



# IN GOD'S HANDS SERVICE CAMP 2017

## A report to the Congregation

Preparations for camp began long before June 19<sup>th</sup>. Our leaders worked with our sources in New Kent and Charles City to locate sites where we could make a much needed contribution. We found two—one in each county. We developed a plan to achieve our goals; we ordered materials needed.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, we met with all of the participants and laid out what was going to happen. Questions were asked and answered. Tools were discussed and teams were established.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, we met at 7:30AM in the church parking lot. Sue Anne led us in devotions and brought coolers with our lunches. Each morning would follow the same procedure. First stop—the hardware store to pick up the week's materials. Very efficient crews loaded the pick-ups. Here we went our separate ways—Ayars, Gary, Margaret, and Lucy went to Charles City (Samuel would join them on Tuesday); while Keith, Martha, Gilda, Waverly, Leigh, Ruth and Barb went to New Kent.



Above: Samuel, homeowner, and Gary at the beginning of construction. Below: Samuel, homeowner, and Ayars standing on the completed ramp.



**Charles City site:** The homeowner uses a cane to get around. She depends on others to pick her up and take her places. We believe she is related to half of Charles City, including our Waverly! Each day she sat in her chair on the tiny stoop to watch our progress. Each day a sister or two came by to check on progress as well. We lost count of the car horns that blew greetings as they passed by expressing appreciation. She had told many people that we were coming to build her a ramp that would allow her to get out of the house and to a waiting vehicle—all by herself. The construction of the ramp began with the digging of holes for the posts—amid the roots of giant trees.

Using the ingenuity of the entire group the posts were set. The ramp had been designed with one turn in order to get to the driveway. Framing was completed on the second day. On the third day with just Ayars and Samuel working, the decking was laid and on the fourth day, the side rails were set. The sisters helped to clean up. On Wednesday afternoon, when we delivered additional supplies, she and her sister were sitting on the porch with their iced tea. She showed Ayars how he could easily add a piece of wood to the porch railing that would create a shelf for her tea. It was done on Thursday.



Waverly: “Mr. Keith, why don’t you use the other saw? I would!”



Keith checking out the work on the stairs that Ruth and Barb worked on together.



Gilda: “this looks a little catawampus!”  
Martha: “I’m guessing we should fix it!”

**New Kent site:** More was involved at this site. Initially, we had to tear down the wooden steps that were attached to the porch. (Then we had to provide a set of temporary steps to get up and down the porch to get in the house.) The entire outside of the house had to be washed—not an easy job on ladders. Leigh, Barb, and Gilda accomplished the cleaning in a day and a half. That work was interrupted when it was time to dig the post holes. The ladies learned how to operate a posthole digger, mix concrete and pour it in the hole, securing the posts. Two holes could not be dug because we ran into the foundation of an older home that had been on that site. Keith supplied a solution—one that he picked up at Home Depot that evening, molded concrete blocks that the posts would set in. One the second day, we discovered that our homeowner had no sight in one eye and very little in the other when she asked if someone would read her mail to her—letters from Social Services that she felt might be important. We also learned (and saw pictures) of a grandson in a wheelchair. The ramp she needed for herself would also mean that this grandson could now be a more frequent visitor since he could be wheeled in for a visit with Grandma!

The railing on the front porch nearly fell apart when we touched them. We had planned to just paint it, but decided it needed to be replaced. Gilda and Waverly set about measuring and then designing them. Materials were picked up the next day. The railings were taken down. Meanwhile, on the second day, the ramp was framed in and the stair stringers were set, along with three more posts.

On the third day, Keith cut the boards for the decking, Barb and Ruth drilled holes and put the screws in to secure the boards. Gilda and Martha recreated the railing for the porch. Things were not quite square on the first section, but repairs were made and the second section came out perfectly. Waverly and Gilda painted the railing.

At 2:00AM on Thursday, Martha remembered she was supposed to get replacement carpet for the porch—so at 6:00AM she was at Lowe’s. It was an early start for the last day. At the site, Gilda and Waverly put a second coat of paint on the railing, while Keith cut the boards for the side rails and Barb and Ruth secured them in place. Martha began stacking scraps into the truck while assisting Keith. After lunch, Ruth and Gilda painted the porch areas. We replaced the support for the air conditioners before Waverly, Gilda and Martha tacked the carpet down. The railing was attached to the porch, the rest of the scrap lumber and the trash were loaded into the truck. A visit to the dump, returning unused lumber to the hardware store, and returning items to PFPC completed our day.

The finished project—the ramp, the stairs, the clean house, and the railing.



See PFPC’s website for more pictures!