

SHELDON CALVARY CAMP

One thousand twenty-eight campers, nearly 50 families, 68 young staff members, six health care providers, two chefs, one night watchman, and five camp directors made up the community of Sheldon Calvary Camp in the summer of 2017, our 81st summer of camping ministry. Two weeks of staff training, seven different Coed Camp sessions, Day Camp, two Family Camp weeks, and Labor Day weekend filled a summer schedule beginning in early June.

This summer invited full use of the Fralden Terrace property, which was restored last year. Campers took delight in fishing in the pond that was stocked in the spring. Aiming for bulls-eyes at the archery range became far more pleasant in the shade.

Campers enjoyed expanded programs on our Lake Erie beach. Improvements have made it possible to walk the entire length of the camp property along the beach. Swimming, wading, and collecting beach glass captivated many campers. Kayaking, paddle-boarding, and sailing all happened directly from the camp beach, ending decades of driving to sail in the Conneaut harbor, and making these activities available to many more campers.

Singing, Compline, and the Eucharist in the Bishop Thomas Chapel remained central to our life together. We were grateful for the visit of Bishop McConnell during Coed Camp.

Construction is under way on the new dining hall, the first priority of our recent capital campaign. This environmentally sound building will more effectively accommodate the two hundred seventy people at Coed Camp meals. The design also envisions serving groups throughout the year. The venerable old dining hall will be preserved, for its irreplaceable heritage and its usefulness as an additional indoor activity space.

We continue to have good news to share about property, facilities, programs, and stewardship of resources. Yet the most significant news will always be the impact camp makes in the lives of those who experience this transformative community. Calvary Camp is a sacred place where people deepen relationships with one another, with creation, and with the Creator of all. Living together, we discover our common humanity. In simple everyday interactions, we learn to serve and care for one another, to respect the dignity of every human being, and to love as Christ loves us. The uncomplicated but profound experience of life at camp is a foundation for a lifetime of selflessness, kindness, faith, and hope. More than ever, we are committed to this ministry and witness for the sake of those “growing up in an unsteady and confusing world” (*The Book of Common Prayer*, page 829).

Tim Green, Executive Director
The Rev. Leslie Reimer, Director of Spiritual Life
Susan Roth, Staff Development Director

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