

# 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. 1 - Winter 2010

**You make a difference!**  
*The gifts given by many continue to be a vital part of the success at Pine Lake Camp & Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat Center*  
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**Watch for the new camping catalog coming to your mailbox and local UM church in January 2011!**



## Your gifts can be campers' reward

*Through finances, labor or prayer, campers are blessed by those who contribute*

Dear Friends,

Summer seems to be yesterday, but today we are looking out the window at a beautiful blanket of snow covering camp. The photos on the wall remind us of the warm days, starry nights by the campfire, laughter echoing across the lake and voices lifted in praise to our Lord.

While the earth slumbers through winter these memories keep a fire burning in our hearts for the ministry that happens at our camps. We remember the friendships forged, personal victories won by campers, seeds of faith being planted and others tended and growing.

So many people are touched in so many ways by their camp experience: "In my everyday life, I take a lot of things for granted. When I'm thirsty I grab a snack. When I'm cold I pull an extra blanket out of the closet. But being on this trip has made me thankful for even the simplest things. This summer, one of the stories during Bible study was the story of Mariam who rejoiced after the Israelites crossed

the Red Sea. Every time I take a drink of freshly filtered water, reach a portage after a tough paddle for lunch or climb inside my tent on a cold night, I think of Miriam, follow her example, and thank

and volunteer in service to Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne are the lifeblood of our United Methodist Camping Ministry. Without your support we could not provide these places and these experiences for others.

*"My kid matured, bonded with nature, was stimulated to think about his personal faith."*

*~ 2010 summer camper parent*

Please know this - You make a difference! Your gift, whatever it may be, has an impact on the lives of others. "My kid matured, bonded with nature, was stimulated to think about his personal faith." "My daughter told me this camp changed her life."

We have had another wonderful year of serving youth and adults at Lake Lucerne and Pine Lake and we invite you to come along side us in support of this valuable experience. As we celebrate the gift of Christ's birth and respond in generosity to others we ask you to remember our UM camps with a gift. Invest in others and have your impact multiplied through your gift to UM Camping Ministry at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne.

God for all the wonderful things he's blessed us with."

We are deeply thankful for those opportunities and thankful for all those who make them possible. We rely on the generous, giving spirit of others to fulfill our mission. Those who give of their finances, gifts

*~ Chip Hutler, Director of Camps Administration*

*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.*



# Reflections on Lake Lucerne

*A look back at the growth and life-changing experiences of camp*



### Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat Center Wish List

- Riding Lawn Mower - \$3,000
  - Push Mower - \$200
- Dellwood Cabin Remodel - \$4,500
- Paint for cabins - \$125/5 gal. pail
  - Food Slicer - \$2,500-\$3,500
  - Napkin Dispensers - \$10 x 25
    - Pancake Dispenser - \$130
    - Soup Warmer - \$200
- Platters & serving bowls - \$10 each
  - Large Roaster with lid - \$100
  - Vacuum Cleaners - \$150 x 2
    - Horse Trailer - \$4,000
    - Golf Cart or "Gator"

As the snow blankets Lake Lucerne, it is time again for reflecting on God's work here at camp. God moved and touched campers, families, retreat participants and staff in so many ways in the past year.

In January and February, our annual family winter campers made the trek to camp. Snow-filled family fun and games around the fireplace in Ridgewood retreat center brought growth and bonding. "As a group spends more time together, a rhythm develops...things begin to flow with less words and more understanding of each other..."

Spring always brings "life renewed" on the prairie, in the woodlands. With the season changes many volunteer groups brought renewed life to the buildings and program areas of camp. In April, Volunteers in Mission spent a week helping open up summer cabins, building new shelter and fencing for the horse program as well as completion of the remodeling project in Goldfinch cabin.

Summer youth work groups rebuilt a wagon for "hay rides" from one of the old Conestoga wagons from Pine Lake. They also completed a hay storage shelter for the horses, painted Dining Unit 1 in Hillcrest, the maintenance shop and changing shelters at

the waterfront. The fall VIM group installed new steel roofing on Oak cabin, completed painting and drywall projects in Dellwood Lodge, moved boats, bunks and closed down cabins.

And then there was summer...a time filled with growth in faith, friendships - new and old, as well as endless hours of fun. The summer is filled with inspirational stories of confidence, hope and changed lives. One camper related that she "could not believe she was able to do so much with a horse, this being her first year at camp!" When asked about their camper's experiences, parents shared that because of camp "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." Another parent said "my son no longer calls himself an introvert." Yet another camper "grew in faith and learned new ways to worship God."

These are just a small snapshot of the multitude of life changing stories reflecting from Lake Lucerne. Won't you help us continue to provide those experiences for campers and families with your prayers, time and donations to camp? Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season from our staff who wait for your next visit to camp!

~ Laura Hutler, Program Director

#### Be still and know



#### Confidence



#### Hope



#### Growing in Faith



#### Fun and Friendship



# Looking Up, Reaching Out at Pine Lake Camp

When I first came to Pine Lake as a camper over 10 years ago, I never would have predicted what God had in store for me at this place. Had I known that I would be blessed with meeting my wife here, having all of my kids baptized in this clear lake and to see the amazing faithfulness of His work each year, I probably would have come much sooner!

Through God's grace and the willingness of many, Pine Lake continues to be a special place for many families and campers. Each weekend I get to celebrate the reunion of our guests with a place that has left an impact on their hearts and souls.

And yet it is never easy. Through a rough economy Pine Lake continues to serve families who make an annual trip here as something their family simply cannot do without.

While it is easy to be down at a time like this, all we need to be reminded of God's faithfulness is to look up at one of the many tall trees at Pine Lake Camp.

Scanning from the base of the trunk to the very top, you can see the branches spread freely. Over time, God has provided for this tree to grow and flourish. He has allowed it to get so tall that others find shelter beneath it. Even animals find a home on its branches.

Just as God has blessed this tree, He blesses us all. And as we grow taller, we reach out as a response to His blessings.

In the past year, many have given to Pine Lake to help us continue to grow and improve. The Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader Retreat Center is nearing completion as the final wing of the building was completed and named in honor of Don & Elaine Mevis in May of 2010. There is currently construction underway to install an elevator as well so that all of our guests can enjoy both floors of this great building.

We were also blessed with a generous donation to provide us with two new commercial ranges (one for Amphlett

Hall and one for Oakwood Center). This addition has allowed us to continue to provide quality food to all of our guests.

The Volunteers in Mission also were a big part of our success this year as they helped prepare the camp for another great summer. Their service helped us install the docks, seal the Amphlett Hall roof, and put a new steel roof on the White Oak cabin.

This summer was another great time at Pine Lake as well. Many families, grandparents, parents and kids all attended a variety of camps that let them experience God in this sacred place.

As a new way of reaching out, this summer Pine Lake Camp collected funds for the New Horizon Methodist School in Paraguay. Through the generosity of campers, we were able to send over \$850 to support this ministry through the United Methodist Advance.

The Wildwood Campground was again home to families and church groups looking for a more rustic experience. Our hosts did an excellent job maintaining the campground as one of the best in the area.

The fall of 2010 was a very busy season for us as well. The addition of a few new retreat groups filled out an already busy calendar. Many of our guests were amazed at just how different everything looks once the leaves turn red, yellow, and orange.

From marriage retreats to youth retreats to conference events, Pine Lake continues to be a place that draws us together to look up as a church body. Thank you for reaching out and giving back!

~ Nick Coenen, Camp Manager at Pine Lake Camp



### Pine Lake Camp Wish List

- Basketball Hoops - \$300
- Shower House Remodel - \$5,000
- Paint for cabins - \$125/5 gal. pail
  - Food Slicer - \$2,500-\$3,500
  - Napkin Dispensers - \$10 x 15
    - Soup Warmer - \$200
- Platters & serving bowls - \$10 each
  - Large Roaster with lid - \$100
    - Tents - \$250 each
- Playground Equipment - \$10,000
- Wildwood Shelter Kitchen - \$3,000
- Special Needs Beach Entry Mats

# 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 - While these pictures are from a range of places and eras, the constant of God's love and amazing creation is found throughout.*



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."*