

Camp Notes

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

Issue No. 3 - Winter 2011

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Help the camps bridge the gap to the future!
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Watch for the new camping catalog coming to your mailbox and local UM church in January 2012!



Being bridge builders for the camps!

*By: Chip Hutler,
Director of Camps Administration*

"The Bridge Builder"

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To Chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide—
Why build you the bridge at eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pit-fall be,

He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

-Will Allen Dromgoole



We may not have to span ravines and rivers at our camps, but we do seek bridge builders. People who see our United Methodist camps as places for developing relationships, time apart in retreat and creating facilities to work together to be: "Your open door to experience the wonder of God's creation and love in exceptional settings."

In Luke 12:48 (The Message) it tells us "Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities." We have been entrusted with the "great gifts" of Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne Camps. The years of ministry at these places have made significant impacts on lives of countless people. As part of our "great responsibility" we are excited to be remodeling Amphlett Hall at Pine Lake and building a new Youth Lodge at Lake Lucerne! We celebrate our past as we build bridges to insure great opportunities for ministry into the future.

We are looking for Bridge Builders to join us. People to insure future generations will have the opportunities that our camps can provide. Bridge Builders who have been touched by their experience at our camps and believe it is important enough to support with their finances, efforts and prayers. Bridge Builders whose children have been impacted by their camp experience and know first-hand the value of these places apart. We ask you to join us as we work on building bridges into the future for our camps.

If you wish to contribute to the success of the camp ministries of Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne, please see the giving opportunity on the back page of this newsletter.



Building for the Future

New youth lodge at Lake Lucerne and updates to the Pine Lake dining hall show signs of new growth and improved experiences

*By: Nick Coenen,
Pine Lake Camp Manager*

One of the best parts of being a part of the camp ministry is the visits we have from time to time from long-time campers. In some cases, campers who have not been to camp in 20-30 years will return, amazed by what they see compared to what was imprinted in their memory.

It is with hopes of these moments that great care and concern goes into the building and remodeling plans at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne.

The largest project currently is the new Youth Lodge at Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat Center. The new building will be located to the northeast of Milton Giese Dining Hall.

The new building will be built in phases with the initial phase having two wings with lodging for 24, two large meeting areas, and a kitchenette area. A secondary phase will add lodging for an additional 24 guests.

While the new lodging is a welcome addition at Lake Lucerne, the truly unique qualities of this project are in how it is being constructed.

Working with Gimme Shelter Construction, the new youth lodge is being built to not only be a long sustaining fixture at Lake Lucerne, but also to have a minimal impact on the environment.

For example, when trees were cleared at the build site, the lumber was saved and will be used for paneling on the interior of the building. Using “green” construction methods such as these, the new youth lodge will hopefully be an example of how we can have great facilities that are also in line with being good stewards of God’s creation as well.

At Pine Lake Camp there are also exciting projects in the works. After a consultant visit in September, a plan has been created to renovate Amphlett Dining Hall and to investigate ways to improve the walk down from the Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader Retreat Center to the dining hall.

The renovations to Amphlett Hall will include new windows, replacing an outdated electrical system, bathroom renovations, and a more energy efficient


heating system. The dining hall has served Pine Lake well for the last 50 plus years and it is hoped that with these renovations it can serve the camp well into the future as well.

In addition to these major projects, there are always smaller projects at both camps that will improve the camp and retreat experiences of our guests.

After dealing with some very difficult storms in early September, Lake Lucerne has had the majority of it’s power lines put underground to avoid a future disruption of service. Changes to the basic operations of the camp are not always as readily seen as a new building, but in some cases they provide even greater benefits to the sites.

Another invaluable asset to the improvement and overall health of the camps is the involvement of volunteer work groups. This past fall work groups were at both sites. At Pine Lake they helped remove the old fire pit from the cook-out area and assemble 6 new picnic tables. At Lake Lucerne, work groups were invaluable as they helped clean up downed trees and branches following the September storm.

These camps are amazing treasures God has entrusted us with, and it’s exciting to see them continue to grow!

 <p>wisconsin conference UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p>Lake Lucerne camp & retreat ministries</p>	Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat Center Wish List	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility Trailer - \$1,000 • Scaffolding - \$350 • Dellwood Cabin Remodel - \$4,500 • Horse Saddles - \$300 x 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint for cabins - \$125/5 gal. pail • Napkin Dispensers - \$10 x 25 • Vacuum Cleaners - \$150 x 2 • Soup Warmer - \$200

Planning to Relax

How to have a retreat at camp that will be a blessing to your church and yourself

By: Laura Hutler,
Program Director

Laughter and snippets of stories fill the evening air with sound. A chorus of crickets fills in the quiet moments. The first frost has come and gone leaving the air devoid of the mosquitoes' buzz. The last light gleams off the red and gold leaves. The quiet swish of pine needles rides the evening breeze. It's a place apart, a time of renewal, a weekend spent at camp. Whether it is time with family, friends, youth groups or board retreats, camp provides a vital place for spiritual growth.

Spiritual growth is firmly planted in relationships and community building experiences. Camps are naturally a place where relationships are nurtured and faith is nourished. When we spend time at camp, a sense of community is built that draws us back to rekindle the relationship and recapture that sense of belonging.

Lilly Endowment Inc. funded a study recognizing the huge role camps play in spiritual formation. The final report includes almost 30

suggestions and observations. In a nutshell it suggests that camp promotes spiritual growth by doing the following.

Encouraging Wonder – Get out of the lodge, take a hike – not just from point “A” to “B” - stop along the way and marvel at the tiny wonders we miss every day. Pick up some paint samples from the local hardware store and look for the “colors of nature.” God painted a very brilliant canvas.

Slowing Down – When was the last time you just sat, quietly and waited on God? There are so many benches and quiet places in camp to sit and listen. What is God telling you – in this time and place?

Promote Creativity - Provide participants with a journal and some colored pencils or sharpie markers. Doodle for God! Indulge yourself with a squiggly line or two – take a deep breath and see where that squiggle leads. Put out some art supplies (minus the glitter – it's hard to get out of the carpet) and have participants create a collage for God. Write a new

verse for an old hymn. Perform their own music or share a poem they wrote for worship time.

Invite Questions – Another great place for a journal! Encourage participants to write down the deepest questions of their heart. We don't have to have all the answers – sometimes the answer is in the journey. Take that journey together and see where it leads.

Tell Stories – Around the campfire – leave the “scary stories” at home. Find some good time tested stories with a meaning behind them. Everyone loves a good story!

Repeat Traditions – Find out what your group liked best and do it again! Make sure your traditions are safe, uplifting and encouraging for your participants. Great camp traditions include: Campfires, talent night, scavenger hunts, sing “Sanctuary” – again and again...or add some new ones – like a labyrinth, horseback ride, a moonlight snowshoe walk or an early morning cross-country ski.

Incorporate these ideas into your next retreat, family camp gathering or – yes - even your board or committee retreat or meeting. Allow these places...set apart for spiritual growth - to grow in you! See you at camp!

Build Your Own Snowshoes at Lake Lucerne!

Join us at Lake Lucerne February 17-18, 2012 and take some new (OR renewed) strides in an old handcraft, as we delve into the art of snowshoe making. Darren Bush, of Rutabaga, llc in Madison will be our instructor. Darren Bush, owner of Rutabaga, is a long time canoeing and snowshoeing enthusiast and will lead us as we craft a handmade set of snowshoes.

The fee for this event is \$175 and includes a \$50 non-refundable deposit, instruction and “medium” snowshoe kit (fits a person of average height between 130 – 240lbs). Bindings are not included, but can be ordered from Darren Bush at Rutabaga.

Please visit the Lake Lucerne website at <http://www.lakelucerne.com> for registration details!



Pine Lake Camp Wish List

- Shower House Remodel - \$5,000
- Paint for cabins - \$125/5 gal. pail
- Tents - \$250 each
- Playground Equipment - \$10,000
- Wildwood Shelter Kitchen - \$3,000
- Special Needs Beach Entry Mats - \$500
- Family Cabin Couches - \$300 x 3
- Fun-Yaks - \$200 x 4



How can I support the UM Camps?

With all these great stories of how camping is providing for a unique and important experience for so many, you might be wondering what you can do to help. In addition to praying for our camps or volunteering to help our great programs, we can always use financial support.

Please send your donation to the UM Camping Office at 750 Windsor St, PO Box 620, Sun Prairie, WI, 53590.



Yes! I would like to financially support the ministry of Pine Lake Camp!

Yes! I would like to financially support summer camp scholarships to the UM camps!

Yes! I would like to financially support the ministry of Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat Center!

My gift is: _____

My gift is: _____

My gift is: _____

Please apply my gift towards: _____

Please apply my gift towards: _____

Please apply my gift towards: _____

(Cut here to support your camps!)

Camp Memories - Winter is a LONG season in Wisconsin, so hopefully these photos from summer 2011 will help us all remember the warmer months to come!



CAMP NOTES ~ WISCONSIN UM CAMPS

Issue No. 3 - Winter 2011

United Methodist Camping Office
 Wisconsin Conference
 750 Windsor Street
 PO Box 620
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



“Your open door to experience the wonder of God’s creation and love in exceptional settings.”