



Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc.

Wapo • Ox Lake • Luther Dell • Wilderness Canoe Base
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Congregational Report 2016

Thank you for being an Association Member Church! We cherish our role as an extension of the ministry that happens in your congregation. We are thankful for your support in 2016 and look forward to our ministry opportunities together in the coming year.

We look fondly back on the year 2016 with the familiar Pete Seeger tune playing in the background *“Turn! Turn! Turn! To Everything There is a Season”*. We have been in another season of transition. A season of twists and turns, and delightful outcomes!

Dr. Paul Hill announced his retirement, which was effective at the end of the year. We marveled at how quickly and expertly he helped maneuver our organization and board through epic changes during his 2 year tenure. Under his guidance, new by-laws were created and approved, which led way to a re-structuring of our board and introduced policy based governance. He also initiated and fast- tracked a strategic planning process, which will be handed over to the new incoming board in March, 2017. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for Paul’s leadership.

Becky Sunde also announced her retirement at the end of 2016. Becky spent over 30 years with our organization working in various capacities; writing VBS curriculum, heading up the large dinner theater efforts, leading Boat-In worships, hosting Adult Retreats and much more. Becky’s faith played out in giant ways over the years, and we will miss her warm hospitality and love for Jesus.

In November, Heather Eggert accepted the call of Executive Director. For twenty-six years, Heather has faithfully served LWLBC with increasing responsibility and demonstrated success, most recently as the organization’s Associate Director. She brings leadership assets in key executive roles including strategic design work, program development, budget and finance work, human resources, and ACA accreditation. A faithful sister in Christ, Heather is incredibly articulate, composed and passionate about all of the ministries of LWLBC. We value your prayers for Heather, the staff, and the board during the important transition ahead.

We had a fantastically wonderful summer centered around the theme of prayer and the deepening of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

- We are coming off 2 HUGE summers at Wapo and Wilderness Canoe Base. These 2 sites hosted nearly 5000 summer campers this year!
- Ox Lake continues to be our home base for our TIM Team high school leadership program, high and low ropes course, horseback riding, and a few select youth camp programs.
- After careful deliberation of the Luther Dell site, we decided that after decades of decline in camper numbers and congregational interest, we are not offering programs at that site in 2017. This will allow us the time we need to study opportunities for that site.
- At Wilderness, we cheered on four former guides who paddled from Wilderness to Hudson Bay in 66 days and they raised over \$107,000 for the Renewal campaign.
- In all, we hired, trained, and mentored 200 young adults as Christian leaders.
- We participated in a unique camp research project and the statistics show that camp has a significant impact. AMEN!



We are grateful and overwhelmed by all of these blessings and opportunities. We pray for continued safety at all our sites, and for fun and faith-filled moments to continue into our fall and winter retreat season.

