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GREENIE GAZETTE

Fall 2005
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The Newsletter of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake

Camp Calendar

2005	
Nov. 20 & Dec. 4	International Market, 12 p.m. Westminster Church of Detroit
2006	
March 12	Camp Sunday: Worship 11 a.m. Westminster Church of Detroit
April 1	Early Bird Registration Deadline!
May 26-29	Spring Cleanup Weekend
June 11	Summer Staff Commissioning
July 1-5	Family Camp
July 7-9	Alumni Canoe Trip & Weekend
July 15	MADD Camp Performance
Oct. 13-15	Lumberjack Work Weekend

Addendum Published

To celebrate 80 years of ministry on Higgins Lake, an addendum to *The Touch of Influence* (published in 2000), was published in July 2005: 32 more pages of history that fits nicely into the back cover (with a handy self-adhesive strip!) of the existing book, or stands alone. Here is a sampling of what is in the addendum:



history from 1925-present, Wildwood memorabilia, names from the original Cave bathroom walls, staff commissioning litany, memories from alumni and staff, group photos from all decades and more!

If you have the book, you need the addendum too! Purchase it as a gift for someone and spread the word: mark 80 years of changing lives at Camp

Westminster on Higgins Lake for only \$5.00! Go to www.campwestminster.com and click on the camp store tab or call the camp office at 313-341-8969.



LEFT: MADD campers attempt the Funky Chicken at the opening campfire; BELOW: A new generation of canoeists takes to Higgins Lake during a sunny morning canoe class; BELOW LEFT: Summer staff who swam to Treasure Island: Peter Tweed, Ashley Widrig, Frankie Ward, Julie Gruber and Karen Milam.



Treasure Island Swim

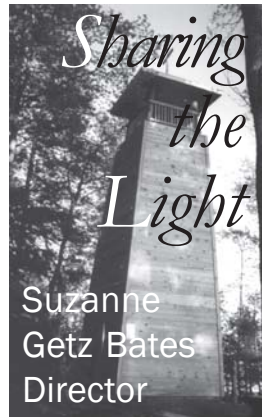
Julie E. Gruber

We had heard the legends, seen the shiny awards, and dreamed big dreams for the last few summers. We knew that it was possible with the right amount of wind, the right current, the perfect water temperature, a trustworthy boat to follow, a little practice, and of course- the requisite pound of Crisco slathered all over our bodies. A day before the alumni arrived for the 80th Anniversary Alumni Weekend this past July seemed like the perfect moment. Conditions were ideal. We- Frankie, Ashley, Peter, Karen, and myself- were ready to swim from camp to the island.

We set off in the late morning hours as the sun was just starting to warm everything up. The pontoon boat, captained by Colter, Julia, and Raefious, came into a steady (eh-hem) pace beside us as we hit the darker waters of Higgins Lake past the drop-off of the Camp waterfront. We were off, past the safety of the buoys towards adventure, heading in a "straight" line towards the island.

Now a word about Crisco for all of you future island-swimmers: even though it seems like a swell idea at the time to take the chill out of Higgins Lake, it is probably not a smart move. Here are a couple of reasons why: 1) Crisco is used for baking. Spread generously on, the sun over Higgins Lake will bake your Crisco-battered body, possibly leaving a nice tan line on your forehead where your swimcap had been. 2) Water does not wash away grease. The Crisco will get everywhere- including your goggles- and will still be there even after a good shower. 3) No one will want to give you a congratulatory hug when you are finished.

Back to the swim. After about an hour or so, cold and exhaustion set in. Like kids in a car on a long drive, we started wondering how much further. Colter assured us that we were "half-way there" at least six times. I think we finally gave up asking and just swam the best we could. We all encouraged each other stroke after stroke and after a little over two hours we started seeing sand again. After a fight with a strong current around the island, we touched land exhausted but happy. We recorded the moment on video so that future generations could watch this historical moment and jetted off on the pontoon boat back to camp.



What A Wonderful Summer!

Campers, counselors, mission workcampers, alumni, families and staff enjoyed the continual beauty of Higgins Lake (below) and the warmth of Christian community at Camp!



- 535** WORSHIPPERS AT WESTMINSTER-BY-THE-LAKE
- 80+** ITEMS DONATED FOR THE ALUMNI WEEKEND AUCTION
- 646** TOTAL SUMMER 2005 CAMPERS
- \$21,565** GOAL FOR 2005 SUMMER DREAMS
- \$30,239** ACTUAL MONEY RAISED FOR SUMMER DREAMS
- 2** ALUMNI W AWARDS GIVEN TO JIM & JUNE GULLBERG AND BILL & RUTH JONES
- 140** MUGS MADE BY ALUM SUE KOLB FOR THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY
- 100** ALUMNI WHO ENJOYED SUN, WATER, CRAFTS, CLIMBING AND REMINISCING AT THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CW

Property Report

Bill Gourlay

It seems like I always say this, but we got a tremendous number of things done at camp this year, and there are still many things to do. There is no question about it: we are gaining on the fight to maintain and upgrade the property.

Let's start with a list of some of this year's accomplishments: An extreme makeover of the Cave bathroom is the talk of the camp; you have to see it to believe it. Bio-logs were installed along the lakeshore to help rebuild the beach, and they are actually working in spite of my skepticism as to their usefulness. We built a utility trailer (like a hay wagon with stake sides) using an old trailer frame, which can be pulled around camp behind the Cushman Truckster, or can be used on the highway with a regular vehicle towing it, and it has proved to be extremely useful in several ways. We built new group initiatives on the low ropes course, including a "Whale Watch" and "Traffic Jam".

We put a premium roof on all the low slope areas around the Dining Hall (porch and offices): this means Jim no longer has to use an umbrella at his desk when it rains, and the waste basket in the phone booth doesn't fill with water any more! We replaced the old washing machines in the laundry room, as well as the sorry old volleyball net that was tied to trees with a regulation sized net with professional grade aluminum poles. We fixed the riding lawn mower, got new brakes on the Truckster, new batteries in the three wheel electric cart, and an additional golf car which among other things transports our older guests from the parking lot to the Chapel silently, safely, and without stinky smoke like the old gas powered cart.

We have a good start on the rebuild of the collapsing floor in the little log Director's Office. Last year's wakeya porch replacement project that pleased so many people had its crowning jewel installed this year on Wakeya One.

With all that, you might think we could rest on our laurels now, but no way! The never-ending battle to maintain window screens continued but needs more work. The Wakeya porch replacement could really use some wrap around steps on a couple other cabins similar to #1 and #8. Flooring repair in the wakeyas continues. It's already time to repaint the ceilings in the new Greenies and there is always another cabin to re-roof. There will always be a need for volunteer work groups, donations, and skilled maintenance personnel.

Higgins Lake Haven Wake-Up Wakeyas!

Frankie Ward

Facilities at camp have greatly improved. From porches on the Greenies, to sinks on the Dining Hall porch, new elements on the high ropes course and most recently - in my opinion most importantly - the transformation of the Cave bathroom. For years I have been pestering Suzanne and Bill to do something because by August 2004, I think a few new diseases could have been discovered in there!! Bill met me at the Detroit airport in June and informed me that this summer he had a special project I would be excited about. When I found out it was the Cave bathroom, I danced in my seat! I told Bill how the female staff would really like a new mirror, more light and paint over the "Westminster green". Bill gave me his 'I have something up my sleeve' grin and then informed me of the structural transformation of the bathroom: a separate toilet, a changing area in the shower and a new floor.

The project lasted for about four weeks of the summer and Bill and Chuck worked very hard to complete it. We would peek into the Cave to inspect the progress. After the completion, the women moved back into the Cave and the bathroom is wonderful and luxurious! We even have heat lamps for those cold Westminster mornings. I really appreciate the new hot water heater, which can last for ages- we don't have to share showers or implement the two-minute rule after free swim! Thank you!

These Cave improvements were underwritten by a generous bequest from the trusts of Dr. Robert E. and Mrs. Charlotte J. Bogue.

VISITED THE CAMP WEBSITE RECENTLY?
VIEW 2005 ALUMNI WEEKEND AND SUMMER CAMP PHOTOS, SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS, AND SEE THE CAVE BATHROOM TOO!
www.campwestminster.com

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Karen Gullberg Cook (Thumper)

Wake up Wakeyas - the alumni are running, To you, for a spruce-up to make you look stunning! While outside you now sport new decks of fine wood, Inside you crave alumni to make you look good. If you can wait until August for your special make-over, The alumni will gather for their work weekend take-over.

Then your interiors will get an awesome renewal, And again, you will be a treasured camp jewel!

Tell the chipmunks to scam for the weekend's duration, 'Cause alumni will crowd in for their mini-vacation. Like work camps of past at the end of camp season, When staff stayed to help - a laudable reason, This camp will feature fellowship and laughs, Free swim, fires, camp food, and even some crafts.

So, when you hear sixties tunes on a boom box, You'll see alumni amassing on Higgins Lake's docks. Then empty your u-buckets, throw open your doors, 'Cause you will be gussied from ceilings to floors! They'll remove with relish your inappropriate graffiti, So wish for a big turn-out - a worthwhile entreaty!

Save the date: August 25-27, 2006, for the revival of the traditional end-of-summer work camp! Whether you are a Baby Boomer, or a member of the Boomerang generation, the Camp Westminster Alumni Committee wants to see YOU at the Wake-Up Wakeya Work Weekend.



"Memories Linger On" July 8-10, 2005: Alumni could be seen on guided tours, pontoon boat rides, climbing the Lighthouse, sailing, swimming, and enjoying high tea on the porch of the Dining Hall!