



The Newsletter of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake

Spotlight on Staff: Amy Gauci

A conversation with Camp Westminster's current waterfront director

So Amy- you've worked at camp for how many years now and in what capacity? I am fortunate enough to say this will be my fourth summer returning to the trails of Camp Westminster. The first two years I was a counselor who stayed in the cabins with the kids. Last year and this year I have the joy of spending my days in Higgins Lake as the waterfront director.

What keeps bringing you back? If anyone has ever been up to Camp, they know what a magical place it is. When you combine that magic with the energy and spirit the kids bring, there is no better place to be. And even though I think there is no better place around, it is the joy each child finds and being able to be a part of that experience, that truly brings me back each year.

Did you attend camp as a child and has that influenced you? I went to Camp FaHoLo, standing for Faith Hope and Love, in Grasslake, MI. This is where I made many new friends and fond memories. I attended camp every year (sometimes twice a year) as a kid. I can still tell you the name of every counselor I had, what cabin I stayed in and the theme of each week. I know how much I looked up to my counselors and what an impact one week of camp had on me when I was growing up. I feel blessed I can now be a part of that for a new group of kids.

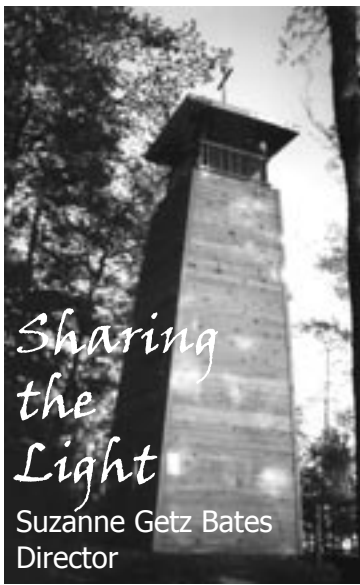
What are you studying to become at Eastern Michigan? Why? I am studying psychology with a minor in coaching with the hopes of working with youth as a career. I am interested in learning outside of the classroom and hope to be a part of a program that offers youth a chance to get involved and experience new things in their community. I also look to coach and play soccer any chance I get.

Is there an experience of working at CW that really stands out as transforming? Every year I go back to Camp Westminster I grow and change. One experience that really sticks out to me is the pure innocence and genuine appreciation when a young girl called me back after the rest of her cabin went outside just to tell me "thanks" - she had fun. It was the last day of an exhausting summer and in that short moment I realized that the entire summer was worth it. The joy it brought one girl to spend a week knowing she was safe and loved was all I needed to justify all the sleep I lost the past few months.

How has working at CW affected your faith? Camp has had a huge impact on my faith, both then and now. Attending camp as a kid was really when I found how great it is to have a relationship with God and how great His love and mercy is. I remember leaving a week of camp so pumped up and excited to share His love. Spending a whole summer at CW is even more incredible and exciting. Not only do I get to experience God in such a real way in the beauty of northern Michigan, but I also get to see how God works in and molds every child that comes to camp. The fire I see in these young children is so encouraging to me that it challenges me to strengthen my own relationship with Christ.



Trained as a facilitator on the ropes courses, as well as the Lighthouse Climb, Amy enjoys leading all types of groups!



100 Years of Presbyterian Camping

Did you ever wonder who lit the first Presbyterian campfire, who fanned the sparks into flames that spread across the decades and turned into a century of camp and conference ministry? Who were the pioneers and leaders who made

the plans, secured the land, built the buildings, developed the programs and inspired the legends?

Much of this has been documented for Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake in *A Touch of Influence*. Camp Westminster is only one of approximately 140 Presbyterian sites around the USA that provide welcome environments for people of all ages to relax, renew and refresh through retreats, summer camp, mission work, group building exercises and diverse conferences.

2008 marks the 100th anniversary of Presbyterian camp & conference ministry! In 1908 the first official conference for Presbyterian young people in the nation was held at Kosciusko Lodge on the shores of Winona Lake in Indiana. It was sparked by the need for youth leadership training events. Mrs. Billy Sunday ("Ma Sunday") gave the property to the Synod of Indiana with the stipulation that Camp Kosciusko continue to be used for leadership training.

This summer on Wednesday June 25th Camp Westminster will participate in Campfires Across the Nation to join in the celebration of 100 Years of Sacred Space. Many Presbyterian sites across the country will be lighting a campfire too. At the same time, the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly will be meeting in San Jose and celebrating.

There is no more common symbol of the camping ministry than the campfire. We'll start with the age old words "Kneel always when you light a fire..." but I invite you to see the campfire with new eyes and understand it with a new heart. In addition to the place for skits, songs and toasting marshmallows, it is the earliest proclamation of the Light of the World.

Summer News for Campers

Wondering about this summer? As we hire staff (including phenomenal new staff from around the world), pore over the summer camp curriculum, purchase new equipment and pray for the summer's participants, here is what we have to share!



- Two-week sessions are available again this year! Studies have **proven the value of consecutive weeks of camp** and we saw it last year- Just Camp was an amazing experience for everyone- staff and campers.

- We are excited to offer a week of camp for kids ages 7-14 with food sensitivities! Many children never experience a week away from home because of food limitations. Check out our new **Gluten Free/ Casein Free Camp!**

- Workcamps will be working on multiple projects this summer- including our **new adventure housing** area. Come visit and look up... yep, in the trees!

- **The leadership track** is really a benefit to any teen. Start with time at camp and end with an outtrip that changes lives. Don't miss it- especially if you are 15 yrs. old!

Register online today at www.campwestminster.com.



We Want Your Muscle for the Spring Cleanup!

Please plan to join us for either weekend- bring your youth group, men's group, mothers' group, leadership board or your family! This is a time to give to your wider church community and help us prepare for another great season of camp. We can't do it alone and **WE NEED HELP!** We'll feed you and promise enriching fellowship, plus a bed to sleep on!

- May 9-11 or

- May 23-26 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Go online (www.campwestminster.com) to let us know you will be there (or call 313.341.8969).

Something's Fishy at Camp Westminster...2 Fish Tales

Big Fish Caught by CW's Caretaker!

During the Higgins Lake Winterfest on February 23rd the buzz around the lake was the gigantic 46-inch, 26.5 pound northern pike caught by Dennis Stachovich. Denny succeeded John Venman as the year round caretaker at Camp Westminster. He was fishing near the sunken island and hadn't landed a fish all day until the monster pike bit his gray minnow. It ranks as the best pike he has caught in 55 years of fishing. He will display it this summer during Just Camp, July 6-19. This is the time of the summer when the camp community enjoys the Annual Fish Fry (cooked by Capt. Bob and a team- see story next column).

Holding a whopping 46-inch pike, Camp Westminster's Denny Stachovich will display the fish for the campers this summer!



The Ministry of Captain Bob

Robert W. Edwards lives near Roscommon where he and Cindy own and operate the Time Emergency Equipment Co. As a boy, Bob attended Camp Westminster in the days of 'Chief' Frehse.

Several years ago Bob stopped by the camp and offered to assist with any program events related to the use of Higgins Lake. The Fishing Camp needed help since there were no more fish to be caught along the camp's waterfront. Bob, who has become 'Captain Bob' to staff and campers, and Camp Westminster began what has become a very happy relationship.

Every year during July, Bob arranges to carry campers and staff to special spots around the lake where they can be almost guaranteed to find lots of fish. The kids and staff have the time of their lives.

Later that week, Bob and Cindy coordinate the Annual Fish Fry for the whole camp. Capt. Bob brings other volunteers to help cook and serve, and he supplies everything for the meal, (for over 100 people) as a donation to the camp. The fish is the best- there are never any leftovers and campers immediately clamor for seconds. Of course the biggest question from the kids is: "Did Capt. Bob *catch* all of this fish?" The camp has come to look forward to this event as a highlight of the summer. A big hearty 'thank you' and 'how-how' to Bob and Cindy for their wonderful generosity!

From the Office of Development

Camp Westminster takes great pleasure in announcing its involvement for the eighth year in the Summer Dreams program sponsored by Free Press Charities and underwritten by the Skillman Foundation.

Our goal this year will be \$43,000 which will be used for camperships and needed items in the camp program for the summer of 2008. To succeed we will need to raise about \$22,000. This will be matched by Free Press Charities.

Please mail your check to the camp office when you receive a letter. Matching funds usually last about six weeks beginning May 1st. **A check during May, therefore, would do the greatest good.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support of this worthwhile program!

The **GREENIE GAZETTE** is published by the Camp Committee of Westminster Church of Detroit, 17567 Hubbell Avenue Detroit, MI 48235 phone 313.341.8969 fax 313.341.8616 www.campwestminster.com



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Camp Westminster is most grateful for the support received from the 2007 donors listed below. The gift total was \$158,806 from 296 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 2006 \$113,780 from 258 donors was received.

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Frehse Society

Members of the Frehse Society are individuals who have contributed a cumulative total of \$5000 or more over the past 10 years. The Frehse Society is named in memory of Robert M. and Lydia King Frehse. Bob 'Chief' Frehse was Associate Pastor of Westminster Church of Detroit and the first director of Camp Westminster.

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Multiple gifts from the same donor are listed once. If you have already given in 2008, your name will be published in the Spring '09 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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2007 Donor Report
 Catching the Big One!

What's Happening?

Spring/Summer 2008

May 9-11 May 23-26	Spring Cleanup/ Open Up Camp!
June 15 11 am	Summer Staff Commissioning Westminster Church of Detroit
June 16	Summer Camp begins!
June 22 11 am	Westminster-by-the-Lake worship services begin (thru August 10)
June 28 10 am	Music Camp Performance Frehse Hall
June 29	Visitor Sunday Worship 11 am; Lunch 12:15 pm
June 29- July 1	You and Me! Camp
July 1-5	Family Camp
Sept. 26-28	Lumberjack Weekend/ Close up Camp

Visitor Sunday

Come to Camp June 29, 2008

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, June 29 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. Register online this year! Go to the camp's website and reserve as many spots as you need!

If you cannot come on that day, worship services will be conducted each Sunday June 22 – August 10 at 11 am. All are welcome.

Summer wakeya lists are growing!

Register online today at

www.campwestminster.com