

Our Impressions of the Week:

Eric Mitchell – Zion's

This is my third time at Work Camp. It was fun, but exhausting. There was a lot of work crammed into four days! My team washed 39 windows in one day! Amazing! We painted kitchen cabinets, doors, window frames and trim.

The homeowner was a very nice, older woman who was still working. There were different kids participating this year so I made new friends. One of the ways that it felt as though the Holy Spirit moved through the group was that people changed throughout the week. They became less shy, more talkative, and calmer.

Sydney Schollenberger – Zion's

This is my third time at Work Camp also. The week seemed to go by more quickly than other years. My team painted railings, posts, a porch, and fence. We also pulled weeds and trimmed. The team worked well and got done quickly. We worked on our own. Our leaders didn't have to remind us to keep working. The homeowners were nice; one a little more demanding than the other, but we got along well. She bought us Rita's water ice one day. The second homeowner gave us cookies, lemonade, pizza, veggies and chips! Both homeowners were very appreciative of the work the kids did.

Jenny Long – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sassamansville

This was my first work camp. It was really fun; not what I expected – BETTER! It was scary when Sandy S. hurt her finger. We all tried to stay calm and we're glad she's OK. Our team did painting, painting, and more painting! I always get paint on myself. At the first site we weeded, trimmed hedges and power washed a fence. At the second site we painted 2 railings, a fence, the porch floor, and weeded. One homeowner made cookies and brownies for us and treated the team to pizza one day. I liked the homeowners. They were very thankful for the generosity of the kids who did the jobs they couldn't do themselves. Everyone worked very hard. I liked learning about different ways to pray. The Holy Spirit definitely worked through the group this week.

Justin Harvey –

This was my first time at Work Camp. It was fun and I got to meet new people and made some good friends. My team did

gardening, cutting down trees, painting, and weed whacking. Working together made us good friends.

When a homeowner was not very gracious, we learned to practice self-control. A friendly dog attached himself to me and we named him "Tree" (because of all the trees we had to cut down there). The Holy Spirit was at work during the week because most people were very nice and generous. It was good to see people happy and their houses renewed.

Aubrey Christman – Christ Episcopal Church

This was my first time at Work Camp. It felt good to help other people and to hear them say, "Thank you." It was nice to see how much we accomplished each day. We did a lot of weeding, scraping and painting. I liked our leader a lot and we worked well together and made a good team. We did have a tough time at one house, but the dog made everyone happy.

Samantha Goins – St. James Lutheran Church

It was my first time at Work Camp too. It wasn't what I expected. It was fun! I thought it would be a large group, but liked the small team idea better. I liked being housed at the church. I liked helping our nice homeowner. She offered to let the kids live with her! We had a few rough spots, but we all worked together.

Zack Leshner -

It was my first time at Work Camp. It was fun. There were a lot of nice kids. We did a lot of weeding and painting. We had nice homeowners, but one had a not-to-friendly neighbor. Then we learned about self-control.

Mark Haywood (Zion's) and Isaiah Luna also participated but had to leave before the interview due to illness.

Many thanks go to the following adults who made this week possible; Shari and Bruce Albitz, Sandy and Stan Schollenberger, Paul Desch, Cheryl Drake, Pete Hoover, Calvin Miller, Sharon and Gary Moser, Nancy Unruh (First Baptist Church), Pastor Lisa Martin and Kate Hoffman (Trinity), members of Trinity UCC and all members who donated food and supplies.

In all, there were 23 youth participating in the Youth Mission Work Camp primarily from Trinity UCC and Zion's UCC. Look for more information in the September newsletter and check today's Pottstown Mercury for an article about our work.

(Names of church homes unknown for some of our participants.)