



A native of Rock Hill, SC, Jeffrey Ryan Lesslie is the Owner/Operator of Riverview Hospice and Palliative Care. His previous jobs include Hospice Administrator at Riverview Hospice and Palliative Care, Director of Development at Omnimed, and Landscape Architect with ADC Engineering.

No stranger to Camp Joy, Jeff has served in numerous capacities since 2001. While a student at Appalachian State University, Jeff was startled one morning from a deep sleep by his distraught older brother, Robbie. Robbie had recently served at Camp Joy and was convinced that Jeff needed this same experience. Whether it was his brother's persuasive words or his awareness of a significant change in Robbie's life, Jeff did serve as a camp counselor the following summer. God worked in his life in a new and redemptive way that week. Jeff describes the experience as "a closeness that resembled a mixture between a warm blanket over me and rushing water, wild and out of my control."

Jeff continued to return to Camp Joy as a counselor each summer, meeting Katie there, who became his wife in 2008. Together they made a pact that Camp Joy would always be a part of their lives. Jeff and Katie have kept that commitment—raising their two children, Adah and Noah, in the Camp Joy community and cheerfully serving at camp in wide variety of capacities. From being a counselor, camp floater, Bible assistant, recreation leader, and most recently a member of the Camp Joy NC Planning Committee, his input has been most valuable.

Jeff is a faithful member of First Rock Hill ARP Church where he serves as Elder, Sunday School teacher, and assists with music at the 9am worship service. By helping to lead the music, he is also actively involved with Just Joy at First Rock Hill ARP Church, a ministry to those affected by disabilities. During his free time, Jeff loves the outdoors, gardening, hiking and playing the guitar.

With Camp Joy being God's camp, Jeff is very excited about its future. He envisions exploring and deepening the core principle of JOY: Jesus—Others—Yourself. For the staff and volunteers, the goal and challenge for each session of camp is to seek to deny themselves and serve their special needs friends in God's strength. Camp Joy is currently offered in NC, SC, FL, and VA. Jeff looks forward to drawing out the strengths that unify and the differences that make each camp a unique experience. "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12).