



Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji  
1864 Hwy. 86  
Milford, IA 51351  
www.presbycamp.org



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# Camp Chatter

February 2012

## A New Year Brings New Things for The Camp

2012 is well on its way and things are happening at the Camp.

We have a new camp management system which will make on-line registration more user friendly and helps with the office side of registrations.

We also have a new website. If you haven't taken a look, go to [www.presbycamp.org](http://www.presbycamp.org) and see the changes. Retreat listing are there under age groups. Summer camps are listed under the grade just completed. There is a register button on the page which takes you directly to the on-line registration. WOW! And there are tons of pictures.

We were blessed with the generosity of many last year and this has provided us with the ability to nearly complete the lower level of Lakeview Lodge. The one interior thing

that we are needing now is an elevator (more on page two).

We have also been able to open the position of Program Coordinator. Interviews are underway and hopefully, we will have the position filled by the end of February.

We are hoping to bring a new water trampoline to the Camp this summer. We are currently \$800 away from making this happen. If you feel moved, please send a donation to the Camp with "Water Trampoline" in the memo line of your check.

As I begin my second year as your Executive Director, I am inspired by the number of people who have been faithful to the Camp's ministry and by the increasing number of people who are finding the Camp as a wonderful place to reconnect with God and family and friends.

While some things are new, the one constant at the Camp is God. God's voice is a gentle and yet loud presence here. I have heard people say this is the place they can hear God's voice the best. Have you taken the time to visit with God here? You know, the Camp is open 365 days a year. Come for a personal retreat, a family getaway, a reunion of friends, a Bible study retreat, or just come to one of the many retreats the Camp plans during the year. We are eagerly waiting for you to come and I bet God would love to spend time with you here, too.

Blessings,

*Beth*



## Summer Camp Mission Project

Bring a box or two of your favorite cereal to the Camp this summer for our mission project to feed the hungry. We will be taking food items to local food banks.

Let's see how many boxes we can get! Let's see what turns out to be the favorite!

Jesus said to love one another. This summer,

our love will be represented by boxes of cereal. May our love be a Lucky Charm and not play Trix on anyone. Show your Snap, Crackle, and Pop and bring boxes of deliciousness to the Camp to help others have a Special Kind of Day!

Helping others is FUN!





## 2012 Summer Camp Theme will

campfires and dinner tables—stories are how we pass on the meaning and beauty of our history. Stories make us laugh or cry. They make us more aware. They help us understand. They illuminate any shadowy spots in our lives.

Jesus used stories to teach his disciples—and us—about what it means to live in his kingdom. The stories are called parables. In “Secrets of the Kingdom”, we’ll look to the Master Storyteller,

Jesus himself, to discover six different parables and invite the Holy spirit to teach us through these sacred stories.

Prepare for wonderful adventures! We will unlock the secrets and learn what life would be like if the kingdom of heaven was not a destination but a way to live.

Bring your friends and neighbors and classmates to Camp this summer for an epic adventure into the Kingdom!



The act of storytelling is as ancient as human communication. From writing on the walls of caves to oral tradition to written words to

## WE NEED A LIFT

The one thing that our beautiful Lakeview Lodge needs is an elevator. While the shaft is built, the equipment and elevator itself are not in place.

This elevator will help us make full use of the facility for all people without the barrier of stairs. Currently, some people cannot



even go on a tour of the entire building due to the inability to manage the stairs. This really limits our programming and use.

The estimate for the elevator is \$85,000 to \$100,000. To achieve this, we need 100 people to give \$1,000 each or 200 peo-

ple to give \$500 each or 500 people to give \$200 each or if we made it really simple, one person to give \$100,000. There are a number of combinations that would get us to our magic number of \$100,000. Want to be a part of the magic? Send your gift to the Camp today with the word “elevator” in the memo line. If you have questions, contact us at 712-337-3313.

*Begin living a more generous life as a reflection of a growing faith and trust in the Creator God.*



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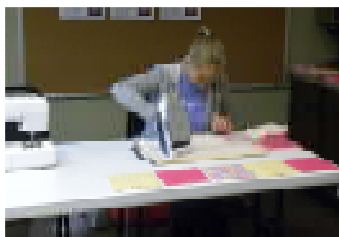
## Gift of Camp Quilt Retreat—Book your room NOW!

Need a few days to work on your quilt projects but get distracted by cooking, cleaning, and other daily tasks at home? Then we have a deal for you! Come to the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji for a time to quilt, a time for fellowship, and a time to relax! We will do the cooking! You can work as much or as little as you wish.

Whether you are a veteran Quilter, are just testing the waters, or want to get started, but don't know how, this weekend is for you.

**Check out our website ([www.presbycamp.org](http://www.presbycamp.org)) for a quilt pattern** that leader Marne Barker will teach participants how to make. Purchase the necessary fabric before coming and plan to work on it here.

- 1 This retreat will allow you plenty of time to work on your projects, learn tips and ideas from others, and spend some time meditating on the Word and how we are all stitched together by God's amazing love!
- 2 For more details, go to the retreat page on our website or call the Camp Office today, 712-337-3313.



## Give The Gift of Camp

Is this scene familiar? You are standing in the aisle at your local toy store trying to decide what would be the best gift for your child or grandchild. The problem is that your child or grandchild has just about every toy in the store. Legos? Check. Trucks? Check. Electronic gadgets? Check, check, and check. Why not give the ultimate gift — CAMP.

“A camp experience is unique and can have profound positive impacts on a young person’s social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. When you give a child a camp experience, you give them lifelong lessons and memories that help them navigate a successful future,” said Peg Smith, chief executive office of the American Camp Association.

Here is further proof that camp is the ultimate gift:

- Unlike toys, camp doesn’t break. According to research from the Children’s Mutual, 41% of toys and presents given during the December holidays are broken by March.
- Camp boosts a child’s sense of self. Families want their children to

develop genuine confidence and an awareness of their place in the world. These are things that can’t be bought or taught — they grow organically. That is where camp comes in.

- Camp develops twenty-first century life skills. Participation in programs like camp develops essential twenty-first century life skills. Where you may see a group of campers laughing and building a small rope bridge, the youth development professional sees problem-solving and teamwork skills being enhanced.
- Camp is critical to a child’s education. Camp is one of the oldest and finest community-based experiential education and development models in America. The natural extension of traditional education, camp is a deliberate, ex-



panded learning environment that provides an education like no other.

- Camp is fun. Camp gives children and youth the opportunity to just relax, have fun, and be kids. They will experience the joy of splashing through puddles and the wonder of sitting in a quiet field and looking at the stars.

By giving the special child in your life the gift of camp, you are giving them the ultimate gift — independence, self-confidence, friendships, and competencies. Camp never breaks; it never expires or gets moldy. There won’t be a newer version released mid-summer, rendering all previous versions obsolete.

The gift of camp is real — giving children and youth real experiences, real opportunities for genuine growth, and unlimited potential.

From the American Camp Association, ACA Local Great Rivers.



**“Camp develops twenty-first century life skills in teamwork and problem-solving”**

## Middle School Mayhem is Coming

Middle School can be filled with craziness. One minute you know who your friends are and the next, you can’t tell if you have any friends. As you grow older, your respon-



sibilities change and sometimes, your privileges change, too. Some friends get to do some things that you can’t. Other friends can’t do what you get to do. Come for this weekend to try and get your GPS on track with Jesus. Bring your friends for a wild and wacky weekend of friendly fun! Mayhem is

everywhere. Find Jesus and be better protected against mayhem!

The cost is \$70 for the weekend. Each group attending should plan to bring a chaperone for each 6 students. For a registration form, go to our website, [www.presbycamp.org](http://www.presbycamp.org) and go to the youth retreat page.



**Mayhem is everywhere. Find Jesus and be better protected from Mayhem.**



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**Check out the new website!**  
**[www.presbycamp.org](http://www.presbycamp.org)**

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## Family Camp Scholarships Available

Through a grant and a generous donation, those attending our Family Camp, June 24-28 may receive a \$50 scholarship per family member over the age of three until our funding runs out.

Dorman and Janet Leader continue to bless the camp in many ways. "We got into camp and conference ministry because we attended the family camp here at the Presbyterian Camp many years ago," says Janet. "It changed our lives." Dorman and Janet have 36 years of experience in this ministry.

Dorman and Janet have graciously given to the Family Camp Scholarship Fund.

We have also received a grant from Countryside Ministry" (6

congregations - Calvary Presbyterian Church, Faith Lutheran Church, Fulton Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, United Church of Christ Congregational, and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church). We received \$1800 specified for new family ministry initiatives.

So, get your registration forms in for Family Camp early in order to receive this gift!

Questions? Contact Beth Ehlers, 712-337-3313.



**Did You Know.....**

- That a Camp Staff person will come to **your church** if invited and share news from the camp? Call today. 712-337-3313
- That **Half MAD** is returning this summer? If you are currently in 6-8th grade, you can come to this AWE-SOME camp.
- That **7-10 deer** on the ridge behind Executive Director Beth Ehlers' house scare her dog at night so he won't even get off the stoop? Funny fact!