



The Front Porch

...welcome home

Volume 7, Issue 4, Holiday Edition



That Doesn't Add Up!

If you are capable of reading this, there is a great chance you understand most of the basic math principles. So, if I told you to be first you must be last, you would likely scratch your head and wonder how that is supposed to work. In the rules of math and science something that is last has no way of being first. The only way to be first in anything is to be first!

In total contrast to what we understand about first and last, Jesus says "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." (Mark 9:35) He is telling us that in God's "math" what He values as greatest are His followers putting others

before themselves. The humble and selfless, those making themselves last, are the ones who are first in His kingdom.



The Bible is full of statements and ideas just like this that appear to not make sense or seem to be self-contradictory. We call that a "paradox." If we look at it the way man thinks, it doesn't

seem to make sense, but if we could understand it from the way God thinks, it would.

This summer we will be checking out many of the paradoxes we find in the Word, digging around for what the Bible is really saying about God and how he works. I am pumped about sharing these truths from scripture with you. I hope this little taste gets you excited about camp and what we will discover. Can't wait to "Bring Out The Book" with you!

James "Rambo" Himstedt
Owner / Director

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

- Luke 2:10-11



Jesus Trumps Santa!!

I get a kick out of humorous cards, having sent and received my share. My favorite reads, "Christmas is weird. What other time of the year do we sit around a dead tree in the living room, eating candy out of socks?" Many people find the "weirdness" of Christmas to be what Christ-followers are celebrating. A tiny baby, born of a virgin, laid in a manger, the Savior of the world. Weird, and wonderful!

As Christian parents, we struggle to keep the true reason for the season front and center with our kids. In this spirit, I've compiled a short list of how Jesus trumps Santa.

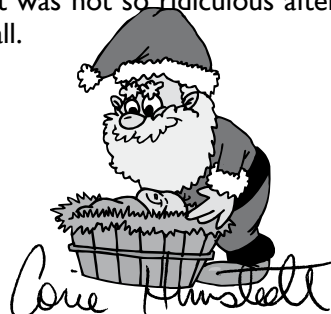
- You can't see either Santa

or Jesus with your eyes, but the evidence of His presence is everywhere while Santa only leaves cookie crumbs in your carpet.

- Santa gives us what we deserve: gifts if we're good, coal if we're bad. Jesus **does not** give us what we do deserve (death), and **does** give us what we don't deserve (blessings).
- Santa needs a reindeer with a light up nose to find your house and only comes once a year.
- Gifts from Jesus fit perfectly, work flawlessly, and never run out of batteries.

Rambo and I used to regularly drive by a nativity

scene in a front yard each Christmas with a light up Frosty and Santa flanking the baby Jesus. We laughed at the ridiculousness of the display. I think of it now and wonder if just maybe it belonged to a family trying to show their kids Who really is central to the Christmas picture. Maybe it was not so ridiculous after all.



Corie Himstedt
Owner, Director, & Mother

Prices and Dates for 2012!

June 3-8	\$795
June 10-22	\$1370
June 24-29	\$795
July 1-13	\$1370
July 15-27	\$1370





Staff Spotlight: Lauren "Carrot" Dyer



Ever had that feeling of "This is right where I need to be"? Well that is the feeling I have every time I drive through the gates of Strong Rock. Being a camp counselor has

impacted me in every way possible-physically, mentally, and definitely emotionally. I cannot tell you how many times I have begun a sentence with "One time at camp..." or "Did I tell you about how at camp we..." followed by a song, a story, a cheer or a game. I

am sure by now anyone who I have talked to knows that I worked at camp.

Over my 3 summers at Strong Rock, I definitely learned about myself, my relationship with others and most importantly my relationship with God. It is a time that will test you and reward you all at the same time and I am sure that every counselor that has spent time there can tell you the exact same thing. I loved being a counselor because of the relationships I built with every camper I came across. I have so many hilarious stories that came out of Pebblebrook and Rockcreek that I wish I had time to tell them all. I will say this, however, dance parties ruled the cabins. Being a head counselor also

showed me a side of camp that I am so glad I got to experience. I was able to see every cabin at night and be involved in every part of camp. Being a head counselor gave me the opportunity to also serve someone else, the counselors. We are all there for the campers, but counselors need support too. Showing them love and support made my summer so wonderful.

I will never forget the memories that were made at Strong Rock or the people that will always be part of my life. As many of us say, it is our home away from home, and for me I believe that it always will be. I know that I will always be able to go back and still be "Carrot," a name that I love.



Camper Challenge

Solve the clue on the left and find the hidden words on the right. Good Luck!

- Awahili mascot
- Camp dog
- Largest camp horse / or your favorite _____ bear
- Red tribe
- _____ of the Tribe
- _____ of the Warrior
- Command & _____
- Leadership program name
- Dicing/Chopping/Baking
- 'Thar's Gold in them thar hills'
- Get launched on the _____
- Bow/Arrow/Knock/Hugs
- Boots/Barrels/Jeans/Helmet
- Cricket/Mater/Bobber/Pole
- Rec Sports Table Soccer
- Camp boat
- Bacon's Sweet _____
- Daily Clues for this Triangle Shaped Treasure
- Race lanes on the Climbing Wall / popular NASCAR race
- Rambo's nightly talk

A N O T Y A D O O G E T
 B F O O S B A L L N S E
 E L A R C H E R Y I I D
 G A O N L W H O F H R D
 N R G B I G W O I S P Y
 I C D L F N O E D I R P
 K C A B E S R O H F U O
 O L G O L D R U S H S H
 O W N C I L A R S P O E
 C A W I N S T O N N A R
 C Y O R E U Q N O C I O
 B A D A W A C R S K E U

HINTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 4 (IF YOU NEED A LITTLE HELP):



2011 Bowl Bananza

It's the most wonderful time of the year. No, I'm not talking about Christmas. I'm talking about the time of year when your favorite college teams fight it out on the grid iron. It's time for the 2011 Bowl Picks Contest!

You should have already received an email on how to enter the contest, but if not, check out our blog and follow the link to make your picks for the 2011-2012 Bowl Season. You'll compete against Rambo, Bacon, and Rebecca to see if you can beat our selections in the Bowl games.

The overall winner will receive 15% off of their

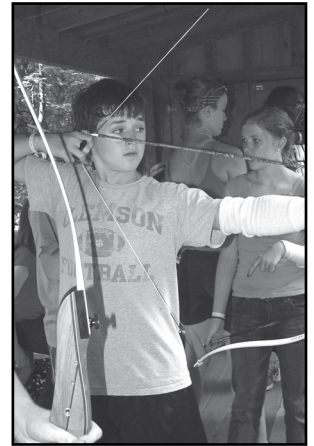
camp tuition, 2000 points for your tribe this summer, and a mystery prize delivered to your home. Additionally, anyone who can beat the best record of those of us here in the office will have a prize from the Outpost delivered to you.

For the best chance to win, please submit your picks prior to the first bowl game on December 17th. However, we will accept late entries and pro-rate your winning percentage for the games occurring after your selections are made. That way you can join in the fun at any time.

This is one of our favorite

contests of the year as we look forward to a few fun weeks of watching scores and upsets while cheering for our favorite teams and conferences. We hope you will join us this year. We'll post updates on the blog and our facebook page throughout the bowl season to keep you abreast of your standings. We'll announce the contest winners online as well and will recap the action in our next newsletter.

So hurry up, visit our blog and submit your picks online. Let's see if you can beat the office staff this year!



Lots of you have already registered for camp next summer and sessions are filling up. If you haven't registered yet, don't miss out! Register today!

Ramblings from The Rock

Nathan Dose recently traveled to Arizona where he toured the Grand Canyon by helicopter.

Former camper **Luke Davis**, aka "Biscuit" just graduated from basic training for the Marine Corps at Parris Island, SC on December 9th.

Jesse "Franchise" Norton recently tied the knot with Bailey Dollar, sister to former day campers, **Mallory, Macy, and Brice Dollar.**

Riley Arnold recently spearheaded a neat little fundraiser for the rotary club in her town. In lieu of gifts at

her birthday party, she asks guests to make donations to help underprivileged kids. What a cool idea and great gift Riley!!

Paige Fierbaugh has been busy this fall enjoying her first year as a cheerleader. I wonder if she'll pull out some of those stunts during Council Ring next summer.

Sarah "Scuttle" Miller is all set to graduate from Georgia Southern this month. One of her favorite co-co's **Angela "Bubbles" Sackett** will be walking across the stage at UGA in December as well. Congrats and good luck

to both of you with the next phase of your life's journey.

Bliss Avra recently wrote a novel entitled Strong Rock and had it published. We haven't read it yet, but heard that it is a pretty creative account about a young boy living and working at the barn. Can't wait to get a copy!

Peter Gunnin and **Noah Williamson** are both filling acting roles in Christmas at Concord, their church's annual Christmas production.

Hannah Smith, Alex and **Zach Watson** spent Thanksgiving break cruising up the California coastline.



Are you on Facebook?

Check out our Fan Page and stay connected during the school year! We love to hear from you so come on over and write on our wall.

The 4-1-1

- You can be in the Spotlight or Ramblings! Email us updates on your life or let us know how Strong Rock has impacted you. You may see your name in the next issue!
- Strong Rock can host your next church, organization, or business event!
- Refer a friend and receive a discount equal to 10% of your friend's tuition.
- Host a home show and receive 10% off of your tuition.

Merry Christmas!

STRONG ROCK CAMP AND RETREAT
PO Box 3409
Cleveland, Georgia 30528



Peace and Joy to you.
Have a Merry Christmas as we
all pause to remember
the birth of Jesus!

*“But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”
Luke 1:30-33*



Start Spreading the News

Has camp made a difference in your life? Are you thankful to be a part of the Strong Rock Family? If so, don't keep the blessing to yourself. Start sharing it with your friends so that they can experience all that Strong Rock has to offer. As a thank you, you will receive 10% of each friend's tuition credited to your account. Not only will your friends be changed forever

by their camp experience, but you can save money on your own tuition. Many of our families have also been gracious enough to host Home Shows for us as well. This is where a camp representative comes to your home and helps you spread the news about camp! All you need to do is pick a date and time and we will do all the talking. Simply invite your friends, Sunday

school class, sports team, or classmates, provide a few refreshments and we will handle the rest. We will share about all that camp has to offer and answer any questions your friends may have. As a thank you for your hosting efforts, you will receive 10% off of one child's tuition!
Call the camp office for more information.

Camper Challenge Answers (from Page 2)

EAGLE, WINSTON, TEDDY, WAYA, PRIDE, HONOR, CONQUER, HERO, COOKING, GOLDRUSH, BLOB, ARCHERY, HORSEBACK, FISHING, FOOSBALL, CANOE, SURPRISE, ARROWHEAD, DAYTONA, LIFELINE