



November 11, 2014

Greetings Friend,

The evaluations from this summer had some familiar themes. The quotes below sum up a few of them. When asked what was the best part of their PL experience, campers wrote:

- finding God in my fellow human beings (age 17)*
- feeling like I could be myself, and it was OK (age 15)*
- new friends, and talking to God (age 13)*
- being asked what I thought about the Bible instead of just being told (age 10)*
- I couldn't tell the best part because I loved it all! (age 12)*
- reconnecting to something precious inside that I thought I'd lost, by taking time to reflect, by the deep sense of love that pervades everything at PL, and by the sheer beauty of the place (adult camper)*

This is such an exciting and historic time at Pilgrim Lodge! With the success of the Capital Campaign (\$1.94 million as of this writing!) Pilgrim Lodge's future is vibrant and optimistic. If you gave or pledged to the campaign, THANK YOU! If not, there is still time. But that's not what this letter is about.

This letter is our annual appeal to help us reach our budget goals for 2014. While the work goes on for implementing the capital effort, this ministry continues to change lives and engage in powerful faith formation. One of many things Pilgrim Lodge is known for in Outdoor Ministry circles is that we are virtually independent financially. That means that we do not draw off the larger conference budget (with the exception of some in-kind benefits such as accounting, and supervision hours). It's a remarkable achievement. Another UCC camp director asked me last month "how do you do it?" In truth it is only possible because of folks like you who are willing to support the ongoing ministry.

There is no question that the ministry at Pilgrim Lodge is a healing balm in an often-tumultuous world. And though I am humbled and encouraged by the tremendous support shown this year through gifts, and volunteerism, I am emboldened to ask now for your help in meeting our basic needs and helping all of us remember to love God, ourselves, and each other.

Thank you,

Faithfully,

Rev. Bryan S. Breault
Director of Outdoor Ministries

