

ADVENTURE – JUST LIKE THE LOVE OF GOD – IS ALL AROUND US. ANYWHERE WE GO.

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ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE!

“Adventure is out tHERE!” - The phrase made famous from the Pixar blockbuster “UP”, was the theme of this year’s Winter Camp! Campers were presented with the idea that the greatest adventures in life are really all around them. Right here, right now. All too often we get lost in the busyness of life, our belongings and the other “things” that steal our attention away from the eternal truth that God is continually active and present in each moment of our lives...

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

This winter camp was a wake-up call for all of us, as we enjoyed and embraced Winter Storm Jonas with broomball, sledding, and snow Ga-Ga and in Christian Formation, we attempted to let go of some of those things that distract us from God. To symbolize this and also make the link to the movie, we planned to let go of some balloons from St Luke’s Chapel back door. Unexpectedly however, was the speed at which the balloons were propelled out of the Sacristy as Winter Storm Jonas raged on! It was a Holy moment. One minute there, the next gone and forever lost in the Blizzard.

If only we trust God enough to let Him open our eyes to the Adventure that is HERE all the time, we might just find our place in HIS amazing story, and have some fun along the way!

-By Matt Tees, Camp Director



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THE GOD OF FLESH AND BLOOD

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN MY HUMANITY

By Christina Miller

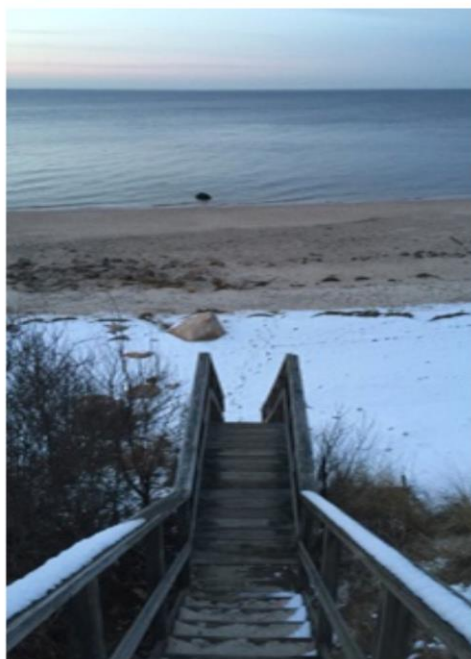


Last weekend I went to Camp DeWolfe for the *Listening to God Retreat*. Pulling up to Benson House was like a homecoming. Two years ago, I served as the Christian Formation director and spent the summer tucked away in the houses' warm red wood planks. In-between sessions, I would do lesson plans as kids played in the pool outside my window. Sometimes I would prop up on the back porch, only to discover kids straggling by on rouge scavenger hunts.

This weekend was slightly different in nature. A small group of us gathered to be led by Fr. Joe, a Catholic Priest from Brooklyn, in experiencing God's presence through our senses. We stepped out of the noise and clutter of our lives into a quiet, contemplative space. Throughout the weekend we got reacquainted with our physical senses—sight, touch, smell, taste, sound. And awakened our inner senses that often get buried—emotions, intuition, faith, memory.

Half way through the weekend, I couldn't help but notice each session pointed back to our vulnerability. We encounter God in the here and now—our fleshy bodies and imperfect realities. We encounter God in the Son—who set aside strength and power to become a fragile baby. And we meet Jesus in the ordinary aspects, and fullness of, his humanity. He ate meals with friends, felt the cool water of baptism, bled blood and bore wounds. At times he was overcome with anger, at other times he wept. He did not shrink away from his earthly experience; he entered in.

His example invites us to do the same. It invites us to enter into our own humanity, to know our vulnerability, as a way of realizing our full dependence on God. This leads to a divine reciprocity—together we receive from God and give to one another. Together we walk this flesh and blood journey, deeper into the incarnate heart of God.



Before taking the Eucharist with a visiting priest from the diocese, I snuck down to the beach.

I carefully descended the steep stairs covered in ice and framed in snow. The bare tree branches were starkly silhouetted. When I looked down at the shore I saw it laid out in strips—snow, sand, water darkening into deeper blues until it reached the horizon line. A native southern Californian, I never considered the possibility of snow on sand. As I walked along the quiet stretch, I realized I never considered the option of snow in seashells. I never considered the bright light of snow reflecting on the underside of seagull's wings. I was delighted.



When we gathered in the chapel to receive Christ's body and blood, the priest filled our palms with layers of wafers. They snapped like bones as I bit into several mouthfuls. I listened, I tasted. I saw the people standing in a loose circle around me. I felt the God of mystery and unusual parings and ordinary revelations entering into my experience. I perceived God fully knowing my journey, and fully making my journey known to me. I remembered the sweet liberation of dependence on God.

I left Camp DeWolfe, covered in snow, hoping to return in another season. Perhaps when kids are running wild, still wet from adventurous swims in the ocean. Perhaps when the ice has melted exposing the lush trail underneath. When the sights, sounds, and emotions evoke the memory still stored in my bones. The path of knowing God leads us deeper into our own humanity—and our senses take us there.

CAMP PROGRAMS & EVENTS

March 2016

4th – 5th – St Mark’s Church Jackson Heights Vestry Retreat

4th – 6th – CenterPoint Church Men’s Retreat

4th – Camp DeWolfe at Stony Brook University

6th – Camp DeWolfe at Grace Church Brooklyn Heights

8th – 10th – American Camp Association (ACA) Annual Tri-State Conference in NJ

12th – 13th – I.G.H.L. Monthly Retreat

13th – Camp DeWolfe at St Thomas’ Church Bushwick NY

19th – Annual Benefit Luncheon 1pm ALL WELCOME!

27th – Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!

April 2016

1st – 2nd – Christ Church NYC Retreat

1st – 3rd – Cure of Ars RC Church Youth Retreat

6th – Camp DeWolfe at Nyack College NYC

8th – 9th – Camp Board of Managers Retreat

9th – 10th Hofstra University Retreat

15th – 17th - Three Village Church Youth Retreat

16th – 17th – Yoga Retreat

20th – Camp DeWolfe at St Joseph’s College and Suffolk Community College Fairs

22nd – Camp DeWolfe at Adelphi University

22nd – 24th – CenterPoint Church Women’s Retreat



23rd – 24th – I.G.H.L. Monthly Retreat

29th – 1st – Diocesan Youth Retreat

Spring Retreats- Each week during the school year, Camp DeWolfe welcomes church groups, families and schools from across NYC, CT & Long Island. Call the Office to book your retreat at 631-929-4325.

WATCH THE NEW WINTER CAMP VIDEO

www.campdewolfe.org



Camp Alumni News: Christina Miller

Christina Miller, Camp DeWolfe’s Christian Formation Director (2014) now serves at the American Bible Society in Philadelphia! Christina writes curriculums, blogs and theological writings and reflections for ABS and she has been a part of the team since 2015, following her ministry at Camp DeWolfe.

Please join us in praying for Christina as she seeks to be and see Christ in everyone she meets, using her gifts of writing and reflection to share the good news of Christ with all!

SHARE YOUR ALUMNI NEWS

Email the Camp Office office@campdewolfe.org

FAST FACTS

NEW IN 2016

BMX Biking Trails for Camp!

NEW IN 2016

Vertical Play Pen on the Adventure Challenge Course for Summer Camp 2016!

SOUPER-BOWL OF CARING

This NFL season, Camp DeWolfe winter campers participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring! The Souper Bowl of Caring's mission statement is: "Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need." Their vision statement is to: "Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving."

The donations were distributed to homeless people who were outdoors in the cold winter weather in Port Jefferson in February. Be sure to sign your parish up for the Souper Bowl of Caring next NFL season at www.souperbowl.org. Thank you to all who participated in caring for others!



Winter Camp Fun...



SUMMER CAMP THEME 2016

This summer's camp theme is FEARLESS FAITH – It's all about the community of Christ. Our campers will learn:

- to draw courage from friends, family, and your community
- to stand up to mistrust, injustice, and fear itself
- to forgive others
- to change attitudes
- to connect to and welcome all people.

Register your campers ages 7-17 for summer camp at www.campdewolfe.org or call the camp office on 631-929-4325 for more info!

SERVE AT CAMP IN NICARAGUA

Do you have a passion to serve youth? The Camp DeWolfe team is going to Jinotega, Nicaragua this June 2016 to teach English and run camp. Join the Camp DeWolfe team at www.outreach360.org today!



CAMPER VIDEO CONTEST

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE CAMP SESSION FOR THIS SUMMER!

Send in a creative video sharing:

- * *What's your favorite camp moment?*
- * *How has camp made a difference in your life?*
- * *What are you looking forward to this summer?*

Email your video link to office@campdewolfe.org
Deadline by Easter Sunday!

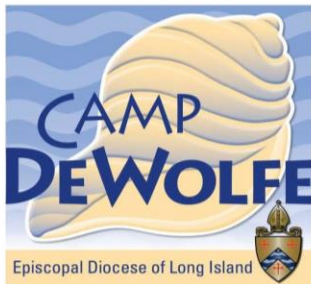
SPRING 2016

SERVICESATURDAYS

- ✓ An opportunity to participate in the stewardship and physical care of Camp DeWolfe; to practice Christ-like service; to engage in community, and enjoy a day out east in the natural setting on the Long Island Sound!
- ✓ Service Projects include painting, landscaping, gardening, beach clean-up and more!
- ✓ Bring your friends, family, youth group, parish, school and neighbors! Ages 8 and up welcome!
- ✓ Sign up today at (631) 929-4325 or email office@campdewolfe.org



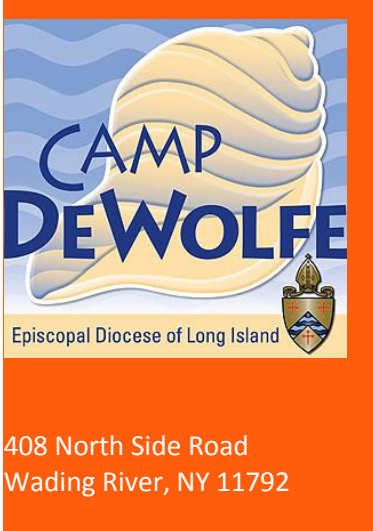
**April 2nd, 16th, 23rd & May 7th, 14th, 21st. 9am–3pm.
Lunch provided. Donations welcome.**



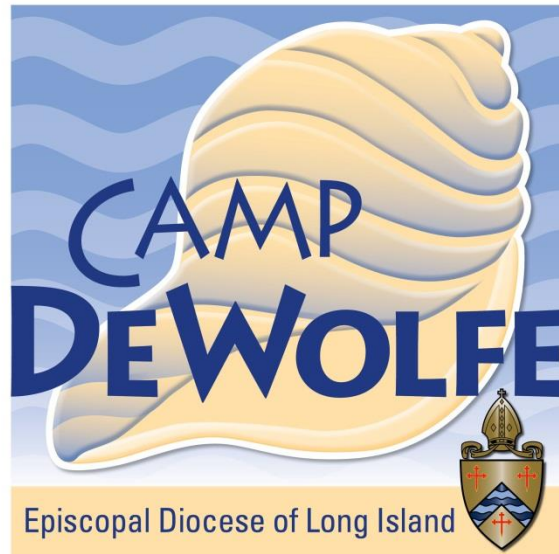
SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAMS & FOUR SEASON RETREAT CENTER



**408 North Side Road, Wading River, NY 11792
www.campdewolfe.org**



[Addressee]
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[City, ST ZIP Code]



SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAMS &
FOUR SEASON RETREAT CENTER