

# GREENIE GAZETTE

SPRING 2005  
VOL. 14, No. 1



*The Newsletter of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake*



*Shiver me timbers! A cookout brings out the pirate in some of the 2004 summer staff: Lizzy Humphreys, Frankie Ward, Lisa Gourlay and Ravinder Garcha.*

## Camp Westminster Receives PEACE Award

Camp Westminster was honored to receive the hallmark award in cultural exchange: the 2004 **PEACE AWARD** from Camp America. It stands for **P**roviding **E**xceptional **A**venues for **C**ultural **E**xchange. In a letter accompanying the beautiful plaque that is proudly displayed at Westminster Church, Camp America wrote:

“We are pleased to honor Camp Westminster with the **PEACE** Award for your first class preparation of international staff prior to arrival in the USA, for integrating them with the American staff and using their knowledge and ideas to broaden perspectives of different ways of life and for promoting cultural diversity. Your camp has provided a true American experience to the internationals that spent the summer at camp, and they felt truly cared for and had their unique needs respected and looked out for. In all, Camp America feels privileged to place international participants at Camp Westminster where their cultural exchange experience is truly the best of the best.”

## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Auction Scheduled

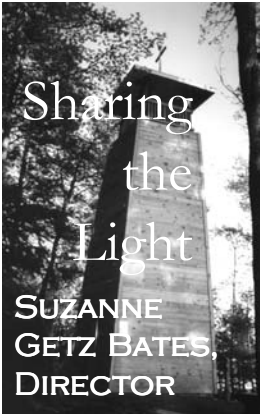
A live and silent auction has been scheduled as part of the Camp Westminster 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration July 8-10, 2005. The event will take place on Saturday, July 9. Proceeds will support the continued renovation of Camp Westminster.

Already donated are: 1 registration for the Fall Canoe Trip; “Jerry” cans from the out-trip room; a weekend at Van Dusen Lodge; pontoon ride and dinner for four on Higgins Lake; a weekend at the camp Guest House; 1 camp rocker hand decorated by Judith Weenink Schoonover.

Additional sale items are needed. Suggestions include: old photos (or copies), songbooks, souvenirs, postcards, coupon books; weekend(s) at a cottage or getaway; sporting event or theater tickets; night at a bed & breakfast; home-baked goodies; frequent flyer miles; picnic or dinner for four; etc. So, get those Camp Westminster creative juices flowing, and let us hear from you.

Email your ideas to Nancy in the camp office: [info@campwestminster.com](mailto:info@campwestminster.com). Or call 313-341-8969.

*Is there an auctioneer out there who would contribute his/her services for this special event?*



Research released by the American Camp Association (ACA) and the Presbyterian Panel continue to provide scientific evidence that summer camp is a powerful growth experience for young people. In the first large-scale national research project designed to measure outcomes of the camp experi-

ence ACA found that parents, camp staff and campers all reported significant growth in four areas: Positive Identity, Social Skills, Physical and Thinking Skills and Positive Values and Spirituality.

In addition the Presbyterian Panel reported that two-thirds of members and elders and nine in ten ministers recall “one particular learning or spiritual growth experience that had great significance” in shaping their Christian life. The most common setting for a singular spiritual growth experience is a *camp*! Please contact me if you would like additional information about these studies or look for them online at [www.ACAcamps.org](http://www.ACAcamps.org) and [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).

Overall results of both studies suggest that children and youth realize spiritual growth

*continued*

## From the Archives - 1953



*Perfecting their strokes before paddling on Higgins Lake, campers participate in canoeing class at Girls Camp.*

from even one week at camp. In addition they benefit from camp in the following ways: “they become more adventurous and willing to try new things, grow more independent and show more leadership qualities, develop more social skills that help them make new friends and become more confident and experience increased self esteem.”

Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake has indeed been “Changing Lives Since 1925!”

## Site Improvements

“The camp is really looking good!” – This is what I hear from many of you who have had the opportunity to visit Higgins Lake. “It looks pretty much like I remember it from years ago, only better – not so tired and worn.” Wow! This is music to my ears. Not only did we succeed in our goal of not changing the “feel” of the camp with many improvements but managed to restore the old buildings to look better than they did in the 1960s.

So just what did we accomplish in the last year? We started off with a major re-build of the floor in the Health Center and interior finishes to Walden Lodge (the old showerhouse which is now male staff quarters). We also did some major interior improvements to the Kiva side rooms and Nature Cabin. We went on to re-do many of the Wakeya porches that were crumbling and add a screened porch to Walden Lodge. Two more buildings were re-roofed (with 40 buildings there are always some to re-roof!) and since 2004 was the year of the floor, we restored floors in Wakeyas, the Nature Cabin, and the above-mentioned Health Center project.

Are we all done now? Ha! We’ve only just begun! Floor restorations will continue, the Dining Hall porch will need a new roof, the Cave could use some bathroom improvements... you get the idea. This is an on-going list, but we are winning the battle against deterioration little by little, and it shows!

**-Bill Gourlay, Maintenance Supervisor**

## “God’s Calling”: Summer Camp 2005

This summer’s schedule promises to be exciting as Camp Westminster celebrates 80 years of ministry on Higgins Lake! Register now using your 2005 brochure or register online.

*Below: A sunny morning Bible Quest on Higgins Lake.*



From a 2004 camper’s letter:  
*(filled with tiny hearts and shiny sprinkles  
that fell out all over the floor!)*

“Dear Camp Westminster,  
I loved camp! I’ve been bragging about camp to everyone all summer long. I thought camp was completely awesome. I can’t wait to come back next year!”

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## Wilderness Men Relocate Totem Pole

For the 2004 Alumni Weekend a special invitation was issued to any man who attended the 1960s Wilderness Program spearheaded by Dr. Dale Small. Six men showed up (pictured below) including: Paul Tarr, Jim Allison, Jim Murton, Rich Cain, Bill Gourlay and Cliff Alan. Besides the normal reminiscing enjoyed by these fellows, they re-located the totem pole which stood next to the Director’s Office, to the inside of O’Dell Dining Lodge. At one time the pole was kept outside only while camp was in session during the summer months. But in recent years, it has been left outdoors year-round. Now it is permanently inside where it is mounted on the wall adjacent to the copper tipis each Wilderness camper was assigned to make. The men also wrote letters to Dale Small who directed the program for nine years.

While relaxing at camp, Rich Cain noticed that there were no ping pong tables in good condition and that these would be needed for the 80<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2005. So Rich, along with Jim Allison, offered to purchase a new table. It has been ordered and will be in place ready for this summer. Rich is planning to bring his own paddle. Which brave alum will be willing to take him on?



# 2004 Camp Westminster Donors

Camp Westminster is very grateful for the 2004 gifts listed below. The gift total was \$119,684.82 from 322 donors. The number following each name denotes the number of years the donor has supported the camp financially. Records have been kept since 1998. In 2003 \$113,006.65 from 324 donors was received.

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*2004 Family Campers Tina Claypoole and daughters Carolyn and Katy with their family buddy Rachel Callister of New Zealand.*



**GREENIE GAZETTE**  

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*continued on next page*

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## Jeanne Ellison Lowrie Murton

### Endowment

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Anonymous  
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## James Brian Weenink Endowed Campership Fund

James and Suzanne Bates  
Anonymous (in honor of Al Weenink)  
Judith Weenink Schoonover in honor of Jeffrey Weenink's and John Weenink's birthdays. Virginia and Allan Weenink celebrated a number of birthdays at Camp Westminster on July 4 and 6, respectively. Our family continues to remember camp as one of the most foundational experiences in the tapestry of our lives. "Time and change shall not prevail!"

Mary Ann Stygstra  
John Weenink (in honor of Judie and Al & Virginia)  
Al & Virginia Weenink

## Memories Linger On

What do you remember about your camp days? The ringing of the bell...the sound of waves lapping on the shore...worshipping in the chapel... laughing and singing...the crackling of a campfire... canoeing the Au Sable...drinking bug juice...walking to the Greenie...the scent of pine...? Many of these can be experienced once again at the Camp Westminster's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration! Alumni, families and friends are invited to be a part of the festivities on July 8-10, 2005.

Possibly the best part of the weekend will be seeing that the old camp we love is still a vibrant force, creating memories for hundreds of campers each summer. As you know, each of those children's lives will be touched by their experiences; their lives will be enriched, as ours were, by the lessons of God's love and the beauty of God's creation. Come and celebrate the impact Camp Westminster has had and continues to have on so many lives!

Don't forget to mail your alumni survey (the green sheet you received) with photos and memories for the addendum to *The Touch of Influence*- or complete it online! **Do this by May 1!**

## Green-E-News

Are you on the camp's e-mail list? The first issue of *Green-E-News* went out in mid-March. Did you get yours? If not, just send your e-address to [info@campwestminster.com](mailto:info@campwestminster.com) and we'll keep you updated approximately monthly on the latest camp news, summarized in a few paragraphs from the shores of Higgins Lake.

Multiple gifts from the same donor are listed once. If you have already given in 2005, your name will be published in the Spring '06 issue of the *Greenie Gazette*. If you prefer a different name format, please send a note to the Camp or indicate so with your next donation. We regret any omissions or other errors. Please notify us with corrections.

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# What's Happening?

| <i>Spring/ Summer 2005</i> |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| May 27-30                  | Spring Clean-up Weekend at Camp                                       |
| June 12                    | Summer Staff Commissioning 11am<br>Westminster Church of Detroit      |
| June 19                    | Summer Camp begins!   |
| June 26                    | Westminster-by-the-Lake worship<br>services begin (through August 21) |
| July 2                     | Westminster Church Day Trip<br>Higgins Lake Open House 12-4pm         |
| July 2-6                   | Family Camp   |
| July 8-10                  | Alumni Weekend: 80th Anniversary<br>Celebration "Memories Linger On"  |
| July 16                    | MAD Camp Performance 10:30am<br>Frehse Hall                           |

WHERE CAN YOU REGISTER FOR CAMP, FILL OUT AN ALUMNI SURVEY, ASK A QUESTION, DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED CANOE PADDLES, SEND IN YOUR BEST DUTCH OVEN RECIPE, AND ORDER SOME CAMP GEAR? **CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE [WWW.CAMPWESTMINSTER.COM](http://WWW.CAMPWESTMINSTER.COM)!**

## Westminster-by-the-Lake

Worship each Sunday this summer at 11am in the beautiful outdoor chapel at Camp Westminster. You can arrive by car or boat and the dress is casual. Each Sunday will have a different guest preacher and special music by the camp staff. All are welcome at the services, which begin on Sunday, June 26 and go through Sunday, August 21, 2005.