

# ALPINE ECHOES

WINTER 2017

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMED EVENTS

All are welcome.

To register, visit [www.alpine-cc.org](http://www.alpine-cc.org)  
or call (800) 350-6289.

**JANUARY 13-15, 2017**

Elementary 1 Winter Weekend

**JANUARY 20-22, 2017**

Elementary 2 Winter Weekend

**JANUARY 27-29, 2017**

High School Winter Weekend

**FEBRUARY 3-5, 2017**

Junior High 1 Winter Weekend

**FEBRUARY 10-12, 2017**

Junior/Senior High  
Combo Winter Weekend

**FEBRUARY 24-26, 2017**

Junior High 2 Winter Weekend

**MAY 12-14, 2017**

Give-a-Day Volunteer  
Work Weekend

## On Angel's Wings

Who can take anyone's gently-used donated clothing, couches, lamps, jewelry, toys, art and sports equipment and turn them into camp scholarships and funding for special camp projects? Well, the Alpine Angels of course, and there is a whole army of them!

**2016 was the 35th anniversary of the Alpine Angels thrift store ministry started back in 1981 by Marilyn Porter.** One of her sons had dedicated his life to Christ at Alpine a few years before, and then late one night she woke her husband



*You can see why customers feel appreciated.*

with an idea that seemed God-given: to open a thrift store that would help provide needed scholarships for other kids to attend camp.

**Thirty five years later with over \$2.1 million raised, Alpine Angels thrift shops, The Alpine Attics, are currently going strong in their Simi Valley and Lomita locations.** In fact, there has been so much support in Alpine's surrounding mountain community, through ongoing donations of items for these stores,

that the search is on to open a third store near Alpine itself. (We'll keep you posted on that!)

**Kimberly Plantenga is the current volunteer chair of this extensive endeavor.** Her background in bookkeeping, knowledge of business, and dedication to the cause of children encountering Jesus, made her an inspired choice when Marilyn stepped out of that role five years ago. **There are currently over 150 volunteers that make this ministry happen:** some are treasurers, cashiers, inventory stockers, merchandise fixers, donation picker-uppers...and that's the short list.

One of these dedicated volunteers, Ed Urban, age 95, has been volunteering at the Lomita store for over 20 years to work on any broken toys along with about 20 other dedicated volunteers who each spend 4-5 hours each Monday afternoon (and some more often) in a specific area, sprucing up the donations to make sure items are in good shape and in working order. Harriot Hill, manager the Lomita Attic, and Dick Hodnefield, manager of the Simi Valley Attic, work diligently to oversee the daily operations. Debbie Johnson and Verna Parker handle the money at

*(continued on page 2)*



**JOIN US AS WE  
CELEBRATE ALPINE'S  
60TH YEAR IN 2017!**

STAY TUNED FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ON REUNIONS  
AND CELEBRATIONS.

## ON ANGELS WINGS

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each store, making several bank runs a week among other tasks and service. This army of volunteers are the heroes of this ministry.

**The ministry of the Alpine Angels' thrift stores reaches even beyond the campers and projects at Alpine. Both stores are community oriented.**

The volunteers help connect people with items they need both in the store and for the greater community: they give away mattresses, donate car seats to orphanages in Mexico to be used as high chairs, donate items to the Mountain Pregnancy Center, and send sheets and towels that cannot be sold to a local rehab center for men. **You just can't out give God. In the past 5 years, Alpine Angels has donated \$160,000 to Alpine's scholarship funds and \$420,000 to facility needs and special projects that keep the camp running safe and sound.** 🌲



Each Angel represents hours of dedicated service.



# "BRANCH"ING OUT!

Shortly after the Alpine Angels "took wing," Marilyn Porter also had a vision for a gift shop at Alpine. And in 1983, the gift shop was born, complete with a mountain chalet motif designed by Marilyn and her husband, Tad. Run by the Angels, they stocked many gift items, clothing and books, including a section of Swedish products and a nook of Alpine Angels keychains and other signature Angels products which they continued to sell for about a decade.

During the 90's, The Alpine Gift shop was renamed "The Branch," and was turned over by the Angels for the camp staff to manage. In 2000, under Julie Johnson's 17-year stint as the Branch manager, a major branching out occurred: the Coffee Cart was added, and since then, coffee drinks like "Running Duck," "Chocolate Monkey" and others have become yearly

traditions for some campers. Julie remembers the daily summer scene of day camp counselors with campers trailing behind them as they helped them pick out trinkets to bring home as gifts or as souvenirs.

In recent years, cozy coffee tables artfully inscribed with Scripture have been added to the Branch as well as an outdoor seating area, each providing space for conversation and small group fellowship. Dana Sottile, Alpine's current Branch manager since 2012, has added more Alpine branded clothing and accessories. Dana's vision for the Branch is to be Alpine's "sweet spot:" a homey, warm and welcoming place to buy a treat, create an Alpine memory and have some restorative "take-a-load-off" fellowship time.

Next time you visit Alpine, stop in...the coffee's on! 🌲

## ALPINE ATTIC LOCATIONS

2115 Pacific Coast Highway  
Lomita, CA 90717  
(310) 539-0339

Griffin Plaza  
3885 Cochran Street  
Simi Valley, CA 93063  
(805) 581-0452



Dana manages the Branch as a ministry to both campers and staff.



Campers love the independence of "hanging" at the Branch.

# S'MORE THOUGHTS



**Joel Rude**  
Executive Director

**T**he Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 is sometimes called the Parable of the Faithful Servants. It truly is about faithful obedience on the part of those assigned to be stewards of whatever the master chooses to place in their care. In my eight years as Alpine's associate director, I witnessed many major improvements to the facility; some of which are still being completed. The last major project on the drawing board was a significant remodeling of the chapel. A number of considerable factors played a part in the decision to delay that remodel indefinitely. In the meantime, we are operating under the principle of being **Faithful in a Few Things**.

In addition to being good stewards of the tangible things at Alpine (buildings, grounds and equipment), we are responsible for the spiritual, emotional and relational well being of campers, young and old. Sometimes that means real-time risk management. Sometimes that means managing perceived risk and security. There are several projects underway which address both the stewardship of

tangible "things" and attention to the intangible realities that affect questions such as "Will my child be taken care of and safe while at Alpine?"

That list of "things" being tended to includes the following, some of which will be addressed before the summer of 2017, when Alpine celebrates its 60th anniversary, and some throughout the rest of 2017-2018:

- Completion of the main entrance welcome sign and landscaping;
- Completion of the kitchen entrance/dish return area;
- Completion of The Branch (gift shop) and Redwood Lounge renovations;
- Repaving of the basketball courts and replacing of basketball goals;
- Repairs to and repainting of the seven buildings and staff homes along Club House Drive;
- Completion of the Makuala Village shower house renovations (interior finish details);
- Repainting of the six original cabins and the maintenance shop;
- Reroofing of 17 buildings, two of which are leaking and several of which are on the verge of doing so;

- Replacement of 11 low efficiency furnaces nearing the end of their safety life;
- Replacement of 130 bunk beds for pest control purposes;
- Additions to the outdoor recreation spaces at both the year-round area of Alpine and the summer Makuala Village area;
- Additions to the Alpine Trail seating areas and other outdoor gathering/seating areas.

This extensive list is comprised of both deferred maintenance realities and a desire to more fully meet the needs of our campers and adult guests.

It will take time, money, paid and volunteer labor and a disciplined focus of all those. However, we believe that all of the above is merely taking care of what we already have, as a faithful steward ought. Please prayerfully consider how you and others you can enlist may be able to help with the above. Our small crew of faithful staff cannot tend to this list, along with running the operation, on its own. Alpine needs prayer, people and profits in order to actively remain **Faithful in a Few Things**. 🌲

## GIVING SMART

**T**here are many ways to give, and some provide tax benefits to help steward your gift more fully into the ministry itself. **When you name Alpine as the beneficiary of your IRA** (or Qualified Plans), Alpine pays no income tax when the distribution of assets is received.

For more information, please contact our denomination's financial planning service through Ingrid Prater our regional representative at (877) 727-5270 or email her at [ikprater@covenanttrust.com](mailto:ikprater@covenanttrust.com). She will be happy to assist you. Alpine Camp and Conference Center and Covenant Trust Company are both ministries within the Evangelical Covenant Church. All donations to Alpine for which no goods or services were given in exchange are tax deductible.

## THE MANY FACES OF GIVING

**Memorials given to Alpine during 2016 totaled \$3,107.**

**The dear people these gifts were given in memory of include:**

- Lurlene Anderson • John Barkman  
Bud Ekblad • Ralph Johnson  
Paul Lindskoog • Jean Stayboldt

Peace to their memory, and many thanks to those who gave these gifts which benefit scholarships and special projects for the ongoing ministry at Alpine. 🌲



**Joel Anderson**, pictured next to his junior high initials on a camp tree, has a long family history of giving to Alpine.

# WISH LIST

*(Funding for and/or Gifts-in-Kind)*

1. A new or used Case 580 4WD diesel tractor with a cab, bucket and backhoe
2. A new or used Ford F350 pickup with a snowplow (or equivalent)
3. A heavy duty golf cart or utility cart for our program department
4. A new or lightly used 30" wide commercial, conventional oven with a 6-burner stovetop
5. Two 97" or larger flat screen TVs for chapel worship lyrics and video viewing
6. Wholesale or factory direct access to sports equipment
7. A large, 4-wheel utility trailer with stake sides

For questions about this issue of the ECHOES Newsletter, please email [info@alpine-cc.org](mailto:info@alpine-cc.org)

## BECAUSE GOD HEARS OUR NEEDS...PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR:

The Alpine Angels volunteers to be encouraged in their good works and servant hearts.

Our newest year-round staff members to acclimate fully and quickly.

The items on the Wish List to be received in a timely manner and in top condition.

The significant and challenging debt incurred prior to the summer of 2015 to be quickly and fully eliminated.

Camper registrations and guest group rentals to increase for fruitful ministry and cash flow.

Skilled volunteers to come out of the woodwork to help with Alpine projects.

## 2016 SUMMER CAMPER ATTENDANCE

June 1-August 15

ALPINE PROGRAM CAMPS:

**1,125**  
Campers

RENTAL GROUPS:

**2,394**  
Guests

