



# West Branch Trailblazer

Keeping in Touch, Seeking Your Prayer and Involvement

*West Branch is a ministry of the Bill Rice Ranch*

September 21, 2023

Evangelist Troy Carlson, Director

Volume 17, Number 2

## In This Issue

- Summer Camp
- Fall Events
- Big Needs on the Horizon

## Prayer Requests

County remodel permit to facilitate the Crossing bathrooms project

Provision for new truck/plow

Recruiting summer staff for 2024

Men & Boys Adventure in 2 weeks!

## Project Status

**Rasmussen Crossing** – Our engineering work to expand our septic system to include future restrooms and an eventual kitchen has been turned in to Coconino County officials. We are waiting for approval so that we may begin getting estimates on the work and equipment. We would like to have restrooms completed for next summer.

## Upcoming Events:

Oct 6-7 Men & Boys Adventure

now-Nov 30 Fast Track open

Apr 26-27, 2024 Men on the Move  
[westbranchAZ.org](http://westbranchAZ.org)

## Summer Camp

Truly the highlight of each year of ministry is our summer camp season. This year has been no different. We thank the Lord for the six weeks of camp we were able to conduct and for all those churches from around Arizona and California who attended. Junior Camp attendance was basically maxed out; the Summer Family Retreat was near capacity; and the three youth camps were very balanced. We were also thrilled to have deaf camp which is small but meets a special need.

Celebrating our tenth summer of camp on the Williams property, we were very grateful to now have seen over 130 saved here at this camp site. We are always grateful when churches bring unsaved kids to camp so that we may give them the gospel and see many of them come to Christ. We thank the Lord for the many campers who have made other important decisions at camp as well.

The Lord also gave us a fantastic staff of volunteers. While several came from other parts of the country, over half had previously been campers here in Williams. Several others had been campers at the Bill Rice Ranch in Tennessee. Having the experience of receiving spiritual help at camp yourself often times makes a volunteer even more burdened for the work we are doing here. From the director's perspective, it is very satisfying to see former campers serve with us in the summer. We see our investment in summer staff lives as our greatest, enduring work.

We always try to complete some new level of development before a summer begins. Our advances this year included more finish on the Rasmussen Crossing auditorium and additional outdoor lighting. Both were noticed and appreciated. We are grateful for those who donated time and money to make it happen. Please pray for us during this "off-season," that we will be able to find the right volunteers for 2024 and see additional development steps accomplished.



2023 Summer Staff



Youth service in the Rasmussen Crossing

## Special Needs

- Newer model pickup truck, 4x4 with towing and hauling capability (e.g. F250), probably 2015-newer
- Snowplow for use with a newer truck
- Commercial beverage/merchandise cooler
- Utility dump trailer
- Lefthanded softball gloves
- Compact Utility Tractor (e.g. John Deere, Kubota)
- We are always trying to enhance our activity selection. If you have a gently used ping pong, Foosball, or other similar game table that you would be willing to donate, please let us know, especially if you would have the ability to transport it to us!

*A BIG THANKS TO THE NARDI FAMILY FOR THE DONATION OF A KEYBOARD!!*

## Stay Connected

2501 E. Pinetree Dr.  
Williams, AZ 86046  
928.635.2097

[westbranch@billriceranch.org](mailto:westbranch@billriceranch.org)

[westbranchAZ.org](http://westbranchAZ.org)

[facebook.com/westbranchAZ](https://facebook.com/westbranchAZ)

Additional itineraries, schedules, & reports are online.

## Fall Events

Fall, for us, begins in early August as we turn from week-long camps to weekend retreats. Over the past two months we have held three retreats on site and one conference in the Phoenix area. We began with two private retreats where we worked with a mission board and then an Arizona church. It was our privilege to not only provide facilities but also to preach during the events.



Church Family Retreat  
hay ride

In early September, we held our annual youth conference in Peoria, Arizona. This was the twentieth youth conference we have had in the Phoenix area. The Lord worked through the preaching of Evangelist Matt Downs, Bill Rice Ranch camp director, as we worked with sixteen Arizona churches. The following weekend, we held our Church Family Retreat which focuses on Bible preaching and fellowship. We thank the Lord for a great spirit and a refreshing time for those who came. We have also been privileged to preach in six area churches since summer camp ended.

---

## Big Needs on the Horizon

Our biggest current development project is adding restrooms to the Rasmussen Crossing. Our use of the building is restricted since campers otherwise have to go back to their cabins or use other rented facilities. The engineering to connect the building's plumbing to our current system has been turned in to county officials. Once we have approval, we will price installing the additions including a water tank. While significant, this project is not our most urgent need.

Last winter, our equipment struggled to keep up with the intense winter we endured. Record snow fall caused both our 1999 pickup and snowplow to break down. Other pieces of equipment suffered too. We really need to replace both the pickup and the snowplow before winter arrives.

Please pray with us about this need. We estimate needing an additional \$29,000 to make these purchases. This is beyond our ability. Entering the season without regular camp income, monthly bills take extra provision, let alone a large special need. God has provided before. We are asking Him to do so again. Will you pray with us about these needs?



Youth Conference – Peoria, AZ



Part of the record snowfall last winter