Moran Youth Leaders: Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Merrick
1988	116	July 21-31	Evangelist Rev. Gary Case Song Evangelists: Joe & Alice Crouse
1989	117	July 20-30	Evangelist Dr. Wayne Patton (Carmel, Ind.) Youth Program: Rev. & Mrs. Gene Merrick
1990	118	July 19-29	Evangelist Rev. Mark Nysewander Music: Joe and Alice Crouse
1991	119	July 18-28	Evangelist Rev. Don Tipton Music: Joe and Alice Crouse "Down East Boys"

1992	120	July 16-26	<p>Evangelist Dr. James Bird Song Leader: Rev. David T. Grout Pianist: Mrs. Peggy Garrett The "Down East Boys"</p>
1993	121	July 15-25	<p>Evangelist Dr. Harry Hitch Evangelist Dr. Custer Reynolds "Down East Boys"</p>
1994	122	July 21-31	<p>Evangelist Mark Nysewander Shelby Osborne—Music The "Down East Boys"</p>
1995	123	July 20-30	<p>Evangelist Roy Lauter "The Greens"</p>
1996	124	July 18-28	<p>Evangelist Roy Lauter (19-21) Evangelist Ron Smith (22-28) "Perfect Heart"—July 18</p>
1997	125	July 17-27	<p>Evangelist Sewell Woodward Shelby Osborne---Music "The Greens"</p>
1998	126 (Celebrated 125 years- —in 1998 we had our 126 th Camp Mtg)	July 16-26	<p>Evangelist Mike Rice Evangelist Jack Brewer "Perfect Heart" July 16 Youth Camp July 19-24 July 19—Bishop Robert C. Morgan Youth Leader: Robbie Maddox</p>
1999	127	July 15-25	<p>Evangelist Bob Nelson Song Leader: Shelby Osborne Youth Leader: Steve Pescosolido River City Quartet—July 15 Children's Church—4 yrs thru Rising 6th Grade</p>
2000	128	July 20-30	<p>Evangelist Dr. James Loy (Ashland D.S.) Brenda Loy---Bible Study Concert-July 20 Gary Biddle Youth Leader: Steve Pescosolido</p>
2001	129	July 19-29	<p>Evangelist Dr. Glenn Sowards Owensboro D.S. Charlotte Sowards—Bible Study Shelby Osborne, Music Youth Leader, Music Camp—Steve Pescosolido</p>
2002	130	July 18-28	<p>Evangelist Bob Nelson Music—Gary Biddle Leader—Youth, Music/Worship—Steve Pescosolido Bible Study---Bob Ray Gospel Concert—Gary Biddle Guest Bishop James R. King Jr. July 21</p>

2003	131	July 17-27	<p>Evangelist Gale Wetzel Music Leader—Shelby Osborne Youth Camp Leader---Robbie Maddox Gospel Concert---“Golden Chords” Bible Study---Jim Finch</p>
2004	132	July 15-25	<p>Evangelist Terry Farris Song Leaders: Kenny Roberson, Shelby Osborne Gospel Concert: “Praise Band” F-burg 1st</p>
2005	133	July 21-31	<p>Evangelist LeRoy Jones Peggy Jones---Bible Study Song Leader: Gary Biddle Gospel Concert: “Golden Chords”</p>
2006	134	July 20-30	<p>Evangelist Gale Wetzel Music Leader: Shelby Osborne Senior Camp: Charlie Shewmaker (Shoemaker) Junior Camp: Tony Campbell Gospel Concert: “Golden Chords”</p>
2007	135	July 19-29	<p>Evangelist Dan & Jeanie Frederick Music Leader: Gary Biddle Senior Camp: Charlie Shoemaker Junior Camp: Ben Bowman Gospel Concert: “Solid Ground”</p>
2008	136	July 17-27	<p>Evangelist Tim Philpot Music Leader: Darrell Polley Senior Camp: Matt Seel Junior Camp: Ben Bowman Gospel Concert: “More Than the Music”</p>
2009	137	July 16-26	<p>Evangelist Larry Nichols Music Leader: Gary Biddle Senior Camp: Megan Zeigler Transitions Camp: Charlie Shoemaker Junior Camp: Ben Bowman Gospel Concert: “More Than the Music”</p>
2010	138	July 15-25	<p>Evangelist Danny Frederick Senior Camp: Megan Zeigler Junior Camp: Charlie Shoemaker Gospel Concert: “More Than the Music”</p>
2011	139	July 21-31	<p>Evangelist Dr. Jack Brewer Song Evangelist: Gary Biddle Senior Camp: Rev. Kevin Courtney Junior Camp: Donna Shoemaker Charlie Shoemaker Gospel Concert: “More Than the Music”</p>

2012	140	July 19-29	Evangelist Gene Pillow (Ashland D.S.) Evangelist Todd Love (Columbia D.S.) Song Leader: Darrell Polley Senior Camp: Kyle Carpenter Junior Camp: Donna Shoemaker Gospel Concert: "More Than the Music"
2013	141	July 18-28	Evangelist Roy Lauter Song Leader: Gary Biddle Senior Camp: Kyle Carpenter Junior Camp: Donna Shoemaker Gospel Concert: "More Than the Music"
2014	142	July 17-27	Evangelist Danny Frederick Song Leader: Darrell Polley Senior Camp: Kyle Carpenter Junior Camp: Donna Shoemaker Gospel Concert: "More Than the Music"
2015	143	July 16-26	Evangelist Rev. Mike Coppersmith Song Evangelist: Gary Biddle Senior Camp: Kyle Carpenter Junior Camp: Donna Shoemaker Gospel Concert: Nobleman Quartet
2016	144	July 21-31	Evangelist Stan Key (President F.A.S.) Song Leaders: Brandi/Travis H., Joyce Haug
2017	145	July 19-30 <i>(Note: We had burning of the note the final night of Camp Meeting-- purchasing the adjacent farm in '05 enlarging the Camp 60+ acres!)</i>	Evangelist Rick Wright Youth Evangelist: Rev. Drew McNeil Senior Camp: Kyle Carpenter Junior Camp: Donna Shoemaker Gospel Concert: Nobleman Quartet
2018	146	July 18-29	Evangelist Rev. Mike Coppersmith Youth Evangelist: Rev. Drew McNeill Senior Camp: Adam Caskey Junior Camp: Donna Shoemaker Gospel Concert: Nobleman Quartet <i>Guest Speaker: Bishop Leonard Fairley (July 29)</i>
2019	147	July 17-28	Evangelist Matt Henson (President-National Association of United Methodist Evangelists) Youth Evangelist: Rev. Drew Oakley Song Leader: Harriet Groh Senior Camp: Adam Caskey Junior Camp: Demarion Johnson Gospel Concert: Nobleman Quartet

2020 148
*(This is the Year
of Covid-19 when
most Camps were
closed for the summer.
We were able to have
"Virtual" Camps
for Youth.)*

Sept. 25-27
*(We were able to
have a 3-Day
"Drive-In" Camp-
Meeting!)*

Evangelist Rev. Jeremy Moore
Song Evangelist: Steve Zweigart (F-Burg 1st)
(Video/Virtual Expert—Rev. Adam Gulley)

2021 149

July 14-25
Theme: Pressed but not Crushed

Evangelist Rev. Tim Johnson IN
Youth Evangelist Rev. Jeremy Moore
Senior Camp: Rev. Bob Sweeney
Junior Camp: Lamont/Debbie Taylor
Gospel Concert: Satisfied Quartet

2022 150

July 20-31
Theme: Enter In

Rev. Matt Henson, Evangelist, ILL
(Living the Adventure Ministries)
Youth Evangelist: Drew McNeill
(M.S.U. Campus Minister)
Junior Camp: Lamont/Debbie Taylor
Senior Camp: Adam Gulley/Rachel Tully
Music: Bryan Hudson, Harriet Groh

2023 151

*Sesquicentennial
Celebration!
(Praising God for
150 years!)*

July 19-30
Theme: Symphony of Praise

Rev. Roy Lauter, Evangelist
Rev. Robbie Shrout, Flemingsburg 1st
(Youth Evangelist 19-21)
Music: Bryan Hudson
Darrell Polley and His Friends of Faith
Jr. & Sr. Camp: Lamont/Debbie Taylor

150 years and thanks be to God! The Camp has always been a place where spirits are lifted, fellowship is sweet and hearts are strangely warmed. The list of the 150 years reminds us somewhat of the great faith champions in Hebrews 11, like Abel, Enoch, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, etc.

Like those, the Ruggles family has its share of saints who have persevered---through two World Wars, the Great Depression, Korean and Vietnam conflicts along with drought, disease and most recently Covid 19. We likewise, through faith in Christ are overcomers, victorious in God's Kingdom which has no end.

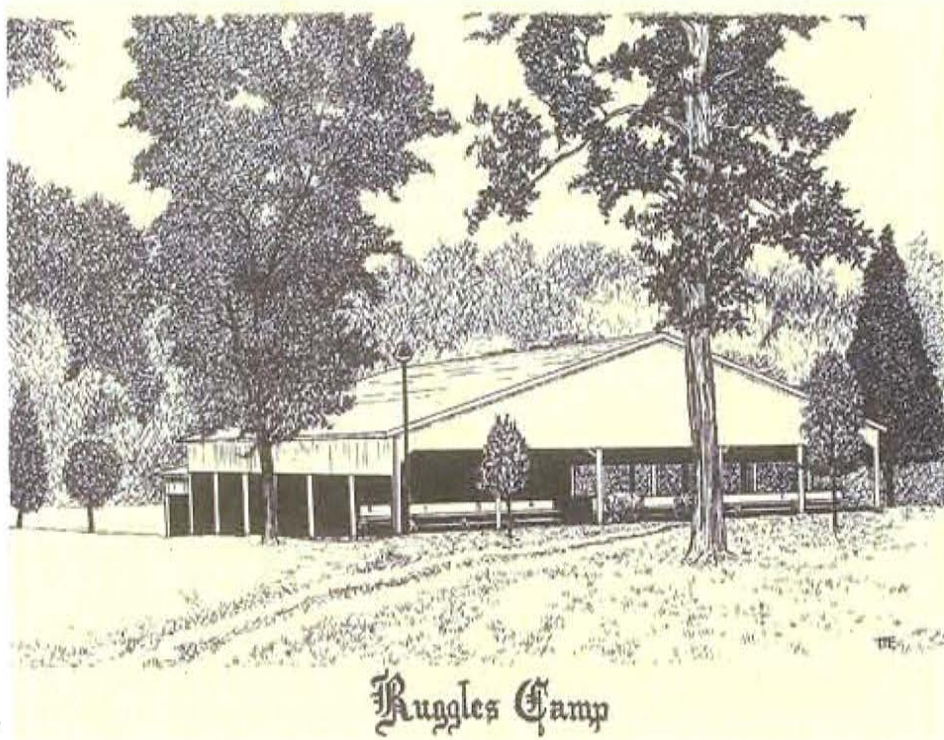
The overall theme of Ruggles is *"Forward in the Faith"*. The Ruggles family thanks all those who have sacrificed their time, talents, and treasures for the advancement of God's Kingdom.
"Let us labor for the Master from dawn to setting sun, let us talk of all His love and care...."

In Christ,

Brother Eric (2023)

MISSION STATEMENT:

The MISSION of Ruggles Camp and Retreat Center is to promote evangelism through such methods as bringing people into a living, active fellowship with God through faith in Jesus Christ as divine Savior, by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit; to direct and encourage the same people to become active in the local church of their choice; and to assist them in expressing their new faith through Christian discipleship in every area of their lives, that the Kingdom of God may truly "come on earth".



Ruggles Camp and Retreat Center
437 Ruggles Campground
Tollesboro, Kentucky 41189

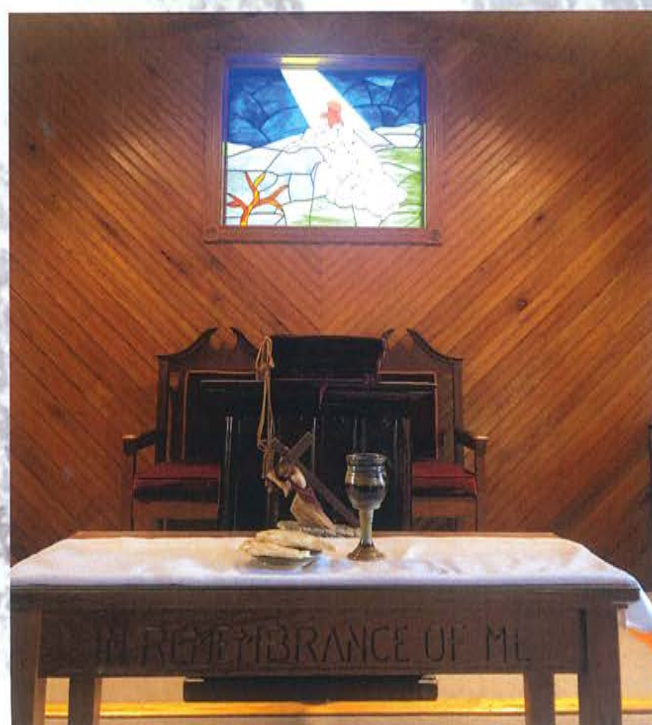
Email: rugglescampa1873@outlook.com

www.rugglescampa.org

Like us on Facebook: Ruggles Camp Retreat Center

The photo for the front cover was taken June 16th, 2023, one week after the Camp's 26th Year of "Marketplace - A Bible Times Experience" Coincidentally, the lessons for this year were "Genesis: In the Beginning - from Creation to Noah and the Rainbow"

NOTES



Exiting the lane at Ruggles
the tree line is heart shaped -
a reminder to take the message
of God's love to the world!

*May God Bless
Ruggles Camp*