

The VanderSchels

serving at Peniel Bible Camp

Coming up

School camps

Fall retreats

Brenna's wedding

Prayer requests

Financial support

Leadership wisdom

Personal vehicle



Family news

Our family is growing! In June (and just 2 days before our first family camp), Ashlyn married Eddie Bowen on a gorgeous day at a beautiful venue near Columbus. And now, a week or so after our last retreat, Brenna will be marrying Nic Hill in a ceremony here at the camp. We are thrilled for this prayerful provision for our daughters.

- Ashlyn and Eddie live in Burton, MI, where Eddie is a project manager at a large construction company and Ashlyn teaches 4th grade at a local elementary school.
- Brenna lives in Summerville, SC, where she serves as the assistant director of life skills at Doors to Freedom (a nonprofit for rescued women).
- Carson is in his junior year at BJU but only has 3 semesters until graduation. He is once again the team manager for the Bruins soccer team.



Summer season

This past summer was once again filled with hundreds of campers making their way to Peniel to experience God's beautiful creation, enjoy unique activities, and be encouraged through intentional fellowship and discipleship. We even had the privilege of partnering with some new churches in our youth camps, and we are excited to see how God is growing and blessing the future of our ministry. It was also possibly the last summer that Carson will be able to be my assistant. His contributions have been immense, and he will be greatly missed. Beyond our own camping program, the rest of our weeks have been busy hosting rental groups (family camps and teen camps), and this will be the case as we head into the fall season as well. However, our focus will now transition to Christian school camps and adult retreats (all the way until the week of Thanksgiving).

Projects finished

God was very gracious to allow us to finish some fairly major projects this spring and early summer before our camping season began. The craft cabin (now known as the Studio) received a complete overhaul inside and out and welcomed crafters in a newly designed space. While we were over there, we put new vinyl siding and windows on Martha's Manor while freshening up the interior with new paint and trim. The office and conference room also experienced total remodels, enhancing the beauty and functionality of those rooms. Projects continued on into the summer as well with many volunteers helping us finish our campfire/testimony area seating and the zipline path update.

