



PASSING IT ON

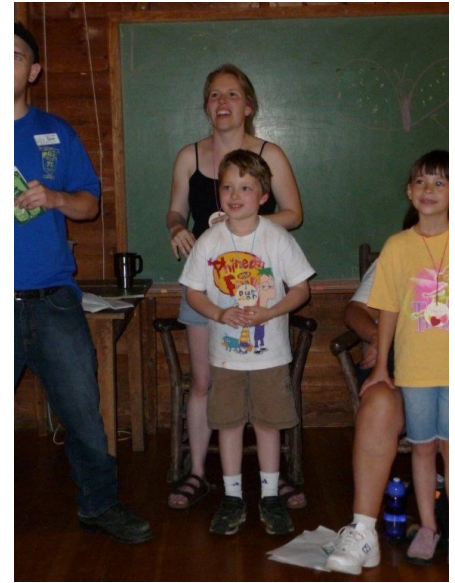
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PILGRIM LODGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: ABBYLYNN HASKELL & BEN CAMPBELL

Reverend AbbyLynn Haskell, pastor of the Acton Congregational Church UCC, comes from a long line of PL devotees. Her grandfather, Stan Haskell, was the camp manager, and her grandmother, Ethel, was a dean. Her parents, Ben and Betty Ann Haskell, met at a youth group retreat in Forrester, both served on the permanent staff, and got married at PL and then have continued their service as counselors and deans. Having gone to PL from third grade through high school and then served on staff, as a counselor, and a dean (as has her sister), it comes as no surprise that AbbyLynn decided to support the Pilgrim Lodge Capital Campaign with a three year pledge of \$3,000.

This single mom of two PL campers decided to pledge, because "Pilgrim Lodge is an important part of being together with our family, but you also care about the people you meet there, and even though they are all over the state, they become our family as well. A pledge means we are taking care of the place we love and make special memories."



Abby & Ben at Faith Foundations 2009

A desire to take care of PL runs deep in this family, as you can see, and it isn't lost on the fourth generation of the Haskell family, AbbyLynn's kids Ben and Keenan Campbell. After receiving a letter asking him to pledge, Ben, age 13, thought about it and worked with AbbyLynn to see what he could contribute. Ben started attending *(continued on page 2)*

MESSAGE FROM CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

Great news to share! The Mildred McEvoy Foundation has just given our campaign a very generous grant of \$150,000. One of the trustees of this foundation wants to honor his daughter and grandson - both PL campers! What a gift.

Do you have someone you want to honor by supporting the new Pilgrim Lodge? Perhaps the cabin mate who you kept in touch with through the years, or the dean who inspired your camper, or that special counselor who made PL a safe and welcoming place. If so, send us your gift with a note, and we will mention them in this newsletter.

One of the ways you benefit when giving a gift to the Pilgrim Lodge Capital Campaign is an extra tax deduction. But, because the IRS is involved, we have to do it a certain way. We ask you to make your checks out to UCC, Maine Conference instead of Pilgrim Lodge because of IRS rules. The Maine Conference is the not for profit entity for Pilgrim Lodge. Thanks for helping us comply. I hope you are humming the music while you read this.

Pam Gormley, Co-Chair
Capital Campaign Committee, pgormley@msln.net

Thanks to the Mildred McEvoy Foundation for the \$150,000 grant!

DECEMBER 2013

Donor Spotlight: AbbyLynn Haskell & her son Ben	1
Message from Campaign Co-Chair	1
TAX ALERT!	2
Campaign Thermometer	2
The True Light	3
Winter Reflection on a PL Summer	3

PL at age 4 when his grandparents were deans of Grandparents Camp, but his first trip to PL was when he was six days old! While he wanted to give more, they figured out that \$300 over three years was what he could handle between his allowance and money he earns at small jobs.

AbbyLynn credits Pilgrim Lodge with being the whole reason she entered the ministry. "People are loved for who they are, and you can see the world for how it is possible to be. PL reaffirms God's love that Jesus came to show us and this strengthens me." In her role as a pastor, she sees the importance of Pilgrim



Ben Haskell with Ben & Keenan Campbell
Grandparents Camp 2009



Ben & his cousin Thomas
Grandparents Camp 2013

Lodge among her congregation. "I give because PL is also a huge help in nurturing the children and youth of our congregation. Acton is very proud in having substantially (financially) helped 9 kids from our congregation get to camp this summer."

For AbbyLynn, Pilgrim Lodge is an "up close and personal way to experience

the love of God in ways that are so deep and challenging and intimate that they impact your life and how you are in the rest of the world." Truer words may have never been said.

PILGRIM LODGE

\$2 m

\$1.75 m

\$1.5 m

\$1,338,659 raised as of 12/4/13

\$1.25 m

\$1 m

\$.75 m

\$.5 m

\$.25 m

\$0 m

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2013-14

TAX ALERT! Tax Free Charitable Rollover Set to Expire

Imagine What You Might Do for Pilgrim Lodge

The charitable IRA rollover allows people who are at least 70.5 years old to direct up to \$100,000 from their traditional IRA to their favorite charity. There is no charitable deduction, but a donor can exclude the entire amount from his/her gross income in 2013. Unlike the required minimum distribution, taxable income does not increase with the charitable IRA rollover.

But time is running out on the charitable rollover! You must complete the rollover in the tax year that ends December 31, 2013. Below is a summary of the key details. Please make sure that you check with your own tax adviser or financial professional to make sure this option is option is right for you.

- * If you are at least 70.5 years old and....
- * If you have a traditional IRA and.....
- * If you do not need the income from the required minimum distribution and....
- * If you may be forced into a higher tax bracket by the distribution and you would like to see this asset removed from your estate...

THEN you may benefit from this special opportunity which ends December 31. Please contact your financial adviser for expert advice on how to proceed.

Your gift this year to the PL Capital Campaign will pass the Pilgrim Lodge experience on to future generations! If I can be of assistance, please email me at peheinrichs@gmail.com or call me at [207-615-2212](tel:207-615-2212). A blessed season to all!

-Peter Heinrichs, PL Capital Campaign Consultant

“THE TRUE LIGHT, WHICH ENLIGHTENS EVERYONE, WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD” ~JOHN 1:9

Rev. Bryan S. Breault, Director of Outdoor Ministries

John carries the powerful metaphor of light in the darkness throughout his gospel, but nowhere is it more clear, vibrant, and powerful as in his first 18 verses. John loves metaphor. Even in that magnificent prologue John mixes two, celebrating Jesus as both “the word” and as “the light.” Later, he refers to Jesus as the bread of life, the gate for sheep, the good shepherd, the way, the truth, and the true vine, but his image Jesus as the light of the world is inescapable.

The two narrative accounts of Jesus’ birth (in Luke and Matthew) are themselves full of literary foreshadowing, but not like John, who boldly starts off indulging his symbolic use of language. Many churches read this prologue on Christmas Eve due to its explicit reference: “the true light, that enlightens us all, was *coming into the world*” and “*The word became flesh and dwelt among us...*” Even if your church does not read the text, you will probably sing it this year: “Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing...”

We talk a lot about metaphor at Pilgrim Lodge. In a world where the literal use of scripture is less and less compelling, leading people to choose between rational scientific thought, and religious spiritual truth, metaphor is the bridge to wholeness. And like John’s images of word and light, I believe most Biblical metaphor is intentional and not a modern re-interpretation. So a successful PL week does not churn out campers who now can quote chapter and verse, or recite the “correct” interpretation of a parable. A successful week at PL involves campers asking questions like “What does this story mean?” “How does this metaphor relate to my own life?” and “What is the truth conveyed with this story.” No need to check your thinking, rational self at the door. Rather, at PL we build bridges between our higher, spiritual yearnings and the reality in which we live every day.

Many are familiar with the iconic sunset at Pilgrim Lodge, set perfectly between the PL islands, streaming across the lake. It’s hard to deny the power in that image and we carry it with us into the winter months. But today, as I stand on the brand new boardwalk and look out at sunset, I crane my neck to the left and watch our brilliant daystar descend in the distant South, beyond the far end of Manitou Island. The difference between the two Solstices is striking in this place. Like so many in history, I am reminded of the promise of Christmas: that the light will return. That Christmas is about the divine breaking forth into the human sphere; that our responsibility is to reflect that light, to become that light, to bring the Realm of God to the world, now, in our time and place. A baby in a manger is a powerful image with great potential for conveying the reality of God’s presence and love. But for me, the image and promise of light in the darkness transforms Christmas into the hopeful season of our calling.

In this season of hope, light, and potential, please join me, and so many others as we seek to bind together the truth contained in the Gospel, the light of intentional living, the power of prayer and fellowship, and the joy of being alive. This ministry is itself light, hope, and potential. Please be a tangible part of Pilgrim Lodge’s ministry through your pledge in the PL Capital Campaign. Now is the time. Merry Christmas.

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

~John 1:5

WINTER REFLECTION ON A PL SUMMER

As I sit in the PL winter office today, I remember back to June 19, 2013. It’s a beautiful day at the lake, and I am excited because our first youth session starts this afternoon. Many good people have spent the past fall, winter and spring planning for this very day. In addition to Bryan, Steve and I, Pilgrim Lodge is blessed with many volunteers. Pilgrim Lodge has a successful Outdoor Ministry program because of these volunteers who share their gifts of time and talent throughout the whole year.

Work for the coming year is already in progress as the last summer session takes place: a new schedule to develop, PL put to bed for the winter, design and mailing of brochures, launch of registration, Deans’ Retreat, program development, counselor recruitment, summer staff hiring, Jump Start Weekend, docks and boats in the lake, maintenance and repairs to buildings and site, mountains of paperwork, camp store set-up, meals planned, kitchen stocked, and staff training.

As I take my position for camper check-in, I look out at the anxious and sweet faces of the young campers in grades 3 through 5 waiting in line. The children have returned for another summer of camping at Pilgrim Lodge, and it feels wonderful. I love my job!

By Karen Steelhammer, PL Office Administrator