

Telling Our Stories – February 12, 2012

“Silver Lake – A Special Place”

Hi, I am Abby Ritson and I would like to share my experiences at Silver Lake summer camp and how I have been touched by God there.

I have had a blast there for 3 years as a camper and this year, I can't wait to be a counselor for Pastor Alison's group of 5th and 6th graders! Let me tell you why. The camp is only about 45 minutes away in Northwest CT. You feel really far away, but you really aren't. I remember my first year. I was amazed how much it looked like camps I'd seen on TV—cabins, lodges, fields, mess hall, wooded trails and beachfront. I won't mention the bathrooms, but let's just say it adds to the camp experience! I love how close each conference or group becomes in such a short amount of time.

I remember my first time going to camp. My mom and sister were dropping me off and it was pouring rain outside. As you can imagine, I was nervous enough as it was...I was going all by myself and didn't know a single person who would be in my group. But sure enough, within the first couple of hours, I had already met some really great friends who I kept in contact with for a couple of years! I was amazed by how much fun I had, by all the cool stuff we did during the day, like the ropes courses, the crafts, the hikes, the afternoon swims, and, of course, our discussions about our faith.

The fun didn't end in the day either. Each night a different conference would lead a worship service for the whole camp. This was a really fun, creative activity for each group to plan. They are really energetic and everyone gets into it. Later we would play games, like capture the flag in the dark, or go on a 'night hike'. Another highlight of everyone's week is always the camp show, starring the camp staff, which always ends in a dance party!

Everybody is welcome at Silver Lake and you really feel it when you're there. There is a special feeling at the camp and I have to think it is God's presence. This is obvious during worship, but, more importantly, I felt his presence while climbing the highest peak in Connecticut, and even while performing a skit in front of the entire camp. For me, it is God's presence that makes it a special place to try new things and meet lots of great people. I am so excited to be going back this year, and help first timers at Silver Lake have tons of fun and experience our faith!