

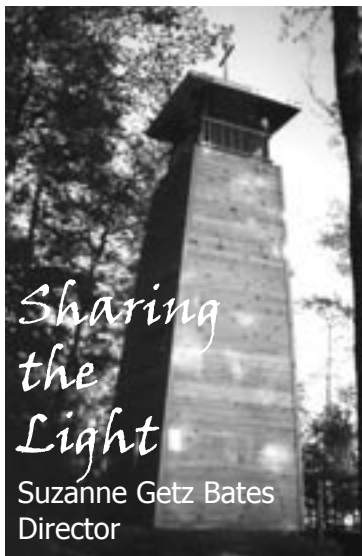


The Newsletter of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake

Wondering What Happened This Past Summer?

From top left, clockwise: Legacy camper Britton Erickson caught a toad! ~ Expanded nature lessons included a look at birds- Wesley Erickson (another legacy camper!) welcomes Henny Penny, the chicken. ~ Fulfilling a long-time dream, the loom donated by Lenore McNabney was up and running this summer. Lucie Fornasiero works on the loom under Suzanne Bates's watchful eye. ~ Time to create at CW includes sandcastle building. Paddling skills are still a vital part of each camper's experience too. ~ South Manitou Island Trip participants (all 18!) received tent instruction prior to departure. Counselor Lindsay Morris shares her knowledge from many outings around Michigan. (For more photos and news from this past summer, see page 3.)





Work Teams of All Sizes Needed

We need your help building an addition for Van Dusen, opening up camp and with many other projects! Realizing that God did something amazing through you is one of the most powerful experiences in the Christian life.

That's what will happen when you bring your mission work group, youth group or adult group to help at Camp Westminster. We have seen this happen year after year and are deeply grateful for the help that so many groups have given. In addition to the ever needed scraping, painting and trailbuilding, next summer construction begins on the Van Dusen Mission Center.

Workcamp coordinators organize everything so that you and your group can focus on working hard, having fun and growing closer together. It is an experience that will set the tone for the whole year ahead. As you help build the camp for countless children, youth and families to grow in their faith it will be a powerful experience for your own group. You will find that your own faith is renewed and deepened as you serve others.

Looking for a shorter time period than a week? Other volunteer opportunities include work weekends. Plan with your group now for May 13 -15, 2011 and open up camp after the long, cold winter! That means taking down shutters, sweeping out wakeyas, raking leaves and putting out the docks!

Why not consider Camp Westminster if your young adults need community service time, or if your family is looking for a bonding project?

Pssst! On Facebook? Please share the official page of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake with friends! (And watch for deals on summer camp!)

How Does Camp Westminster Partner with Parents?

We support the hard work parents and guardians do the other 352 or so days a year when their children are not at camp! Here is how we aim to be your partners:

1. We support Christian education in the home and at your local church. The camp curriculum is meant to enhance what is already being taught.
2. We teach manners. Eating family-style in the Dining Hall, using 'please' and 'thank you' in the Camp Store, treating each other with respect... these are integral parts of the summer camp program.
3. We encourage responsibility. Caring for the wakeya, taking care of personal belongings, cleaning a public area in the Camp - all of this transfers to increased responsibility at home.
4. We value the big picture. Connecting kids to a larger family has proven to increase their self-value.
5. We work hard to instill confidence in every camper who comes to Higgins Lake. Small successes translate to bigger ones later in life! It might be touching that toad, climbing the Lighthouse, leading a prayer for a small group or learning a new swim stroke. These are all successes!

'Come to the Water' Update

Yurt #2 was raised atop the platform in the trees. The program offered the opportunity for campers to spend a whole week in the yurts for the first time .

Plans for the addition to the Van Dusen Mission Center are in the working drawing process currently.

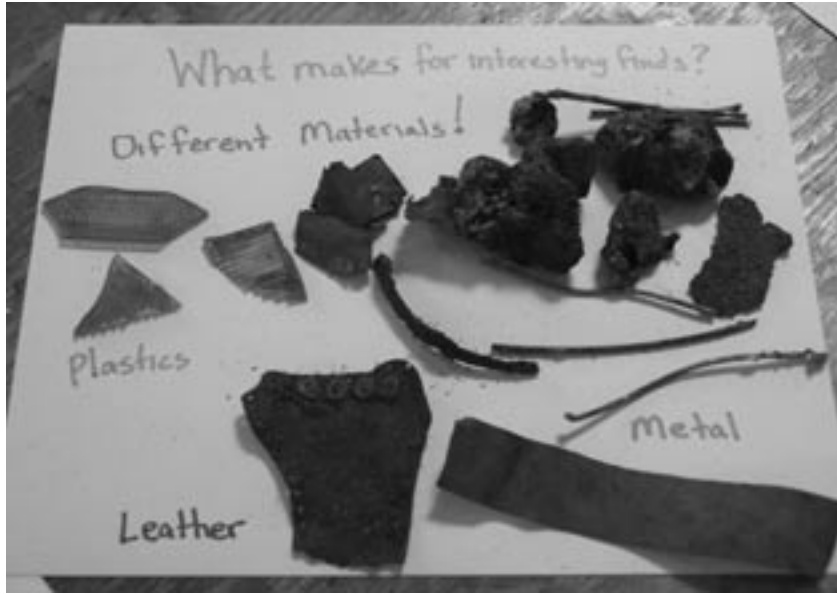


Ground will be broken Spring 2011 for this addition which will provide sleeping and meeting space for workcamps and retreat participants.

Holes have been dug and posts placed for Yurt #3. The yurt arrived Summer 2009 and has been patiently waiting to join the other yurts!

A great view of the trees through the yurt ocular!

More of What We Did This Summer



So, what happened in June, July and August on Higgins Lake?

- Re-used the yurt packaging and made a giant waterslide by Wakeya 8 into Higgins Lake (see photo below).

- Nature lessons on birds, trees, water cycles, wildflowers and mushrooms. We initiated a relationship with the University of Michigan to track wildlife at Camp using Cybertrackers (handheld devices).

- A new ChooseIt!: archaeology, complete with a taste of Biblical languages and on-site digs. See photo, left, for some of the incredible finds from the Camp archaeological site. (Thanks to our seminarian-in-residence, Terra Winston!)

- Medieval dinner complete with a duel between the juggling jester and a knight.

- We saw more mushrooms than we could name or count!

- Six to 8 gallons of ice cream were churned each week, by campers. (And taste-tested by us all!)

- Expeditions to South Manitou Island, Pictured Rocks and Grand Ledge. Every expedition was packed full and had a waiting list! Wow!

- Celebrated 85 years of ministry on Higgins Lake (and the 85th birthday of Robert Frehse, Jr.- Chief's son.) See the group photo, page 4. (Note: Carol Dibiasio's meaningful sermon is available on Camp's Facebook page.)

- Hosted four ceilidhs, with the help of our staff from Scotland, Ireland and England! The Dining Hall was transformed for dancing.

- Many successful fishing trips in Higgins Lake - the record was approximately 40 fish in 40 minutes! (We finally located the old diving tower.)

- A new Worldwide Sports camp, with exposure to everything from

ultimate frisbee to rugby to cricket. The campers loved it and have asked for a two-week session.

- Two recording sessions: one with the Music & Drama/Performing Arts campers and another with the alumni at the 85th Reunion in July. CD to be released.

- Welcomed more campers with food allergies/sensitivities- for many, their first time away at camp!



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2009 Camp Westminster Donor Report

Camp Westminster is most grateful to all you who gave in 2009. There were 352 donors giving a total of \$125,592. There is still time to give in 2010! You can **give online** at www.campwestminster.com or **write a check** payable to 'Camp Westminster'. Gifts may be designated for specific purposes. Examples are: campership, annual fund, building fund, Van Dusen Mission Center. Indicate your preference online in the 'Additional Information' box or on the 'memo' line of your check. (If no preference is given, then your donation will be applied where most needed.)

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Celebrating 85 years on a gorgeous sunny weekend this past July! (Want a copy of this photo? Buy it online at the photo gallery www.campwestminster.com - just log in.)



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The camp program teaches leadership at all levels- including encouraging campers to say the meal blessing in front of the dining hall before the camp community sings it together.



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Virginia Weenink's Birthday and Christmas presents by Mary Ann Stygstra

Multiple gifts from the same donor are listed once. 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. All gifts are tax-deductible and will be printed in the first edition of the Greenie Gazette in 2011. Camp Westminster is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



Worthington Grant Received

The *85 Strong Campaign* received a boost in September 2010 with a grant of \$215,000 from the Worthington Family Foundation. The Worthington family were members of Westminster Church for many years. Bill and Ruth (Miesel) Worthington moved to camp with their four children – Ruth Ann, Nan, Doug, and Bill, Jr. Bill performed a number of camp roles over the years including program director, business manager, and maintenance supervisor. The children were campers and eventually staff members. Ruth Ann later served as camp doctor and Nan as camp nurse. The camp has always been a very special place for the family, especially Van Dusen Lodge where the family resided. The grant has been designated for use in upgrading and expanding Van Dusen, which is one of the most important projects in the master plan.

Frehse Society

Members of the Frehse Society are individuals who have contributed a cumulative total of \$5000 or more over the past 12 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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What's Happening? Camp=Child Development 100%

2011

March 6 Camp Sunday at
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April 6 Early Bird Registration

May 13-15 Spring Clean-Up Weekend

June 12 Staff Commissioning at
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June 19- Aug. 15
11 am Westminster-by-the-Lake
Summer Worship Services

July 2 Music Performance &
Open House

Aug. 14-19 Family Camp

According to American Camp Association (ACA) research, 92% of campers reported that **camp helped them to feel better about themselves**. Surrounding children with nature develops a hands-on appreciation for the environment, and this increases their positive self-image.

ACA research also indicates that 96% of campers met people that were different from them. Campers develop authentic friendships and a sense of community, and these relationships continue beyond their time at camp! Half of the staff and many campers come from countries outside of the United States. Games, speech, activities and even the food all encompass diversity. On 2010 summer evaluations, **CW campers consistently referred to making new friends and feeling welcomed by campers and counselors**.

Camp also helps with summer learning loss. Research has shown that participation in an experiential education program like Camp Westminster has a positive effect while helping to stem learning loss. Schools are acknowledging the positive benefits of spending time at camp every summer! Don't miss a year!

Check out the 2011 summer camp schedule!

www.campwestminster.com