

Camp Marshall 2008

Facility:

Brewer Lodge: In 2008 we began the process of remodeling the boys shower house. To begin this we moved the existing Laundry facility below Brewer Lodge into space we have not used since 1997. The improvement under the lodge included: wiring, plumbing, insulation & tile work. The final result is a very functional, usable laundry area that is now available on a year round basis – vs. the previous set up which was only available on a seasonal basis. The wiring work included the main panel to all areas of the main lodge. This was a SIGNIFIGANT improvement.

Lower Paver Deck: The paver deck below Brewer Lodge was expanded and set with a re-vamped fire pit which has added a beautiful program area to the camp which was previously not used for programming. It is a beautiful area accented with solar lighting – making the space ideal in the late evening to enjoy the ambiance of the lake – with the close proximity to the lodge.

Challenge Course: Many scrub trees were removed and run through a chipper. – In all we were able to create well over 20 yards of chips which were then distributed in and around our challenge course.

Canterbury Lodge: Commonly referred to as the staff house. Both the boys and girls bath (Adam & Eve) had the showers re-tiled. Bathroom walls were re-painted.

Camp Marshall Ambassadors

Camp Ambassadors are the person in each congregation who helps inform a local congregation about the ministry at Camp Marshall. Members of congrega

Summer Program:

Sail Boat: A 23' sail boat was donated to Camp Marshall and added a significant new program for our waterfront.

Down Riggers: Were donated to the camp which were installed on our fishing boat. The immediate result: More Fish!

Volunteers

33 volunteers assisted with our summer program making our 2008 summer season a fantastic experience. It cannot be stressed enough how important volunteers are for each of our

ministries. Without them it would not be possible to do what we do. Thank you again for all who have given of their time and talent in the ministries at Camp Marshall. Staff volunteers & those who came in the off season to help with Labor of Love & other projects during the year contributed over 5,000 hours of time.

Enrollments

Summer enrollments in 2008 were down. Primarily because we did not have an alumni camp. We also had two – not three day camps – so – in those programs that we ran enrollments basically stayed the same. The number of our Jr. Middler Camps balanced out when we moved Jr. Middler One into July – which bumped its enrollments immediately.

Youth Ministries

The goal of the youth ministries is to equip every congregation with the tools they need to develop a vision for an active youth ministry in their congregation. In 2008 my goal was to work closely with any congregation that requested assistance.

Consulting:

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church requested assistance with visioning & developing a youth ministry. In January through April I worked with a group of volunteers who were committed to developing a youth ministry. Our initial work was to vision a model a ministry vision for the following school year. By April we had the 2008 – 2009 calendar done and had clearly identified leadership needs for the following year.

In the summer we sent staff from Camp Marshall to run a day camp ministry at St. Stephen's with the goal of finishing the week & inviting the "new" youth to the fall programs. While the day camp was relatively small – students did return in the fall with attendance for youth meetings ranging from 12 - 18 with their first fall lock in event with 28 students.

Other congregations I worked with in 2008 included; St. Peter's Cathedral & St. While I believe each congregation I worked with made significant improvements in their vision for youth ministry.

EYE:

In 2008 we sent eleven students and three adults to San Antonio Texas for the Episcopal Youth Event. The leader, Rev. Jacob Knee did an outstanding job of leading this group. Below are a

list of those who attended with a journal entry from Jacob that will give you a sense of the EYE experience.

Leaders who attended EYE

Rev. Jacob Knee	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Cynthia Benkelman	All Saints Episcopal Church
Mary Jett	St. James's Episcopal Church

Students:	From:
Alex Songstad	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Alexander Willett	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Charlie Steele	All Saint's Episcopal Church
Derek Stevens	St. James's Episcopal Church
Henry Maher	St. James's Episcopal Church

Kirk Waddingham	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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Anna Supak	St. James's Episcopal Church
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Hillary Willett	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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Jennifer Wirth	All Saint's Episcopal Church
Kayla Branch	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Reagan Grabbe	St. James's Episcopal Church

Thursday Night (Journal Entry from the Rev. Jacob Knee)

Thursday night finished with the most amazing Spanish language eucharist. I can't tell you what great worship it was. The songs were really vibrant and even though I don't think any of us knew them before hand (why would we – they were all in Spanish!) – at the end they were being hummed or sung by most of the kids as they left the church. The sermon took the form of a personal testimony by a man from Puerto Rico about how God has changed his life – his plans for life and career had been destroyed because his family lost their house through debt and his uncle died, but God changed his life – and he asked us if we believed God could do the same in our lives. God was truly glorified and the Good News of Jesus proclaimed. There is now a real buzz on the campus – kids from all over the Episcopal Church are mixing, singing praises to God, praying together, laughing and making relationships.

It is an amazing experience for kids from churches with 30, 40, 100 people – to be worshipping God with hundreds of people. There is a power and a presence in the worship. It is profoundly encouraging for them. I listened to a group yesterday who were asked what one thing they would change in church. One teenager said he was in a church in which he had to acolyte every other week – and never felt he could “just worship God”. Another spoke of feeling that her church was run by 3 or 4 people and she had no say. Another said how hard it was because her mum was the Rector and she (the girl) said she wanted to make the rules and not just be told “it has to be this way” – she wanted to change the music, scrap the prayers of the people, make things more varied Sunday by Sunday. One teenager in the group told us

how much she loved “old” music. Interesting and challenging and completely unrepresentative - but EYE gives the teenagers a chance to speak when it seems, often in their churches, they somehow find it hard to find a way of communicating. I hope they take this back to their home churches – not just the awareness that people do want to listen but the knowledge that if they don’t make the effort to speak then they can’t expect the rest of the church to know what they are thinking. They’re realistic too – they know many things may not be possible – but I found it amazing and encouraging to know that they take their faith and their church seriously enough to think up ways it may be better.

Tomorrow we begin with Morning Prayer at 7.30 am. This is optional but I have asked all our young people to attend – because it begins the day with prayer. EYE is a place for people to learn and think and pray and praise – and asking for God’s guidance and blessing as the day begins seems just right to me. Our time together should be grounded in prayer. It seems no other diocese is doing this – but I think encouraging our young folks to say morning prayer is a very positive thing to do. To be frank our youth do look *slightly* groggy at 7.30 am but they are really taking it seriously – as I said good night to one guy this evening he told me he’d set his clock for 6 am (it seems, even the boys seem to spend some time in preparing themselves before they are fit to face the world . One young man in our group – nameless – I have nicknamed the Ox because he sprays so much cologne about).

It’s now 12.20 pm on Thursday evening and I’m off to bed.



Fall youth Gathering at Diocesan Convention

Fourteen Students and seven adults attended the annual diocesan convention October 3 – 5 of 2008. In addition to attending the opening and closing worship services of the convention students had a chance for fellowship and fun at the host congregation, St. Luke's Episcopal Church. While at convention students participated in the service projects on Saturday morning by making 1,000 sandwiches. Many thanks to both St. Luke's & St. Stephen's Episcopal Churches that made the weekend a success.