



***Report of the  
Alton Bay CampMeeting Association  
2017***

Greetings from the Bay! Since 1863 Christians came to this place in a time of revival that was sweeping the nation. Looking back over those many years, in my mind I imagine the great speakers, the lives changed, sorrows, joys, baptisms, fires and so many other things that were a fabric of this place. Those here at the beginning were awaiting the return of the "Great Hope" the Lord Jesus Christ! As it was 154 years ago we still look for His return. Our Mission Statement states what this place is; "To be a place that welcomes people to experience God through Christian community and Biblical truth, impacting the New England church and beyond," continues to ring true. This past year has been one of change and great blessings. As I reflect back, it is evident that the Lord still has great plans for this place and its ministry. The summer began with the Members Banquet that was attended by over 225 members. The event was a dinner held in the Tabernacle and was followed by a theater play. On July 4<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed a concert which featured Mark Lowry. This was well attended with over 550 attendees and everyone. We had wonderful concerts and great speakers for the Sunday services, each seemed to hit on the struggles that we, as a community, were going through. I feel we all went away with a sense that God still has his hand on the ministry here and will continue to make his will known, if we will seek him in prayer.

Retreats continue to be a major part of the ministry here at the Bay. This past year we have had a large number of retreats booked. It is exciting to see many new groups here at our facility and we continue to hear from them that this place is such a blessing to them. Many of the retreat people have come to the Lord here and been baptized here in Back Bay. We have even have had several that requested to be able to be married here! It is amazing the impact these grounds have had on so many generations!

As with so many churches and religious organizations in New England our attendance numbers for both services and concerts is down. We are planning some exciting things for 2018 to change things up a bit and bring about renewed interest in our ministry, so be on the lookout for the Summer 2018 brochure!

Our youth are so important and we continually strive to provide a program that will excite and interest them. This past summer the youth went on several outings that included, hiking, tubing, water world and white water rafting. This in conjunction with bible studies worship and fellowship on the grounds. The ski boat ministry continues to be a popular event at ABCCC and helps to many youth from the grounds and the Alton community. We will be looking for new youth leaders in 2018. If anyone knows of a person that has a calling to minister to youth, please contact the ABCA.

Although we encourage all to come and enjoy the ABCA facilities by having a retreat, we especially want to invite our fellow Advent Christians. ABCA has been a part of the denomination for 154 years and we would encourage you to bring your leadership, members and youth to enjoy the ministry presented at the conference center. It saddens me that a campground founded by Advent Christians is visited and utilized by a diminishing number of Advent Christians.

The Alton Bay Campmeeting Association continues to be financially sound due to the sacrifice and giving of cottage owners, and donors in conjunction with the retreats and good stewardship. Many new repairs and upgrades have been completed, to include, expansion of the RV Park, new septic system, paving, roofing, sound & lighting equipment, decorative walls at the beach, new pickup truck and a new tractor/back hoe. We will continue to follow the leading and blessings of the Lord and we look forward to a bright future of fulfilling His will. We praise God for His generosity and grace to this place and its ministry.

As we enter the next chapter of the ministry here at Alton Bay, the Board of Directors and staff have committed themselves to follow the Vision Statement: *"A Place where Jesus is Lord, God Speaks, and Lives are Changed,"* and determine where the Lord would lead us. We will continue to seek His will and also to be the good stewards with what He has given us... There seemed to be a common thread in the sermons the past two summers that the time is drawing near and we all need to give our lives completely to the Lord and prepare ourselves for His return. I would ask that you pray for the leadership, staff, retreats, cottage owners and those that would feel it in their hearts to help in the ministry here on these hallowed grounds.

In Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley Smith', written in a cursive style.

Bradley Smith  
Director