

# GREENIE GAZETTE

Newsletter of Camp Westminster

Spring 2011 Vol. 20, No. 1



## Capstone Piece to the Leadership Track:

## Westminster to the World Begins



The final part of the leadership track at Camp Westminister will be instituted this summer: a pilgrimage to another culture, mission site and Christian community. Seven high school graduates and three chaperones will travel to the Iona Community in Scotland for a week in mid-June.

"We began dreaming of an opportunity like this 4 years ago," said Assistant Director, Elise Bates Russell. "The intention is to give these campers a view of another authentic community, as well as a chance to reflect on their individual faith journeys."

During the stay at Iona, the group will participate in worship, personal reflection, leadership training, a ceilidh (Scottish party and dancing), a local one-day pilgrimage around the island, and work- each group staying at the Abbey is required to help with cleaning, gardening, food prep and whatever is needed to keep the place going. In other words, capers!

Iona is a spiritual community of people that extends the world over. The actual abbey was rescued and restored in the 1930s by a Presbyterian pastor, George MacLeod. He described Iona as a "thin place" - only a tissue paper separating the material from the spiritual. We like to think that Camp Westminister is a thin place too!

To spend some time in such a historic and inspiring setting is to be open to challenge and the exploration of new horizons. Our group will be on site with three other youth groups from Denmark, Norway and the USA.

At the end of the week at Iona, the group will return to Higgins Lake for another week. In addition to debriefing, the campers will be working through a new curriculum by the Office of Vocation PC(USA)- Listening for God's Call. We see career and calling discernment as a vital part of the leadership track.

Please stay tuned for the fall issue of the Greenie Gazette, when we will share more of this adventure!

Don't miss the homemade ice cream- register for camp online!



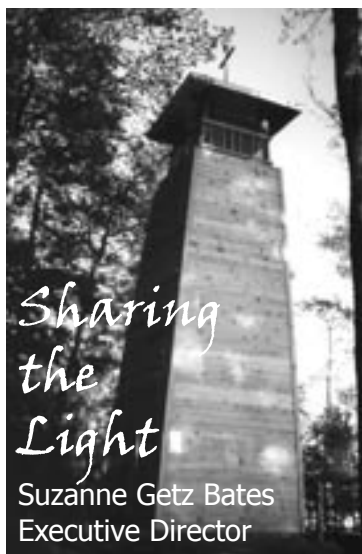
## 12 Years of Partnership for the Music and Drama Camps

Who has more Westminister green paint on them than our wakeyas? Probably most of the youth and adults from Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, Pennsylvania!

A 12 year plus partnership with Calvin has provided CW with staff (Colter McElree, Sam Cummins, Aaron Eisenreich, Laura Findlay); music for worship at camp and Westminister Church of Detroit; workers who have done creative projects (build the Prayer Trail, labyrinth, paint the water tower, biolog installation and more); members for the Strategic Planning team and so much more. Gifts such as a sound system in the dining hall and stage lights in Frehse Fellowship Hall, plus many other individual gifts have enhanced the camp facility and program over the years. Camp has become a very special place for this church family. Thank you, thank you to our western Pennsylvania friends!!

**INSIDE** Legacy campers... The duck survives!... Camp receives Green Leaf Seal... Staff spotlight Higgins Lake Training School opens... 2010 donor report... Are you reading the camp blog?

*Changing Lives Since 1925*



## The Duck Survives!

It was a calm, sunny, July morning on Higgins Lake. Campers finished breakfast, capers and hearing a Bible story in Frehse Hall about caring for one another. They broke up into smaller groups and were getting ready to discuss life applications. One group had just settled in the rocking chairs on the dining hall porch

when they were amazed to see an eagle swoop down into Higgins Lake and pick up a duck. Soon everyone heard an incessant squawking from the lake. The duck's mate never gave up the clamor until the eagle let go of the mate.

The injured duck took refuge under the lift for one of camp's watercraft and we watched the eagle struggle to take off again. Remembering the Bible study, some campers begged us to get help for the duck. An animal shelter was located some miles away but who was going to get the duck in a box wrapped in a towel (as they suggested) after watching the mate go after the eagle? Eventually, the pair quietly left for a more secluded spot. No one will ever forget that sight!

Lives are changed at Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake. Not only do campers watch eagles and draw some pretty exciting conclusions for their own lives, they interact with some of the most skilled youth development specialists around! The experience on Higgins Lake helps children, young people and families experience God's love in a fun, beautiful, outdoor, Christian community. The camp is very grateful to all who contribute their time, gifts and skills toward making the camp a success. Campership donations enable many campers to attend who otherwise could not afford camp. Again and again staff members (think future church and world leaders) quietly tell me, "You know this was the best summer of my life."

Have you interacted with your favorite official camp page on Facebook recently? If not, you are missing out!



## Spotlight on Staff: Lindsay Morris

The Westerman Foundation has consistently supported Camp Westminister in creative ways. In 2010, Kent LoPrete (representative of the Westerman Foundation) responded to a need to retain top quality staff. An academic scholarship was created for a staff member who dedicates two consecutive summers to working at camp. Lindsay Morris is majoring in biology at Grand Valley State University and will graduate in 2013. This summer will be her second summer on staff and she came to Camp as a youngster many years ago!



Lindsay shared, "Since attending and working at CW, I look at life with a new perspective of the beauty in the world. From helping people learn to see a beautiful sunset, I now know how to appreciate and enjoy the gifts God gives us everyday."

## Camp Awarded Green Seal



Camp Westminister has received the 2011 Green Leaf Seal from the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Environmental Ministries and the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association. This honor speaks to the great commitment that Camp has to environmental stewardship.

To receive the 2011 Green Leaf Seal, camp and conference centers must have completed a total of five projects or activities related to environmental stewardship in the areas of facilities, education/program, operations, and outreach.

The Green Leaf Seal is designed to recognize camp and conference centers that care for God's earth by practicing sustainability and educating guests about environmental stewardship.

"Presbyterian camp and conference centers are the perfect places to make connections between our faith and caring for God's earth. Camp Westminister on Higgins Lake has taken great strides in environmental stewardship, and it is exciting to recognize these accomplishments," says Katie Holmes, associate for Environmental Ministries.

## Legacy Campers | The Miller- Erickson Clan

by Susan Miller Erickson



*Campers enjoy the camp houseboat, the Westminny, on Higgins Lake in the 1930s.*

My dad, Bill Miller, was a camper in the early 1930s. He was the waterfront director in the summer of 1942. My dad was raised in Westminster Church of Detroit. He remembers canoeing around the lake for overnight campouts when there was no other development along the lake.

Then “us kids” started going: my brothers Skip Miller, Andy Miller and sisters Martha Miller, Mary Ann Miller and Amy Miller went for many years each in the late 1960s to mid 70s. My cousin Julianne Lyons attended for years too.

The third generation of our family started [attending camp] in the 1990s with Amy’s son Tommie Willis and Martha’s daughter Madeleine Boudreau. My sons Skipper and Britton started in 2007 followed by their cousins (Mary Ann’s kids) Wes

and Anna Erickson. Julianne’s son William Patterson attended and hopefully this year, more members of our family will join the tradition!

[Note from camp office: We have Ericksons signed up for expeditions and on-site camps this year!]

Third generation camper Britton says, “Camp Westminster ROCKS, ” and his older brother, Skipper, adds “I recommend it to all my friends.”

Somewhere I have a photo of me wearing a CW teeshirt on the back of a truck preparing to head out on a canoe trip. Back then we didn’t have cameras so we only have mental images of things we did. I just checked my old scrap book and I have all the letters my counselors wrote to my parents after camp and letters I received at camp.

I love sending my kids to Camp Westminster so they can share in a common experience of what their Grampa did and all of their aunts and uncles. My dad taught us some of the camp songs and when we get together we all sing them. The songs are especially meaningful. So many of them convey a deep love for God and weave His strength into your heart and soul amidst the wilderness setting and the fellowship that is Camp Westminster. We all learned to canoe, start fires, camp and worship in the outdoors. There is something about the smell of the pines, the cold water at the greenies, the daddy longlegs, the green and white wakeyas, the songs and campfires that become “graven on our hearts and minds as through life our journey winds”. It is true, “memories linger on”.

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## 'Come to the Water' Update - Higgins Lake Camp Staff Certification School Planned

Camp Westminster will implement an important part of its strategic plan, *Come to the Water*, in Spring 2011 by opening a training school for camp staff and young adults. Beginning May 31 through June 7, the Higgins Lake Camp Staff Certification School will offer five different training courses.

Director Suzanne Getz Bates emphasizes, "This school was created to enable camp staff to receive all the necessary training courses and certifications that meet ACA standards at one time and in one location."

One-day courses are available in first aid, archery, and CPR for the professional rescuer. Multi-day courses include lifeguarding, sailing, team challenge

course facilitation, and high ropes facilitation. Class size is limited to 12 participants for each course.

All training will be held on-site at Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake, located in Roscommon, Michigan. Trainers have been certified by the applicable governing body, including the American Red Cross, U.S. Sailing Association and the Association for Challenge Course Technology. Trainees will include staff from Michigan camp facilities. Food and lodging are provided in the cost for training. Certificates will be issued to each participant who successfully completes the requirements for each training course.

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*Beautiful sunny days, smiling camper, tetherball, classic logo tshirt- what decade was this photo taken?*

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*Pioneer Heritage campers celebrate their shelter-building skills with counselor Chris Bridgwater (England).*



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**Julie Lynelle McCreery Moon** by Violet W. McCreery  
**Robert Morrison** by Advisory Council for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Robin Lea Barnes, Kari & Jim (Morrison) Brych, B.W. & Marilyn Bura, Dick & Julie Holmes, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jessup, C. Bernard & Dorothy L. Johnson, William & Dorothy Johnson, Gerald & Janet Morrison, Megan Morrison, Muriel Morrison, Carol (Morrison) Schweitzer  
**Donald T. Mulligan** by Keith Donaldson  
**Jeanne L. and Clarence (Jack) Murton** by Ellison (Murton) Franklin, Charles C. Lowrie, James & Sue Murton  
**My loved ones** by Arcie Willoughby  
**Dr. Jan Nyboer** by Martha (Chapman) Nyboer  
**Our departed Westminster Friends** by Dr. & Mrs. W. H. Morse  
**Walter I. Owen, Jr.** by Deborah K Owen  
**Vivian Olean Phillips** by Bennie Latimer  
**David H. Randall** by John, Ann, Laura & Heather Kendrick, Anna Louise Pedder  
**Suzann Ray** by Suzanne (Getz) & James Bates, Bernyce McClarty, Paula McCulloch  
**Marguerite 'Clipper' (Bowden) Reed** by Barbara (Mabee) Vanhoutte  
**Lois Riches** by Irene Gough  
**Donald B. Roberts** by Jo Ann (Gelzer) Bonnett  
**Ruth Jessup Belgrade** by Mary (Holliday) Shuler  
**Elizabeth Schelhaas** by James Schelhaas  
**Curt & Hellen Schneider** by Marthe (Schneider) & Jim Soden  
**Ken Seng** by Marilyn (Seng) Wilde  
**Dorothy (Hofstra) Simonetta, long-time camp doctor** by Sam & Christine Simonetta  
**Elizabeth Lathrup Shaw Small** by Lynda (Weston) Berg, Edward P. Small  
**H. Dale Small** by Toni (Ripp) Eppensteiner, Christy (Small) Martin, Elizabeth J. Small  
**Albert Smith** by Margaret F. Smith  
**George & Helen Timmons** by Bruce A. Timmons  
**Margaret (Ferguson) Trotman** by Joan Ferguson  
**Donald H. Varley** by Louise M. Varley  
**John T. Venman** by Robert & Linda Abrams, Suzanne (Getz) & James Bates, Bill & Jean Baum, Traci and Carlos Beals, Stuart Bender, Dr. Cathy Bodnar, Mary Ellen & Lou Boonenberg, Virginia (Campbell) Buhrow, Bill & Jane Case, Muriel H. Dersnah, Bill & JoAnn Dinsmore, Jack Flaggert, Jean Craig Flynn, David G. Frey, Cheryl Hartman, David & Kristine Hassan, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jessup, William & Elaine Kern, Rev. Chuck & Della Keyworth, Amy LaRue & Roy, Mary Margaret Larson, Jane & Dave Ledebuhr, Roland & Marilyn Ledebuhr, Tom & Cindy Mapes, Roger Markell, Janice & Garry May, Wallace H. Mayton, III, Jeff & Paula McDonald, Kenneth & Constance Moorhead, Richard & Marilyn Murley, Richard & Patricia Ann Murley, Ivan & Janis Opperman, Wannetah Phelps, Kevin & Janet Pike, Theodore & Deborah Marie Rey, Peter & Verna Russell, Jim & Ann Scott, John & Marilyn Shuler, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Squires, June Ann Stephan, Thomas & Janifer Strane, Elizabeth V. Thompson, Mary E. Trombley, Bradley & Gayl Venman, Jan & Jim Venman, John & Sandra Venman, Peter A. Venman, Ted & Kay Wietke, Wendy Ann Winters  
**Marguerite Bowden and Al Weenik** by Virginia (Campbell) Buhrow  
**Dr. & Mrs. Earl Weston** by Lynda (Weston) Berg  
**Donald J. White** by Juanita M. White  
**Clyde & Tom Williams** by Ruth Williams  
**William & Isabel Willoughby** by Katherine M. Willoughby  
**Mary E. Woodworth, Camp Nurse** by Mary Jane Woodworth  
**Bill Worthington, Sr.** by Ruth (Miesel) Worthington  
**William R Worthington** by Ruth Worthington  
**Thornton Zanolli - youngest camper in 1925** by David DiBiasio, Carol and Ralph DiBiasio Snyder, Nancy Zanolli von Oeyen, Danette DiBiasio Wineberg



Camp Westminister on Higgins Lake  
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Check out the camp blog and 2011 summer camp schedule! [www.campwestminister.com](http://www.campwestminister.com)

The **GREENIE GAZETTE** is a publication of Camp Westminister on Higgins Lake.

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*Experience God's love in a fun, outdoor, Christian community.*

## Summer 2011

May 31-June 7	Higgins Lake Camp Staff Certification School
June 12 10am	Staff Commissioning at Westminister Church of Detroit
June 19	First campers arrive! (weekly summer camp sessions run through August 6)
June 19- August 14 11am	Westminister-by-the-Lake worship in Outdoor Chapel (come on foot, boat, bike, or car!)
July 2	Music Performance (10am) Camp Open House (11am- 2pm)
August 7-13	Sae Jong Korean Camp
August 14-19	Family Camp

## What's New - from the Office

- Have you read the camp blog? It was started on April 1. If you want to know what is going on at camp, this is the place to go! Find it on the website frontpage.
- Mike Avolio assumed the position of Accounting Assistant in January. Welcome to Mike (he found CW as a family camper) and thanks for helping this vital ministry!
- Did you notice the new camp website? After many months of work, we were proud to unveil the new site in early April. More information, more photos!
- Camp's assistant director, Elise Bates Russell, was elected to the national board of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association as secretary, at the annual meeting in Nov. 2010.
- Did you get your CD of camp songs? Find it on the website-many favorites recorded by 2010 campers and the 85th anniversary alumni! (Thanks to all the beautiful voices who helped record!)
- This summer's staff will hail from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Vermont, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Kenya.
- A new deal: refer a friend to camp who has never attended before and get \$50 off your registration fee!
- Westminister-by-the-Lake begins June 19 through Aug. 14. Join us!