



The Newsletter of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake

Changing Lives: CW Skipper Goes to South Africa



Former camper and staff member **Katie Layman** recently spent 5 months with Janine Hansen, a former CW program director, health officer and counselor, in South Africa. Janine is the Operations Director for The President's Award for Youth Empowerment (<http://www.presidentsaward.co.za/>). Katie assisted Janine as they traveled around the country setting up programs. The camp committee provided a scholarship to help with this effort. Look for Katie this summer on a sailboat at Higgins Lake and ask her about her amazing experiences in South Africa and her own progress in achieving the President's Award!

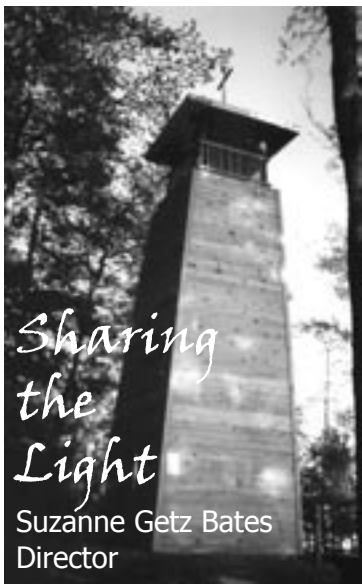
My volunteer work in South Africa was for The President's Award for Youth Empowerment (TPA). The mission of TPA is to empower young people between the ages of 14 and 25 by providing a balanced, non-competitive framework for self-development that will increase their self-esteem and enhance their capacity to achieve in whatever context they find themselves. It enables them to become responsible, active citizens within their communities. Much of my work was to assist with administrative tasks; however, I did help lead tennis lessons and hikes for participants! I was also able to travel to see the country, some wild animals, and past counselors!

Initially I was quite nervous committing myself to five months in a foreign country. But having worked at Camp Westminster with such a diverse group of staff from all over the world – including two summers with Janine Hansen as Program Director – reassured me that if they could do it, so could I! It was Camp Westminster that gave me the grounding, support, and confidence to take what I was teaching to the youth in the sailing and Leadership Development programs and apply it to my own life. Going abroad to give back what I had received was an amazing experience which I attribute to the grace of God and my beloved involvement with Camp Westminster. As Janine frequently reminded me, "the will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot protect you."



Top: Hiking with youth from Tanyi Township, Katie uses outdoor leadership skills to lead the adventurous journey portion of TPA (2 nights out & a 48km hike).

Below: TPA youth come from a variety of backgrounds- some speak english, some attend school, some try to find work. All youth who apply are accepted .



The Power of Play

Dr. David Elkind, internationally renowned child development expert, urges parents to add more play to their children's lives. Some American children seem to be in constant motion—their schedules packed with homework, lessons, and organized sports. With a lack of time for good, old-fashioned

play, Elkind warns that there can be health and psychological consequences. Read his book, *The Power of Play: How Spontaneous, Imaginative Activities Lead to Happier and Healthier Children*,

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) concurs with Dr. Elkind. In a recent report, AAP concludes that free and unstructured play is healthy and—in fact—essential for helping children reach important social, emotional, and cognitive developmental milestones as well as helping them manage stress and become resilient.

Elkind, the keynote speaker for the 2007 American Camp Association National Conference, states that traditional summer camp is an oasis for children. “Not only does summer camp provide children relief from the pressures to achieve, it reacquaints children with the natural world, with the importance of friendship, cooperation, and the fragility of the environment in which we live. The traditional summer camp recognizes that play is a powerful form of learning that contributes mightily to the child's healthy physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development.”

Why not give your child or grandchild the gift of time in nature at Camp Westminster this summer?



Ready, Set, Camp!

News about summer 2007 plans

Guess what? **Two-week sessions are back!** Sign up for: Just Camp (includes Gone Fishin') [ages 7-11]; Just Camp Plus, Sailing I, Sailing II [ages 12-17]; or Pre-Leadership Development Training & Leadership Development Training [ages 15, 16-17].

Camp fees are **discounted through May 15-** register and pay in full by that date to get the best deal.

Workcamps will be joining us from Presbyterian Churches in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. We love the ministry these volunteers provide to keep camp looking great!

Have you seen the **new porch and deck on Wakeya 11?** This will enhance that cabin and provide more small group meeting space.

A group of teens will join us from Stronghold Center in Illinois for the **Green Connection** when we'll do our part to help the environment- don't miss this new camp if you are 15-17 years old.

Worship at **Westminster-by-the-Lake** each Sunday at 11 am. Come by boat or car for inspiring messages and beautiful music.



We Want Your Muscle for the Spring Cleanup

The spring work weekend is May 4-6, 2007. We need volunteers to help clean and set up camp much earlier than in the past. So dig out the cleaning supplies, grab your tools, rakes, and work gloves, and build up those muscles. We need you to help us make sure Camp Westminster is ready to change lives this summer. Email the camp office or call 313.341.8969 to save your spot!

Camp Community Mourns Beloved Camp Leaders: Weenink, Small, Bowden Reed

During the 13 months between February 2006 and March 2007, three beloved camp leaders entered the church triumphant. On February 4, 2006 in Holland MI, Allan J. Weenink; August 13, 2006 in Penney Farms FL, H. Dale Small [see memory on page 7]; and March 9, 2007 in Tucson AZ, Marguerite Bowden Reed. Al was Director of Boys Camp 1950-1958. Dale was Director of Boys Camp 1962-1967 and Camp Director 1968. Marguerite was Director of Girls Camp 1949-1958.

A story about Al Weenink (1921-2006) concerns his first year as Director of Boys Camp in 1950. It rained 18 of the 28 days of camp until the area around the lodge was one enormous puddle. Many activities had to be held indoors, and the program folks became rather inventive at keeping the boys involved. A little humor also aided in dealing with the situation. Thus the camp gained the name for that summer of "scenic Lake Weenink". Al was particularly knowledgeable in the field of stewardship. He wrote, taught, and

continued

Westminster Church of Detroit Celebrates 150th Birthday

On October 6, 2007, Westminster Church of Detroit will celebrate its 150th anniversary. This is an exciting time! It's a time for the church to look back at history, and also to look ahead at the future of the ministry. There will be programs and activities for all ages. Save the weekend of October 6-7, come greet old friends and make new ones as this special event is celebrated.

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preached frequently on the subject. Several years ago Al and Virginia established an endowed campership fund in memory of their son James Brian. Earnings from the fund are used to help financially challenged families send their children to camp on Higgins Lake.

Marguerite Bowden Reed (1921-2007) was fondly called "Clipper" which she earned from her considerable sailing skills. (She even sailed across Lake Michigan.) She had an influential impact on many, one of whom was Barbara Mabee Vanhoutte. Attending the camp for 12 summers Barbara recounts, "For reasons that can only be accounted for as grace, she chose to involve herself in my life, taking me to Lansing to her mother's home or out to the cottage for water-skiing with her family. The bond was forged for a lifetime of love and respect between us. She drove me from Detroit to school in Chicago a couple of times. Those long drives provided hours of uninterrupted talk as I went from girlhood into young adulthood, wrestling with all the life decisions that present themselves at that age."

Wanda Gearhart Richards assisted Marguerite before serving as Director of Girls Camp herself in 1959. She relates that Marguerite's leadership style was marked by a wisdom and cheerfulness always earning the respect of those around her. **A memorial service for Marguerite has been scheduled for Saturday, April 28 at 3:30 p.m. in South Baptist Church, 5250 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing MI.**

Girls' Camp Directors Clipper and Al meet to go over the day's activities in 1955.



2006 Camp Westminster Donors

Camp Westminster appreciates the support received from the 2006 donors listed below. The gift total was \$113,780 from 258 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 2005 \$105,725 from 245 donors was received.

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Campers, under the tutelage of outdoor specialist and counselor Stuart Kyle, erect a floating flagpole in Rustic last summer.



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2006 Camp Westminster Donors



Facepainting is very popular at the carnival for ages 7-11!

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A Memory of H. Dale Small

H. Dale Small (1916-2006) was the founder of the Wilderness Camp program in which seven 16-year-old young men were invited each summer to hone their survival skills by designing their shelter, cooking their meals, and taking care of the needs of the group in a remote part of the camp for four weeks. Toward the end of their time together they were taken out of camp on a trip where they had to cope for several days without the normal provisions and equipment expected.

For the 2004 Alumni Weekend, six men returned who had persevered through a summer in Wilderness. They moved the totem pole, symbolic of the Wilderness program, into O'Dell Lodge. It is permanently mounted on the wall adjacent to the copper tipis each Wilderness camper made.

James Brian Weenink Endowed Campership Fund

In memory of Allan J. Weenink by Scott & Kerry Baker, James & Suzanne (Getz) Bates, Suzanne Ray & Charlyss (Ray) Brandon, John & Janet Bultrud, Camp Henry, Kathy & John Campbell, Rev. Dick & Sally (Stockwell) Frazier, Catherine L. Graham, Judith C. Honor, Fred & Connie Hubbell, Mark & Kathy Johnson, Bill & Ruth Jones, Kathy & Tom Markus, Gerard Marsh & Doris Buddemeier, Mr. & Mrs. James McCue, James & Sue Ann Murton, Mark E. Nichols, Gale L. Ring, Ann (Thomas) Scheel, James Schelhaas, Mary Ann Stygstra, Nona 'Che-Che' (Williston) Taylor, John & Gerritje ter Avest, Simon & Denise ter Avest, Marjorie Ver Merris, John A. Weenink, Virginia Weenink, Burnie & Elinor Wiersma, Doris B. Worthington

In memory of Dr. James J. Snider by Dave Snider

In honor of John Weenink's birthday by Judith (Weenink) Schoonover

In honor of Judie Weenink's birthday and Christmas by John A. Weenink

In honor of Virginia Weenink by John A. Weenink

From the Office of Development

The seventh consecutive campaign for Summer Dreams is about to begin! Camp Westminster was selected by Free Press Charities again to receive matching funds of up to **\$19,675** for gifts recorded during the months of May and June. This money, the most ever underwritten by the Skillman Foundation, when matched will equal a potential **\$39,350** and will be used for the following: **camperships, mattresses, archery equipment, kayaks, lifejackets, climbing equipment, aluminum dock sections, and water recreational apparatus.** Every item has been carefully chosen to enhance the experience of our campers this summer. But your help is needed to make the campaign succeed. When your letter arrives, please give during the month of May since matching funds run out very quickly (last year by mid-June). Your support helps now and guarantees the camp's future. A million thanks!

Multiple gifts from the same donor are listed once. If you have already given in 2007, your name will be published in the Spring '08 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.



Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake
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Inside...

2006 Donor Report

Beloved Camp Leaders

What's Happening?

Spring/Summer 2007

May 4-6	Spring Clean-up/ Open Up Camp!
June 10	Summer Staff Commissioning 11 am Westminster Church of Detroit
June 17	Westminster-by-the-Lake worship services begin 11 am (thru August 19) Summer Camp begins!
June 23	Music Camp Performance 10 am Frehse Hall
July 1	Visitor Sunday Worship 11 am; Lunch 12:15 pm
July 3-7	Family Camp
August 25-27	Wake-Up Wakeya Work Weekend

Visitor Sunday is Back

Come to Camp July 1, 2007

Many of you reading this remember the Sundays when your parents and family visited you at camp. For that special occasion everyone wore the traditional "whites". This year **Sunday, July 1 has been designated as Visitor Sunday**. Worship in the chapel will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch in the dining lodge. The afternoon will be open for swimming, sailing, canoeing, meandering around camp, or just rocking on the front porch. Join us for this special time! The cost will be \$10/person for lunch and all activities. It helps with planning if you let us know you are coming (313.341.8969).

If you cannot come on that day, worship services will be conducted each Sunday June 19 – August 19 at 11 am. All are welcome.

Summer wakeya lists are growing!

Register online today at

www.campwestminster.com