

GREENIE GAZETTE

Newsletter of Camp Westminster

Fall 2011 Vol. 20, No. 2



'Like' This: A Hike Thru Our Social Media Pages

Lives were changed. Here's just a glimpse of how (as posted on Facebook and in the Camp blog throughout the summer):

May 31: Wow- a high of 88 degrees F on Higgins Lake today! Perfect for the start of the sailing portion of our Higgins Lake Camp Staff Certification School!

June 10: It seemed ironic that the new wood stove insert was installed in the Dining Hall on a record-setting day of heat. But now we have used it continuously for 2 days since the temperature dropped about 20 degrees on Higgins Lake!

June 19: First day of camp... post by Ricky Press "I'm all packed and ready for camp. I'll be headin'/ your way in about 10-15 minutes. Can't wait!"

June 23: Have been dodging raindrops all week here. Keeping busy with paper bag skits, arts and crafts, and mock trials inside when the rain is pouring. And enjoying every chance we have when the sun comes out. Long enough to shoot arrows at archery, swim, kayak, and catch 30 fish! (Very sunny in Scotland for the campers there!)

June 27: Post by a parent who picked up 2 campers: "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angels wings..."

June 30: Pioneer Heritage: campers sleeping in Rustic, made pizza in Dutch Ovens for lunch today and hiked up Ski Jump Hill to do orienteering... and bring rocks back down in their packs! All smiles too!

June 2: So many great stories to share from the closing fire last night... powerful experiences on outtrips, bonding between campers and staff, peaceful times on the labyrinth and of course, lots of fun too. Summer camp has never been better!

July 7: Two more mudpuppies caught by the campers- too slippery to stay still in their hands for a photo! We have learned that these salamanders breathe 3 ways: gills, lungs and through their skin!

July 13: Last night was a ceilidh and flapjack (thank goodness for staff from Scotland). Tonight was the annual fish fry (courtesy of Captain Bob) and candles on Higgins Lake.

July 20: And the tradition continues on... another successful Thomas Doggett Day! The race for the yellow jacket took place and we have a winning team! (Lots of hydration with a high of 94 degrees F!)

July 25: Gil Guthrie posts "i miss my favorite camp on my favorite lake. i wanna linger..." New blog entry: *A Servant's Perspective* by Service Corps (WSC) member Beth Stark. (Grease a watermelon?)

July 28: Hot and humid on Higgins Lake but that hasn't stopped the birders in Natural Wonders or the Guard Start trainees from Wet'n Wild! WSC is setting up prayer stations for tonight, which has become one of the campers' favorite times of the week.

July 31: Many alumni stopping in- especially the Woodies of '83! New blog by WSC member Matt LoPrete *Beyond My Comfort Zone*.

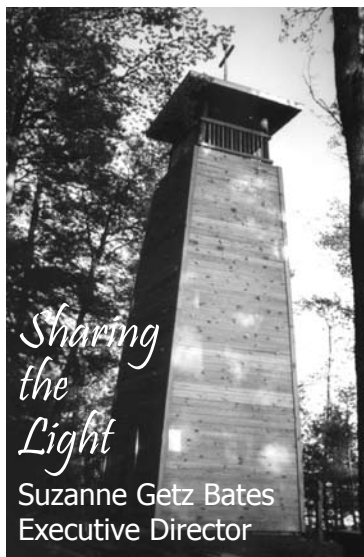
August 6: Post by a camp mom, Colleen Bloom: Quote from Joe Bloom today as he got off bus- "its just too hard to get two weeks of camp into one, but we had to try". Thanks for another great camp.

Sweeping the Dining Hall after dinner on Backwards Night, Sean even has his socks on his hands.



Evening vespers on the beach was both powerful and popular this summer.

INSIDE Legacy campers...10 Things Learned...Staff spotlight...Thank you!...Online Auction Nov. 18- Dec. 2



Ten Things I've Learned After 17 Summers

1. Children and youth take on a new personality at camp. If they arrive withdrawn and shy, they end up leading songs, acting crazy and hugging new friends before they leave.

2. If a child is homesick on Sunday, that child will be the one most likely to cry about leaving on Saturday.

3. Christian community is a very powerful force for good in a young person's life.

4. Camp songs stay with you and are never really forgotten.

5. Time to be in nature and unplugged is powerful and an amazing gift.

6. People make very close friends that will stick together beyond high school and college at camp. People are very grateful to have had a place to make such close friends.

7. Long distance vision is a rare thing in a person and in life. You can hone your long distance vision at camp worshipping in the open air chapel, looking across the lake or up into the amazingly tall pine trees. The experiences will carry you through the school year and bring you back next year.

8. Every summer at least several counselors will tell me that this was "the best summer of their lives."

9. In addition to a wider range of skills and higher confidence levels, young people end up with more money working at camp than they do taking a summer job and paying for transportation, lodging, meals and their own entertainment.

10. Camp prepares young people for the world that they are going to inherit.

Staff Spotlight: Matt Clark

Funny how things happen... Matt Clark's church came for a mission workcamp, over the fourth of July, each summer during high school. From there, Matt applied to work on summer staff. This past summer, his ministry came full circle, as Matt served as the Workcamp Coordinator, guiding groups in work projects, down the Au Sable River and through the ropes courses.

Matt shares, "I think God has really blessed me with the opportunity to work at Camp Westminster. It has been extremely rewarding to influence the campers' lives and working here for 7 years has allowed me to see them grow from children to young adults. It is amazing to watch them grow in their faith journey, and in many ways they have helped shape me into the person I am today. I entered Camp thinking that I would want to be a computer programmer, but after my first year I realized how wonderful it was working with children, and this has led me to become a teacher."

Matt is currently teaching secondary math in the Grand Blanc schools.

(Find out how Matt was all wet on his first fishing trip with campers in the camp blog at www.campwestminster.com!)

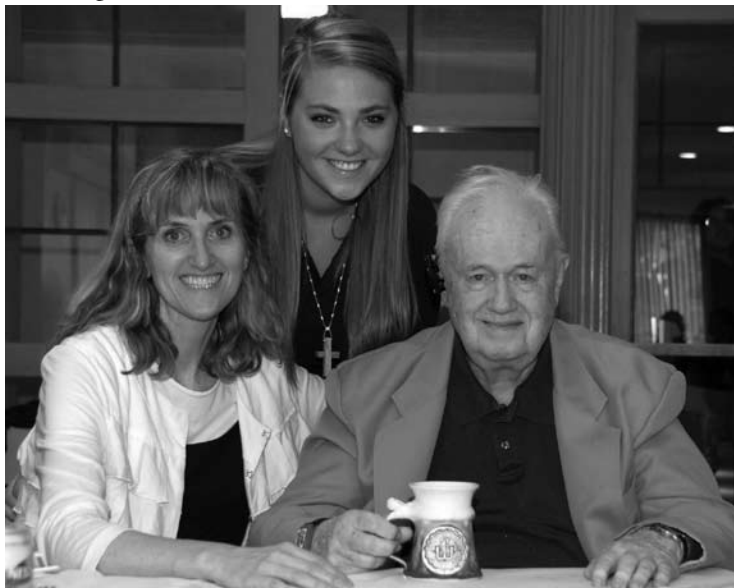
Counselors Callum and Lindsey shower a camper with love!



Coordinating workcamps, driving fishing trips, leading canoe trips and counseling kids- Matt has done it all!



Legacy Campers | From Robert Boyer to Jessica Fryer



Gathered at the 2011 Staff Commissioning, first-ever camper Bob Boyer, daughter Nancy Fryer and granddaughter Jessica Fryer share common camp memories!

It all started with the first camper to register for a summer session at Camp Westminster. Robert Boyer attended that first summer at Narrin Lake, moving with the camp to Higgins Lake the following summer.

He remembers many things about his experiences, but fondly shared a story when he felt empowered by camp director Robert Frehse (Chief). He shared this at the 2011 Commissioning Service luncheon for the staff. You may be wondering- why was he there? Following several generations of family as campers and staff, his granddaughter, Jessica Fryer, served on the camp staff this summer!

Jessica shares, “A favorite story of camp is the story that my grandpa tells about when he was a counselor on the canoe trip. I love how he refers to Robert Frehse on such a casual level, having been at camp the same time as him. The story is that he was on a canoe trip with his wakeya (Wakeya 4 as he is sure to remind me). And right as they started their trip, one of the canoes got a hole! So being a resourceful counselor,

my grandpa told the boys to take their shirts off to plug the hole, and then to use their food cans to bale out the water.” Bob added that he was empowered to be a leader and make decisions to solve problems, thanks to Chief’s guidance. This has served him throughout life, during time in the army and later as a lawyer.

Jessica adds, “My favorite camp song would have to be 'A Boy and A Girl'. This is just a personal favorite from the times when I was a camper, but I can remember my grandpa singing the song 'Whenever Camp Westminster Forms A Line'.”

Serving as a counselor this past summer, Jessica learned a lot. “I definitely grew in many ways, spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. Spiritually, I learned that God has a plan for everyone, even if it doesn't seem like it- everything does happen for a reason. Intellectually, I learned to be more tolerant of all people. You never know what is going on in someone's life, and everyone deserves kindness and respect. And finally emotionally, I learned to have more respect for myself.”

When asked what else she learned this past summer, Jessica added: “Tradition is important. While it is important to change with the times, it is also good to hold onto our roots which is something that Camp Westminster definitely embodies. There are new things like the Lighthouse Climb and the Saturn, but then we also continue to do things such as Thomas Doggett Day and Lumberjack Day.”

A Big Camp Thank You to Nancy Morrison!

Nancy (Gourlay) Morrison has filled the roles of camper, summer staff member, camper parent, alumni committee member, volunteer and office staff over the years. She registered thousands of campers, set up camp sessions online each year, created publicity pieces, and perhaps most importantly, sings any camp song (often over the phone, during staff training) when we ask for confirmation of lyrics or a tune!

Nancy is off to new adventures now. We miss her talents in the camp office but look forward to experiencing her gifts in other ways.



3 *Kayaking on Higgins Lake, Nancy enjoys the outdoors!*



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Support Camp Westminster: bid online for unique items and experiences Nov. 18-Dec. 2!

The **GREENIE GAZETTE** is a publication of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake.

phone 313.341.8969
 fax 313.341.8616
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Experience God's love in a fun, outdoor, Christian community.

Winter/ Spring 2012	
March 4 11am	Camp Registration Sunday Westminster Church of Detroit
May 18-20	Spring Wake-Up Weekend
May 30- June 5	Higgins Lake Camp Staff Certification School
June 10 11 a.m.	Staff Commissioning Service at Westminster Church of Detroit
June 17	First campers arrive! (weekly summer camp sessions run through August 11)
June 17- August 19	Westminster-by-the-Lake worship in Outdoor Chapel

Your camper can sleep in the newest yurt in the trees for a week- what a special gift! Recently completed yurt #3 is the final addition to the Adventure Village.



A Great Christmas Idea: Give the Gift of Camp!

The newest toy? The latest electronic gadget? Each Christmas, parents and grandparents are faced with a wide choice of gifts to give their children and grandchildren. This year, consider the gift of Camp.

At www.campwestminster.com, you can print out a Camp Westminister on Higgins Lake Gift Certificate and tuck it in a Camp sweatshirt, roll it in a new sleeping bag, or wrap it around a flashlight. (Or feel free to call the camp office at 313-341-8969

and we'll send a gift certificate to you.)

The theme for summer 2012 is "Secrets of the Kingdom." There will be Bible stories of parables that Jesus told. Spending consecutive summers at camp, one of the few communities for children and youth that proactively promote positive human development is a powerful way to help your loved ones on their journey to adulthood.