

Camp Notes



*The story of God's continuing work at Pine Lake Camp, Lake Lucerne
Camp & Retreat Center and the Board of Camp & Retreat Ministries*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 2 – Spring 2011

Got the Summer Camp Spirit?

As winter finally turns the corner toward spring, preparations for summer camp are in full throttle. Excitement builds every day as summer staff hiring is complete, camper registrations are flying in, and program areas are being prepared. It is a great honor to be a part of these preparations each spring and it's inspiring to think about the impact God will have on the lives of campers and staff this summer. The Stories and Quotes included in this issue of Camp Notes, speak volumes about the awesome and life-changing ways that God is using the ministry of your UM summer camps. We welcome your stories of how camp has changed the life of someone you know. We encourage you to share your stories with us through email, Facebook, and surveys and share with others at your church, book club or other group gatherings.

Each summer brings new and exciting ways to grow our relationship with God! We are so excited about our theme for this summer ~ **"GOT SPIRIT?"** Campers will explore their faith relationship, choose from a variety of fun camp activities, and build great friendships while learning to **Find God in the Everyday!** Each day will lead us on a new journey beginning with an invitation to wonder about God's creation. They will explore the passage about the ten lepers and identify ways to express gratitude and reasons to be grateful. We will hear the story of the disciples encountering Jesus on the Emmaus road and be encouraged to practice and reflect on the meaning of hospitality. We will grow as the body of Christ in a community of faith. Through Psalms of praise, campers and staff will identify a variety of ways to worship God. And to close out the week we will explore the story of the true vine and choose ways to practice spirituality, Living in Christ's Love...Everyday.

Thanks in advance for your support and prayers leading up to summer camp. If you haven't signed up for camp, it's not too late! Bring your family, friends, and new acquaintances. It's going to be a wonderful summer!

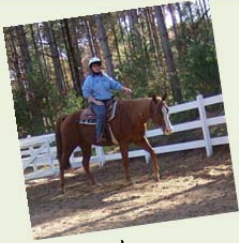


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From the Double "L" Ranch...

Walk, jog, lope, transitions, trails, posting, leads, bending, lunging, lessons! What's the greatest thing about horses? There's

always more to learn! This summer will be no exception! There is always something new and exciting at the horse "barn". There will be new staff and instructors waiting to share their knowledge with you. New toys (barrels, bridges, gates and mailboxes?) for horses and riders and best of all some new horses to join our "old favorites"! Mario Andretti – a registered Haflinger gelding, will make his debut this summer. He comes well equipped to take the more advanced rider to the next level. He has "schooled" and competed at first level dressage and is ready to try his hoof at camp work! Peppy's Jet Breeze – a registered Quarter Horse, is also joining us for the first time this summer. He loves beginner riders and the occasional treat! He has "been there and done that" – lessons, show (western and hunt), barrel patterns. He prefers a nice quiet trail ride to barrels though.

We can't wait to introduce you to the "new guys" and help you learn new horse stuff! See you on the Ranch!



What's in store for this Summer?

Pine Lake has a "new water toy" this summer ~ "a wiggly water mat". The floating flexible mat provides a plethora of possibilities for the creative camper. It serves as a great platform for quiet conversation in the sun or a wonderful "wiggling wave-pool" for a raucous game of "rock the boat". See the "FUN" photo on page one.

Check out the new summer camps! Younger Elementary Campers can Prepare for Take-Off or dig into a Dino Expedition. A variety of family camps will build family friendships. The Double "L" Ranch family camp offers "everything horse" for the horse lovers in your crew! Have no fear there will be plenty of great activities for the "non-horsey" family members too. Fourth of July week has great opportunities for parents to come to camp "with" their kids. Parents will have their own personal retreat time. Participate with other adults who are looking to build their faith and still not be too far from their kids. Young clergy families, there's also a camp just for you! For those who really want to "get away from it ALL" – there are wilderness canoe camps. Information on all the summer camp options is available at www.WIUMCamps.org. See YOU at camp!

Be still and know



God touches campers lives in the wilderness...

"As a group spends more time together, a rhythm develops...Things begin to flow with less words and more understanding of each other..."

"...as a team (we) have accomplished things that I never thought possible."

"The Wilderness has so much to offer that you never truly realize. Each trip is purely unique...one could never relive the same one twice."

"Each day is such a gift."

Confidence



Because of Camp...

"I became more comfortable with horses."

"...(My daughter) could not believe she was able to do so much with a horse, this being her first year at camp!"

"...(My camper) transitioned to a new school district with fewer fears...and is excited to go back to camp next year."

"...my son no longer calls himself an introvert."

Hope



"...My child has developed a strong faith. She has made our family stronger because of it and she is becoming a shining example for her peers at school."

"...my campers count the days until they can return to camp to visit their friends."

"...My daughter has more confidence in herself and being able to do more things on her own and not always doing something that a friend of hers is already doing... Camp helped her to realize she is her own person."

Growing in Faith



Because of camp...

"...I grew in faith and learned new ways to worship God."

"...our kids have been encouraged and strengthened in their walk with Christ."

"...my camper has a stronger faith and is able to reach out to those who need God's hand in their life."

"...my kids love to read more ("f.o.b time"), seem to enjoy having fun and are enjoying attending church again."

Fun and Friendship



"...My son strengthened his relationship with God and made life-long friends."

"...my kids did not want to come home!"

"... my son is considering being a camp counselor... He is excited to share his faith through the opportunity that only camp can offer."

"... my daughter has made friends she has kept in touch with over the past three years she has attended camp."

Summer camp opportunities are available for campers of all ages and comfort levels. For more information about how to register for camp, please visit your local United Methodist Church and pick-up a camping catalog, visit our website at <http://www.WIUMCamps.org>, or call the Conference Camping Office at 1-877-947-2267