

Summer Camp changes lives, even the lives of adults

This past winter, as I was visiting churches, talking about our Conference Summer Camp and Retreat Ministry and recruiting staff for Camp Asbury, a young woman inquired about working as a Camp Counselor.

After some encouragement she applied I interviewed her and hired her as one of this year's new Core Counselors at Camp Asbury. She was quiet and reserved, but I saw the potential in her to be a good camp counselor. During the summer I saw a significant change take place in this individual, in her self confidence, her ability to be outgoing when the situation requires it, and her leadership ability.

She too recognized the change that had taken place over the summer, so I asked her to share her experience. What follows is her story, a story of how our Conference Summer Camp Ministry DOES change lives, the lives of adults as well as the lives of children and youth. - Rev. Larry Wiliford

My experience at Camp Asbury

by Abby Diez

When you think you know who you truly are, some event comes along that causes you to rethink your view about yourself.

This event could be the death of a relative, starting college or high school, or getting a new job. For me, this event, well, series of events, was working and living at Camp Asbury for the summer.

When I first arrived, I acted like I normally act in a new situation; I didn't talk but merely observed the people and activities around me. After the first day of basic introductions, we moved on to the 'get to know you' games in order to learn more about each other. After three days of 'get to know you' games, the learning about everyone didn't stop; it continued throughout the whole summer.

I learned that I am good at leading kids and taking charge when it comes to giving them directions about something new, but I also discovered that when I am working with my peers, I sit back

and I follow what others tell me to do. I also learned that I can be witty when the time is appropriate, and can sometimes become quite hilarious.

The last thing that I would like to share with you about my self discovery is that I learned when I judge a book by its cover I am often wrong. Let me explain. When I first arrived at camp and was meeting everyone, I would make a judgment about them in my head and would take "notes" about how they acted, talked and how they got along with everyone else.

From these initial observations, I would decide whether I would become their friend or not. After this initial assumption was made, it was later destroyed when I began hanging out and laughing with everyone. My initial assumptions about everyone were basically all wrong and for that I feel horrible.

I have since learned not to judge someone until I truly get to know them. What I learned at Camp Asbury will stay with me forever.

Western New York Conference summer campers help others with flood bucket supplies

WNY - Campers coming to Western New York Conference summer camps during the summers of 2007 and 2008 brought donations of Health Kit Supplies to provide to UMCOR for use with the needy.

Over this two-year period a significant quantity of those Health Kit supplies were collected. This past year, 2009, there was a decision to switch the emphasis and collect Flood Bucket supplies to help with clean up from a significant number of recent floods. The response of campers and their families was great, and camp leaders want to share that information with the rest of the Conference.

Camp Findley received the following: 9 bottles of bleach, 3 packages of sponges, 4 packages of scrub sponges, 15 clothes lines, 1 pack of clothes pins, and 6 bottles of laundry detergent.

Camp Asbury received the following: 13 packages of masks, 18 packages of sponges, 42 packages of scrub sponges and pads, 2 packages of copper scrubbers, 28 of scrub brushes, 2 packages of Brillo pads, 50 packages of Handi wipes, 12 bottles of dish soap, 1 bottle of Spic & Span, 1 package of Clorox Disinfectant wipes, 7 packages of latex gloves, 16 pairs of work gloves, 2 bottles of laundry soap, 9 air fresheners, 8 containers of off, 51 shop towels, 1 bag of rags, and 18 wash clothes.

"I want to thank all those who helped make this collection of Flood Bucket supplies a success," the Rev. Lawrence Wiliford, Executive Director notes. "These items will be turned over to the Conference Disaster Response Team to make up complete Flood Buckets."

Cornerstone Dates to remember:

- February 16, 2010 – LDT Meeting 9:00 a.m. at Gerry UMC
- February 16, 2010 – LDT Meeting 1:30 p.m. at Watts Flats UMC
- February 17, 2010 – LDT Meeting 9:00 a.m. at Little Valley UMC
- February 17, 2010 – LDT Meeting 1:30 p.m. at Mayville UMC
- March 6, 2010 – Spring Equipping School – House Churches Seminar with Kevin Applegate

Camping Schedules

Camp Asbury

Week of	CAMPS	IN	SESSION		
June 27 - July 2	Guest	Retreat	Groups		
July 4 - 9	Guest	Retreat	Group		
July 11 - 19	Guest	Retreat	Group		
July 18 - 23	101 Kids & Parents	103 2-3 Grade Mini Quest	106 4-5 Grade Horse	110 6-8 Grade Aquatics Plus	112 6-8 Grade Camp
July 25 - 30	104 2-3 Grade Mini Quest	102 Kids & Parents	107 4-5 Grade Splash Marathon	113 6-8 Grade Adventure	117 9-12 Grade Sailing
Aug. 1 - 6	105 4-5 Grade Mini Rustic	108 4-5 Grade Sports	114 6-8 Grade Adventure	111 6-8 Grade Aquatics Plus	118 9-12 Gr. Kingdom Bound
Aug. 8 - 13	109 4-5 Grade Pioneer	115 6-8 Grade Sports	116 6-8 Grade Horse Trail	119 9-12 Gr. Water Works	
Aug. 15 - 18					

Camp Findley

	CAMPS	IN	SESSION
201 A&B 1-4 Grade Discovery	206 5-8 Grade Fishing	207 6-8 Grade Equestrian	214 7-12 Grade Tent Camp
203 4-6 Grade Adventure	208 6-8 Grade Equestrian	210 6-8 Grade Explorer	
204 4-6 Grade Adventure	209 6-8 Grade Equestrian	211 6-8 Grade Explorer	213 6-10 Grade Bow Hunting
215 8-12 Grade Sr. High	216 8-12 Grade Equestrian		
	Family	Bible	Camp
202 A&B 1-4 Grade Discovery	205 4-6 Grade Adventure	212 6-8 Grade Explorer	217 9-12 Grade Equestrian
	Guest	Retreat	Group
218 Young Adult Tent Camp			

Camp Codes: CA stands for Camp Asbury; CF stands for Camp Findley