



SUMMER 2013 - ALL THINGS NEW!

IN THIS ISSUE

# “EPIC” Summer

by Matthew Tees

## Greetings from Camp DeWolfe!

When reflecting on this past summer at Camp DeWolfe, the word “EPIC” comes to mind! Camp DeWolfe saw “EPIC” improvements in facilities, registered campers, and our overall camper experience even before campers arrived. Then during the summer camp season, I recall multiple evenings watching “EPIC” sunsets over the Long Island Sound and seeing campers participate in “EPIC” challenges in the Olympics night, Color Wars, and 2nd Annual Sail Boat Regatta! There were many “EPIC” memories made around the campfire, during cabin devotions, and throughout Christian Formation time, as we sang to God in community and grew in our faith in the Lord!

Summer Camp 2013 was an “EPIC” year of adventure, fun, meeting new friends, being outdoors in nature, developing leadership skills and most importantly learning more about our relationship with God! Camp DeWolfe

welcomed over 125 campers from across Long Island, NYC and the East Coast in a variety of Day, Overnight and Summer-long Leadership Programs that were filled with many enthusiastic and adventurous campers.

I want to personally thank each and every camp family, camper, counselor and Camp DeWolfe Staff member for making summer 2013 an “EPIC” success and for being such an important part of the Camp DeWolfe family. We are here because each of you and your support in creating a place where youth can experience the love of Christ. I look forward to being in touch with all of you throughout the upcoming year and seeing you back at camp for another “EPIC” summer next June!

In Christ,

Matthew Tees

Executive Director



## Reflecting on Summer Camp

-Thoughts by two of our Summer Camp Chaplains and Board members!

Page 2



## Upcoming Events

-Get your calendar out!

## Exploring Camp, Adventuring Camp

by Rev. Luke Fodor- St. John's, Cold Spring Harbor

All Camp DeWolfe Board members make it a priority to visit camp while it is in session. This year two Board members served as chaplains during the opening week at Explorer Camp (The Rev. Luke Fodor) and the closing week at Adventure Camp (The Rev. Michael Sniffen).

**Explorer Camp** provides an opportunity for first time campers (and first time chaplains!) to get their feet wet... better said, immersed in the camping experience. Many of the campers were sleeping away from home for the first time ever and learning to be responsible for themselves and their faith in a whole new way. This was particularly apparent during cabin devotion times just before bed. Each camper was encouraged to reflect on the day and explore where they experienced God—both in the highs and the lows.

My boys (5 and 2½ years) were too young to officially attend camp, but they got to explore right along with the other kids—doing crafts, shooting arrows and playing in the water. This being summer camp, water was a prominent theme and so when it came time for our closing Eucharist, it seemed appropriate to renew our baptismal vows.

After blessing the water, we got real camp-y and used water guns to asperge all of the campers, counselors and staff. It is amazing how this one-week immersion continues to nourish campers and chaplains alike. Camp offers an children an opportunity to practice inquiring and discerning hearts that have the courage to will and persevere and the joy to wonder at all of God's works.

*Read more articles by our Board Members on Page 7...*



**NOTE:**

Check the camp blog for regular news and articles to support you, your family and your parish ministry!

[WWW.CAMPDEWOLFE.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPDEWOLFE.ORG)



Picture Left: Counselor Corey Wiley with Camper Cameron Ross



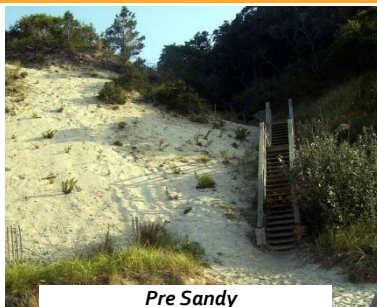
Asperge of the campers Camp Style!

## Bluff Update!

**This Fall Camp DeWolfe hopes to literally "secure" our future...**

In the wake of Super Storm Sandy, Camp DeWolfe facilities "weathered" the storm fairly well with lessened damage due to the 200ft Bluff that camp sits on, because of its high positioning away from storm surge.

The Camp Bluff lost upwards of 40' horizontal and 60' vertical feet in some places. This destabilized all plant life higher up on the bluff and much sand continues to erode down towards the sound. If you are familiar with Camp DeWolfe you will know that Benson house, the pool chapel and Lodge 1 were already within 30' ft of the



Pre Sandy

edge of the bluff, a line which grows closer with each rain storm. This past winter a land survey was conducted and determined that within the next 5 years camp facilities would be in danger of falling into the L.I. Sound. A plan was devised to permanently re-stabilize the bluff and protect the camp for generations to come.

If all goes to schedule, this fall, contractors will put into place, hundreds of 5-10 ton boulders, anti-erosion control netting,



Post Sandy

followed by native species plantings along the entire toe of the Bluff, nearly (1/4 mile!). A new set of stairs will also be constructed at the bottom portion of the trail to replace those that were damaged in the storm.

The current plan is viewed to be a final solution to bluff erosion on the camp property and we are excited to see God's camp be "secured" for years to come. Should you wish to financially participate in this effort please contact the camp office today!

[office@campdewolfe.org](mailto:office@campdewolfe.org)

**BENSON HOUSE- 101 YEARS OLD**



**Camp Facts!**

- 3510- Overall Camper Days
- 34- Missing Archery Arrows
- 30- "Campers of the Day"
- 25- Camp DeWolfe Staff Members
- 18- Number of times sailboats were capsized
- 7- Weeks of Summer Camp Season
- 6- International staff
- 1- Savior – our Lord Jesus Christ



**Join us for a Service Saturday!**

**FAST FACTS**

95%

% of campers who hope to return to Camp DeWolfe in 2014

550

Estimated number of s'mores consumed this summer

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact the Camp Office at (631) 929-4325 or email us at [office@campdewolfe.org](mailto:office@campdewolfe.org)



*Fun times together at Christian Formation!*

# Upcoming Fall Programs/Events

**September**

**1st- Registration opens for Summer Camp 2014!**

-Refer a friend and save \$\$

**1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> --Labor Day Retreats**

**8th - Visit to Grace Church- Whitestone**

- Hear about next year!

**14th - Service Saturday**

- Begins gam.

**28<sup>th</sup> -Service Saturday**

-Begins gam

**28<sup>th</sup> Cathedral: J2A Retreat**

-Fall Fun at Camp

**October**

**4<sup>th</sup> -Trip: Hillsong Conference NYC**

-Join us for 2 days in Manhattan

**6<sup>th</sup> - Visit to Holy Trinity Valley Stream**

- 8 and 10 am

**5th -Service Saturday**

- Begins gam

**26th -Service Saturday**

- Begins gam

**November**

**15<sup>th</sup>-16th- Diocesan Convention**

-Come see the camp table!

**28<sup>th</sup> -Happy Thanksgiving!**

-Camp Closed

**More events**

**Parish Visits-** keep your eyes open on Sunday mornings for Matt as he continues his three year trek to visit each parish! Does your Parish want a visitor from Camp? Contact us today!



**Summer Camp 2014**

- It's right around the corner! Register online today at [www.campdewolfe.org](http://www.campdewolfe.org) to take advantage of 20% discounts!

# Winter Camp 2014

## January 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

**You** are officially invited to Winter Camp 2014!

The date is set and we are ready for winter camp 2014! Come and have some outdoor fun in the cold with your favorite counselors, summer friends, and spend some time with God in Chapel worship times!

Lots of campfires, hot chocolate, gaga, and events are planned. All that is needed are lots of very enthusiastic campers and warm blankets! Register today and don't miss out on a great weekend together at Camp DeWolfe!

**RSVP to the Camp office**  
**by December 15th**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Camp office for more information or see the website!

etees@campdewolfe.org

(631) 929-4325

WWW.CAMPDEWOLFE.ORG

*No winter sailing this year! But definitely some snow archery!*



# 2014 CAMP DEWOLFE WINTER CAMP

**Friday, January 24th, at 6pm -  
Sunday, January 26th, at 1pm**

Youth ages 10—14 years old  
Only \$125 per camper all inclusive

Camp DeWolfe will be hosting it's Winter Camp for all 4th to 8th Graders who can't wait until summer camp! Activities, worship, games, arts, returning staff, fun and maybe even some snow!

This weekend will be a great retreat for returning campers, interested first time campers, and anyone who loves camp! Bring your friends! Youth groups welcome too!

Register at: [www.campdewolfe.org](http://www.campdewolfe.org) by December 15th  
For Questions: Call (631) 929 4325

**CAMP DEWOLFE**  
Episcopal Diocese of Long Island  
SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAMS & FOUR SEASON RETREAT CENTER



# Contribute to your Camp!

Camp DeWolfe is in need of items to keep facilities at their best! Please consider furthering the ministry of the camp through your tax deductible donation below:

## Furniture

- 12 bunk beds with 24 twin mattresses
- 10 stand-alone lamps
- 4 wooden dressers
- New area rugs (5" by 7' and 8' by 12')
- 2 fridges (with freezer)

## Maintenance equipment

- 2 Golf Carts
- 2 drills (cordless)
- 1 chain saw 13-20 inch
- 1 gas hedge trimmer
- 1 gas brush cutter
- 1 Tree Trimmer
- 5 hammers
- Carpentry tools
- 20 paint brushes and rollers
- 10 paint trays
- Drop cloths

## Housekeeping

- 5 industrial mops
- 5 brooms
- 3 industrial strength Oreck vacuum cleaners
- White linens (flat sheet, bottom sheet, pillow case) for twin size and queen size
- 50 new pillows



## Transportation

- 15 passenger van x 2

## Equipment

- 20 Skim diving masks and snorkels
- New Outdoor sports equipment

## Program

- 4 Filing Cabinets
- 5 Computers and monitors
- 10 office chairs
- Scissors, Glue, Tape
- Paints and crafts supplies



*Camp tradition of leading Pre Dinner Songs! This one was "Baby Shark Do Do"!*

## AROUND THE CAMP



## Now hiring Summer Staff 2014

The camp is now accepting applications for college-age counselor positions. See the website for more info!



## Parish Banners

Calling out to all parishes! We want you to be represented in the Davis Hall. Please make a 3' x 5' banner to be hung in the dining hall. Spaces are still available. Call the office for more details. Thank you to all those who have already participated! The banners are a wonderful addition to the Davis Hall!



## Leave a Legacy

Want to make an immediate impact at Camp DeWolfe? Participate in our Leave a Legacy Campaign to support capital improvements and receive a commemorative brick to be placed in honor or memory of you, your family, school, business, or parish! All bricks are placed in the patio area of the Meeting Hall where guests from all over Long Island see your contribution to the camp! Contact the office at (631) 929-4325 or email us at office@campdewolfe.org

# Camper Prayers

Over the course of the summer each cabin was given the opportunity to write their own prayers as a group to voice their praise and concerns with one another. Below is a sample of their work!



**Dear Lord,**

*We thank you for beautiful flowers, the big blue sea, our homes and for Camp DeWolfe. Thank you for being always there for us, making us better when we are sad, for food and water and art supplies. My heart is with you and thank you for giving us all the beauty on earth. We love you. Amen.*

**Dear Lord,**

*Thank you for the beautiful sunsets and this nation. We thank you for safety in all that we do and that we may try always harder to improve. We thank you for friends and for family, for wonderful food and those who receive it. Outside of Camp we pray for the homeless and those that fight to defend us. Keep them all safe and bless them all, May we all live for your glory. Amen.*

**Dear Lord,**

*You are with Camp DeWolfe, all creatures great and small. All campers are loved by God. He made different things big and small. He blesses us every day. Thank you for food and lovely animals. Amen*

**Dear Lord,**

*God Changes us in ways unknown, in years to come it will be shown. Things may be bad at first, trust Him they could be worse. Help us grow in wisdom, stature and strength. We praise your name we will go the length. The way God works is beyond our imaginations, He's changing people across every nation. Thank you God for you are wise, do your best to guide our lives. Amen!*



## CAMPER QUOTES-

"Gaga is awesome and the GAGA pit is very fun! The food and activities are better."- **Ryan Gilbert, St. Mark's Islip**

"Camp is a great way to get to know new people. You run around all day and you learn about God." **Lucas C, Grace Church White Stone**

"The best part of camp was the food and climbing was so fun. I would always remember my counselors and friends."

"I returned because I love sport/games and archery. I met lots of new friends last year too." **Carlos Ponce, St. Luke's Forest Hills**

"The best part of camp was getting to the top of the climbing wall because it felt like I was at the top of the world and I kept trying."

"Kevin is the best counselor, and Jessica is cool too. Come when it's your birthday because the cake is really good!" **Franco Kneski**



## Christian Community Unplugged

by Rev. Michael Sniffen- Church of St Luke and St Matthew Brooklyn

Hearing your favorite musician or band on an album is completely different from hearing them live in an intimate setting. On an album, producers have the opportunity to optimize the pitch, tempo, balance, even reverb and background noise before you hear the music. It's great, but canned. Hear that music live, and...wow! It's full of life and different every time. You experience the personality, breath, presence and nuances of the music more profoundly.

The same is true of experiencing Christian community at Camp DeWolfe. The stories are great, but it's even better live!

I had the opportunity to serve as chaplain for the final days of camp this year. Arriving one week into a two week session, I encountered a group of campers and counselors who were undoubtedly a Christian community. It was unmistakable. The gifts of the spirit were overflowing. As the group welcomed me to preside at the Eucharist, **I could feel the authenticity of relationship** between all those gathered and the God who created us.

Throughout the week, we shared in well-planned and thoughtful activities. We prayed



a lot. We sang, we swam, we sailed, we ate and ran and climbed and colored. We encountered God.

One evening in chapel, several counselors put on a silent skit set to music. The skit powerfully depicted the struggle to stay close to God in the midst of life's challenges and temptations.

Join me in the chapel by candlelight overlooking the Long Island Sound...At the beginning of the skit we see a girl crouching alone in the chapel. Slowly she arises and we see that she is animated by the love of God in Christ. She dances joyfully with Jesus. Effortlessly she separates from God and finds herself dancing with someone else. She is passed off to yet another teen who puts alcohol in her hand and brings her to a party. She is taken advantage of by kids who claim to be her friends. In the next scene we find her being bullied and eventually on her own having thoughts of suicide. All the while, Jesus is in the corner of the chapel trying to get her attention- even reaching for her. Determined, she rises to her feet and uses all her strength to connect with Jesus, but the temptations and bad influences grab at her clothing and hold her back. She struggles

harder and suddenly she finds that Jesus is standing between her and the corrupting forces protecting her and giving her strength. She breathes deeply. At the close of the skit we find the girl dancing with God and giving thanks.

There is silence after the skit. As the candles flicker, many campers are in tears. We share in holy conversation about how challenging life can be and how alone we can all feel at times. We encourage one another and witness to the power of God's love in our midst. We talk about where to find support when we need it. We pray together and then we head to our cabins.

This is just a peek at one hour in the life of Camp DeWolfe. The arts and crafts and waterfront activities and high ropes course are fantastic, but if you think that's all there is, you must come and experience camp for yourself! Send your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors. You've heard the stories, now come experience it live! You will leave transformed, renewed and dancing with God.



## A Client and Board Member

by David K. Cannon- St. Marks Islip

I am currently serving my second term on the Board of Managers of Camp DeWolfe, Inc. and am it's Secretary. But first and foremost I am a husband and a parent to three children ages 19, 17 and 9. When I first saw Camp DeWolfe about six years ago and prior to being elected to the Board, I saw a resource in a beautiful setting with endless potential, but in need of some serious upgrades. I was there as an adult supervisor for a Teen Encounter Christ (TEC) weekend and my 19 year old was one of the teens. Little did I know then the role I would play in the rebirth of the Camp.

This summer, as I dropped off my nine-year-old, Troy, for his second year of camp, I was amazed at how far we've come. I witnessed firsthand how well the program is being run by a wonderfully enthusiastic and diverse staff. The staff is a mix of local young adults, others from other parts of the country, several from "across the pond" and

even one from "down under". Talking to them and watching them work with the kids has been great as is watching the kids learn to do things that they may not be familiar with like kayaking or sailing. Games like color wars, manhunt and the water Olympics have been thrilling. On one of my visits, my 17 year old accompanied me. Nicole spent one week at the camp four years ago. While she enjoyed it, she is not big on "natural settings", so the idea of her ever working at a camp was basically a non-starter. That is until she visited the camp with me. She enjoyed her visit so much, she told me that when she is old enough (Counselors must have completed at least one year of college) she would like to apply for a summer staff position.

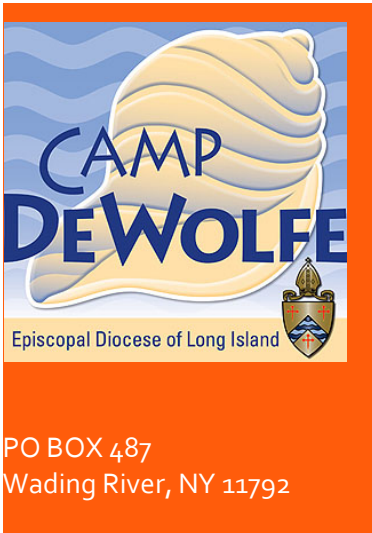
But it is not just fun and games that the Camp is about, but what it really is all about is Christian formation. The kids are learning about God and Christ but not just in the time they spend in Chapel, but during all their activities. They are learning Christian values

the way they are interacting with each other, sharing and enjoying the time they are spending together. In the artwork they are producing, in helping each other out on the challenge course, in the songs they are singing before meals and at camp fires and of course in the time they spend in Chapel. They are learning about responsibility by taking turns serving as the table captain and bringing the food to their table at mealtime and then cleaning up the table afterward.

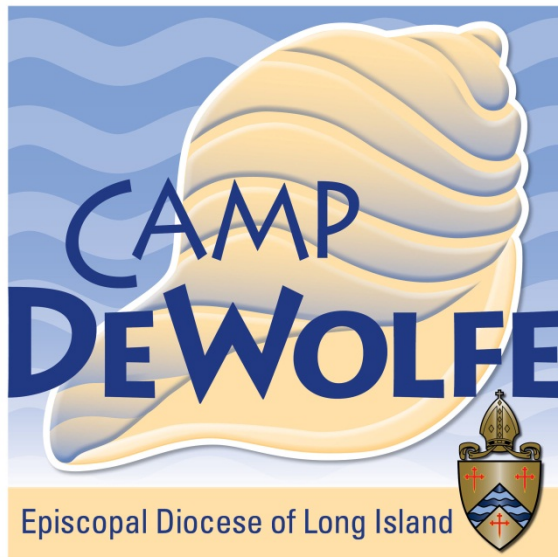
**I see the difference** in my own son's life. When Troy came home from camp all he could talk about for the next week was his time at camp. So many different stories of what he did at camp, the friends he made, what he learned or about the counselors. What a wonderful fun learning experience he had and as both a parent and a Board member, I could not be more thrilled.



Pictured: Troy Cannon and Counselor Stephanie



[Addressee]  
[Street Address]  
[City, ST ZIP Code]



SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAMS &  
FOUR SEASON RETREAT CENTER

*GREETINGS FROM CAMP  
DEWOLFE!!*

