



The Newsletter of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake

Summer 2008: A Focus on the Adventure!

Read on for more about how camp does adventure...the past, the present and future!



From the Archives

Excerpt from a letter to Robert M. Frehse, director of Camp Westminster, from L.A. Young, dated July 6, 1944. Mr. Young donated the property on Bois Blanc to camp.

My dear Mr. Frehse:

I enjoyed very much reading your nice letter of the 3rd, and I agree that perhaps the ruggedness of going without the usual comforts of bed is pretty severe on youngsters right out of the comfortable city homes. But through actual necessity I have had to prepare bunks where there was no sign of a bed, and I have found that by gathering small pine boughs, topping them off with a little straw and on top of that a blanket, that you have the finest kind of a bed. ...Therefore, I don't think you need worry very much about the rugged experiences being harmful to your boys... My idea, of course, is to give the boys an actual experience that will teach them not to be afraid of hardships, and also, in a sense, to teach them to appreciate the so-called luxuries of their city homes.



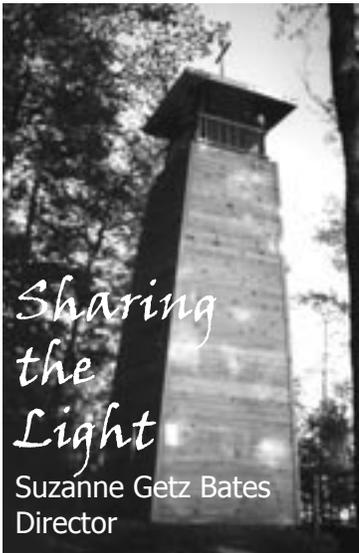
ABOVE: Churning ice cream is a popular activity at camp! The best part? Taste testing! Counselor Nicola Macic anticipates ice cream as campers are led by Jim Bates in the churning process.

LEFT: Hug that tree! As part of the Leadership Development Training session this past summer, the group tackled the High Ropes Course as their final adventure of the two-week camp that included an expedition too!

From Our Camp Parents

I've been meaning to email you to say what a WONDERFUL time Lucie (and Abby) had at camp the week of August 5th. You have something very special going...!

My son had such a fantastic time at CW this past summer. I'm so happy to have him following in my footsteps and enjoying the ministries at CW. Thank you.



Through the Year at CW

Bone chilling, wind howling
 Snow blowing, lake frozen
 Trees bending low with heavy snow
 Eerie silence...

Light breeze, bare trees
 Lake thawing,
 Sand, not snow, piling high on the beach
 Some sounds
 Still very quiet...

Hammering, pounding
 Pipes turning, rakes raking,
 Birds nesting, chirping
 Lake gently rolling clear...

Give a yell, a good substantial yell!!
 The kids are here, you can tell
 Towels by the beautiful blue lake.
 Ice cream churning, canoes paddling
 Sails billowing, whistles blowing
 Cars and busses come and go.
 Let's see that talent show!

Council fire, caper scores,
 There's so much more Jesus has in store
 Counselors warm and friendly
 White gulls soar the air
 Chipmunks, squirrels, raccoons chasing everywhere...

Restful again
 Sailors, fathers and sons, alumni and workers,
 Fill the air with plans and fun!
 Maple trees lose their red leaves and deck the pines
 Splendid color better than any Christmas tree.

Quietness descends
 Water off, compressors quiet
 Boats, nets, books, lost and found packed away
 What is resting is really growing, straining
 Underground, under leaves and in people
 To burst forth again!

Property Report

Bill Gourlay

Keeping up the physical property of Camp Westminster may not seem as exciting as the life-changing stories we hear from camp program and trips, but there is actually some pretty cool stuff going on! Apart from general fix-up and beautification of the camp which is making a tremendous impact, there is also some new adventure housing: yurts (the round tent-like structures with wood lattice walls covered in fabric, used for centuries by nomads in central Asia). An adult work-camp from the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills built one this summer. (For more, see the Special 2008 Camper Edition of the Greenie Gazette, published in September.) The strategic plan for the camp includes building a community of two or three more yurts, 10 feet up in the air and interconnected with an adventure boardwalk!

The first leg of the adventure boardwalk is already built, thanks to the help of the men's group from St. Timothy Presbyterian Church in Livonia (*shown in photo below*). It makes a low-impact pathway over the swamp, with "lily pad" stepping stones, a high bridge over a huge fallen tree, and a plank bridge suspended on wires, all leading to a wrap-around deck on the first yurt. This will eventually interconnect with the tree yurts. And it will keep the foot traffic off the forest floor, so the natural beauty of that part of the forest will remain intact!

This is all located adjacent to the existing Prayer Trail, behind the Guest House. However, the intention is that the two paths may cross (one above the other) but not be used interchangeably. This will help to preserve the sanctity of the Prayer Trail, as well as the environment!



A Spiritual Retreat: The Holland House in Roscommon



One of the well-appointed bedrooms in the newly acquired Holland House features two comfortable antique beds, a rocker and a restored dresser.

Through generous donations to Camp Westminster, the Holland House was rescued in spring 2008, with a vision to use it for individuals, families and church leaders. Under the creative eye of Mary LeBlanc, the house has been decorated with antiques and plush linens, cookware and a donated washer/dryer set to offer a comfortable retreat for all who stay there.

This past summer, the house was used for camper parents enroute, visiting cooks as well as volunteers who helped with marketing, the Camp Store, and property improvement. Visiting pastors and musicians also used the house. The program benefitted greatly due to the assistance of these folks and this was possible because we could offer accommodations at the Holland House. Call the Camp Office and book your stay today!



Due to the popularity of the first mat, a second watermat was added this summer (thanks to all the generous donations to the Summer Dreams campaign). Great for play, swim lessons, sunning and general coordination ability, the camp has one in each swim area.

From the Office of Development

The results of the Summer Dreams 2008 Campaign are in. The goal was \$41,345, and \$43,905 was actually received from 184 donors. A major thank you to all who participated! This funding enabled 35 boys and girls to enjoy a week of camp and purchased needed items for the program too.

Are you planning any **online** holiday gift shopping this year? If so, why not use the Christian World Network Marketplace at www.campwestminster.com? Find the link on the front page of the website. You'll find over 1,000 merchants with whom to place an order. Camp Westminster earns a small commission from each purchase placed in this way, but there is no cost to the buyer at all.

Did you know you can donate to the camp automatically now? Hit "support camp", and go to the "give online" page. Scroll down to the "frequency" field. There you can indicate automatic deductions from your credit card on a periodic basis. Thank you for your consideration of the camp in your holiday charity giving.

Visit the Holland House online at
campwestminster.com/hollandhouse.html

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What's Happening?

Winter/Spring 2009

March 15	Camp Registration Sunday & International Market Westminster Church of Detroit
April 1	Early Registration Deadline
May 15-17	Spring Cleanup Weekend
June 14 11:00am	2009 Staff Commissioning Service Westminster Church
June 21	Westminster-by-the-Lake services begin

Yep, it is online already! See the
2009 summer camp schedule
at www.campwestminster.com

"A Model for Real Life..."



Feedback from the 2008 Pre-Leadership Development Trainees revealed the power of the adventure known as an outtrip. They took a trip on the Au Sable (*fitting lifejackets properly in photo above*). Austin Bloom said, "The outtrip pushes your own limits and helps you get to know yourself better." "On an outtrip, it is a model for real life," shared another camper.