

Minute for Camp Abby # 2

The Rev. Nancy Wilson, of King's United Pastoral charge writes:

It was the summer that my dad was unemployed. I was 7 years old. Our minister, Rev. Dorsch, was the director of Golden Lake United Church Camp just outside of Pembroke, Ontario. In lieu of the registration fee, Rev. Dorsch arranged for my mom to be a "Children's Worker" at the camp, enabling my whole family to go to family camp for a week. That week was my introduction to the ministry of camping – a ministry that I have valued throughout my life.

Now, an ordained minister myself, I look back on my various camping experiences and I see the seeds of faith that were sown in the dining hall, during worship and Christian education activities, and even on the basketball court. I remember the people – people like Brian and Steve who taught me how to pray; people like Don who let me sit on the piano bench as he made the stories of Jesus come to life through music; people like the caretaker Merv, who taught me to respect all of God's creation. Totally oblivious to it at that time, I now see camping ministry as an important part in the planting and nurturing of God's call on my life. Whether it be to ordained ministry or to another profession or vocation, camp is a place that provides an environment for children and adults alike to explore who we are as God's people (individually and collectively). Through planned activities like singing, worship and Christian education, campers learn how "to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil and to live with respect in creation." Through informal and free time community is constantly nurtured and strong relationships are formed.

As a volunteer chaplain at Camp Abby this past summer, two of my nephews were able to join me at the camp. Although we were there just for one overnight, my seven year old nephew was sad to leave, because he had enjoyed playing basketball, joining in the games, going to vespers, and making new friends. It was amazing to me to see how the love of camping continues into the next generation of our family. And to think my introduction to camping came about because someone was willing to offer financial support to a family who was in need. May other children be so blessed!

Please support the Camp Abby by making a contribution and pledge to the Capital Campaign –Our children, Our Challenge.