



## Presbyterian Conference Association, Inc.

in ministry on behalf of the Presbyteries of Hudson River, Long Island and New York City

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Rev. Peter D. Surgenor, Executive Director

Robin Garzoni, Program Director



Dear Pastor or Educator:

Here is a copy of our 2006 Summer Camp Brochure. We are excited about our continuing programs and look forward to the new programs scheduled. These programs are designed to help participants develop as human beings and as Christians. We share in daily Bible Study, evening worship and cabin devotions as well as camp activities which are challenging and fun (swimming, games, hiking, arts and crafts, environmental education and others). Our staff are trained to share faith appropriately and to help campers make the next step in their growth. Living away from home, making new friends and learning to make decisions in a group are some of the skills that can be enhanced in a camp experience.

The Presbyterian Center at Holmes is your camping program and so we ask you to consider the following:

- call our office 845-878-6383 or email [robing@presbyteriancenter.org](mailto:robing@presbyteriancenter.org) to request bulk copies of this brochure for distribution in your church.
- call to request a representative to come speak at your church, Sunday school or youth group. We can share a minute for mission, children's message or tell the camp story.
- consider encouraging one class in your Sunday school to attend camp together. A sample letter is located at [www.campholmes.org](http://www.campholmes.org) Does your church help campers with the cost of camp?
- include the enclosed publicity materials or your own words concerning camp during worship or in your newsletter (see back of this letter).
- include campers and staff in your prayers this spring as we prepare and this summer as we share adventures of Christian growth.
- consider having a "camp Sunday". One church brings sleeping bags, gathers them around a "campfire" and sings camp songs, listens to the opportunities at camp and then shares 's'mores' right out of the church kitchen.

Surveys by the Presbyterian Panel of the PC(USA) in 1982, 1992 and 2002 report that a majority of pastors and a large percentage of elders made significant faith and ministry decisions as a result of camp and retreat experiences. Please consider a camp experience as a contribution to the leader development process in your church.

These summer programs are a continuing cooperative effort of the Presbyteries of Long Island, Hudson River and New York City. Please encourage your community to share and to benefit from this ministry. These programs are designed to support the ministry and mission of your community of faith.

Thank you for your participation in this ministry.

In Christ,

Rev. Peter D. Surgenor  
Executive Director

Robin Garzoni  
Program Director

## Children's Sermon possibilities

### Option 1: Going to Camp

Materials: Backpack, camp attire (hat, t-shirt, boots, etc.), "camp things" specific to your camps program, songbook, Bible

Bible Passage: Genesis 1:1-2:3 The Story of Creation (Peace Talks Curriculum Passage)

Message: Being in God's creation at camp.

Person leading the Children's Sermon is dressed ready to go to camp. Camp hat, t-shirt, hiking boots, etc. with a backpack full of "camp things" (ex. Archery bow and arrow, Bible, canoe paddle, dance shoes, musical instrument, songbook, etc.) Camp person is on route to camp, ready for a summer of fun, walks into sanctuary needing help finding camp. Asks children if they are at camp? Ask children how many have been there? Ask children can you help me find my way? It's a long way, so the camp person sits down to take a break and unpacks some of the "camp things" from the backpack. Ask children what they might need this for at camp...Go through several items, Can bring out songbook and teach camp song, Last item out of backpack is the Bible. Share the Bible passage. Talk with children about God's creation of the earth and everything on it. What better place to enjoy God's creation then at camp. Close with prayer.

For more ideas visit <http://www.pccca.net/images/CampandConferenceSun06.pdf>.

### Activity Ideas

\*Campers wear camp shirts to church.

\*Campers put together a collage of their own camp pictures and memories to display.

\*Show of hands of how many people in the congregation have ever been a camper.

\*Kids teach adults how to make 's'mores' after church as dessert for potluck lunch.

\*Display a list of names of camp staff and have members choose one to pray for over the next year. Send letters or messages to campers during the summer.

\*Make a camp bulletin board to stay up all year to display summer campers, family camp, church's history at camp, etc.

\*Invite camp staff to share a Moment for Mission, Childrens Time or sermon at your church anytime through the year.

\*Play guitar with songs to give service a more "camp" feel.

\*Plan a church-wide campfire for Sunday night worship, complete with hotdogs, s'mores, and worship around the fire.

\*Award a camper scholarship to a deserving child in your congregation or community.

\*Plan a workday at camp. This can be for everyone, no matter your age or physical ability! Contact your local camp to see how you can use your gifts.