

# After Candlelight

Fall 2010

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again; Rejoice!" Phil. 4:4*

## Camp Fitch YMCA's Alumni Newsletter

### What's Inside:

- Giant Slide: A Big Hit
- Christmas at Camp—Dec. 12th
- New Rifle Range Well Received
- Volunteers at Camp
- Early Bird Summer Camp 2011 Up 30% Over Last Year
- Strong Kids Update
- Youngstown Airbase Camp a Great Success

### Christmas at Camp Fitch

December 12th, 2010

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Space is limited for the second annual Camp Fitch Christmas celebration in the new Trinity Chapel. Santa, Crafts, great food and special entertainment including: the Erie Liturgical Dance Team, Soloist and pianist, Jonathan Hamilton and several local bell choirs.

### RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Call for your tickets today !

877 863 4824



## Letters From Camp

*Sunday*

Dear Mom and Dad --- Hey! What's up? I'm SOO glad that you let me come back to camp again this summer. I can tell already that this week is going to be epic! My counselor Jennie is awesome! It's so cool that she is from England and there are a whole bunch of other really funny counselors from all over the world this year! We already got to ride the new giant slide on the way to dinner to-night! That thing is super steep and I bet that I was going fifty hundred miles per hour. It's cool that we can skip the steps sometimes when we're getting around. After dinner, Kelly and Steve sang their usual funny song and then the whole staff sang a song together that started out "Welcome to the family"... pretty cute. OK -- off to the campfire... I'll write more tomorrow! Love, Maggie

*Tuesday*

Dear Mom and Dad -- Sorry I didn't write yesterday -- I was super busy! We had the kiva carnival and there were seriously 35 things to choose from! I'm doing sea kayaking in the morning and cake decorating in the afternoon



-- tasty!! Also, we did this cool activity with just our cabent group yesterday where we really got to know each other and talk about ourselves. I found out that I had a lot more in common with some of these new girls than I thought. (Did I mention that Jennie is an awesome counselor?!?) This summer the older villages get to have our own morning chapel. Today our cabent sang a song and read a poem in front of the whole group. It was really cool! Tonight we are going to the pool and making up synchronized swimming routines with our cabent group. Sounds hilarious!

Peace Out,

Maggie

*Thursday*

Dear Mom and Dad --I can't believe that it's Thursday already! I met some great girls in my village from Korea and also Spain. They said I

can come and visit them anytime I want -- maybe spring break? ;) My kivas were great -- today is our last "official" day, but tomorrow we're taking a sea kayaking trip down Lake Erie. Tonight we are having Pygmy Night -- I hear that the dishcrew are all dressing up like pygmies and we're doing a bunch of stuff out at Beedee's Flat. I also wanted to say that I think the staff are the best ever this year. Almost all of them are staying all summer! I cannot wait to do that when I turn 18.

Must go -- give the dogs a hug from me!!

Love and Kisses

Maggie

**Check Out Friday's Letter Inside !**



Summer Camp director Barb Olin orchestrates the ribbon cutting at the Giant Slide during family camp.

*“Camp Fitch is a place where kids discover who they were meant to be”*

### Wish List

Donations you could make that would greatly enhance our ability to serve the mission of Camp Fitch. Call executive director, Brian Rupe at 814 922 3219

- Sunfish sail boat
- Funding for a horse stable
- Big sail boat for Lake Erie
- Tractor—big or small
- Aluminum canoes
- Catamaran
- Ski boat



**The Young Alumni Volunteers Constructed These New Benches at Curly's Chapel**

## New Rifle Range

This past summer, Camp Fitch was able to greatly enhance one of its more popular programs. The new Rifle Range located in the exact location of the old range has doubled our capacity, provided great instructional space and storage of equipment.

Shooting sports including riflery, archery, bb's and paint-ball have been a significant part of the Camp Fitch program both in the summer and for weekend groups. Learning how to respect the equipment and use it safely is a cornerstone of this program.



## New Giant Slide

A huge success this summer was the giant slide. Thousands of slides provided a quick and fun way to get from the upper flat to the board walk. Staff are building a new gazebo at the top entrance that will make the slide even more special.



## Host a Camp Fitch Party

Have your children enjoyed summer camp at Camp Fitch and want to share their experience with others? Want some help with the cost for their 2011 summer camp experience?

It is easy. You can host a Camp Fitch Party. This January, February or March invite to your home at least 5 families with camper age children (ages 8 to 16) who

have not been to Camp Fitch for a Summer Camp experience. We will then come to your home with a Camp Fitch summer camp presentation and a “campy” snack for all to enjoy. You will receive \$100 off of your summer camp registration. When these children then register for summer camp as first time campers you can receive an additional \$30 off of your fees

for each registration we receive.

The presentation lasts about one to one and one half hours and includes a power point presentation, a camp video and time for questions. For more information and to schedule a party please contact Barb Olin by phone toll free at 877-836-4824 or e-mail to [barbolin@campfitchymca.org](mailto:barbolin@campfitchymca.org).

## Volunteers Make a Huge Difference

In October we hosted two volunteer weekends, one headed up by Matt and Kelly Poese with the Young Alumni and the second lead by Al Leonhard and his loyal Chain Gang.

The Young Alumni focused on expanding the seating capacity of Curley's Chapel. Everyone improved their nailing skills by constructing benches that will add room for another 40 people to have a seat. The Young Alumni weekend is

always a great reunion that takes camp forward and is an opportunity for friends to connect in the camp atmosphere to enjoy hard work, camp memories and gourmet pancakes.

Al's Chain Gang was able to complete phase 2 of their Mitchell Lodge deck project. Phase 1, completed last year, was the deck outside of the great room and phase 2 was a walkway from the deck toward Crooked Creek. Phase 3

of this cool project will be a cantilever deck over the creek allowing everyone to get up close to view the beauty of the Crooked Creek and of course, the spring and fall steelhead runs. Many thanks to all these volunteers. If you have a volunteer group that would like to come to Camp Fitch we have camp projects for many skill levels. Please contact Dann Olin at 877- 863-4824 or e-mail [dannolin@campfitchymca.org](mailto:dannolin@campfitchymca.org).

## Friday's Letter From Camp (continued from page 1)

*Friday*

Hey –I know that I am going to see you tomorrow, but I have got to write all of this down. I have been coming to camp for a LOOONG time, but today was quite possibly the best day I have ever had at Camp Fitch. First of all, we had an awards ceremony with just our village. It was cool because we all know each other so well and could laugh at all of the inside jokes. Then we had another cabent bonding

time. Jennie took us to the beach and we all wrote words on rocks of our memories from the week. I feel closer to these girls than I have ever felt with any of my cabent groups before. Another amazing part about tonight was that for dinner we had this super sweet banquet! The dining hall was decorated like a jungle (remind me to tell you more about the pygmy night too). There was jungle music, huge trees and bushes all over the place, flowers everywhere – so

cool!! And the food was all miniature – get it pygmy?? There was tons of stuff to pick from mini hot dogs, mini burgers, tons of jungle fruit, salads and dirt pudding for dessert! After that everyone went to the new chapel for a slideshow of all the pictures from the week. Then we had a campfire with the whole camp. The village directors lit the bonfire with giant torches. It was legit the biggest bonfire I've ever seen. We went straight from there to candlelight which is always one of my favorite parts of the week. I don't know how I'm going to say goodbye to everyone tomorrow. The people here are amazing and make me feel so special – the truest and the best without a doubt. Maybe you'll let me stay another week and I won't have to say goodbye?! Pretty please?

CFF (That means Camp Fitch Forever!)

Maggie

## Early Bird Enrollment for 2011 up 36%

Summer of 2011 may seem a long way off, but many Camp Fitch parents have already signed up their children for next summer. This big increase in demand is a reflection of the outstanding Camp Fitch experience. Our evaluations reflected significant improvements in nearly every category.

Our international staff provided a fun boost of energy. We had great leadership

from England, New Zealand, Scotland, Brazil, Turkey, South Korea and Jamaica.

The new Leaders In Training program was a great success and attended by 54 outstanding future leaders. The leaders in training trip had eleven in attendance.

The giant slide was an amazing new feature offering a very fast way to travel from the upper flat to the board walk.

The new closing day provided a great way to wrap up the week with a big campfire, favorite songs and skits and an incredible banquet and dance in the dining hall. Make

sure to get your reservations in soon for next summer. Space is filling fast. Register on-line at: [www.campfitchymca.org](http://www.campfitchymca.org)



## Youngstown Airbase Camp

This past summer, 40 youth from the Youngstown Air Base participated in a week long Camp Fitch experience. The program was integrated into the traditional Camp Fitch summer program.

This was a great opportunity for the children of deployed parents to get to know one another and share some of the challenges related to having mom or dad gone for six months serving overseas.

One of the highlights of the week was the presentation of colors ceremony performed by airman in our dining hall. You could hear a pin drop! At Camp Fitch, we really appreciate the service of our military and we were proud to be able to host this special camp.

## Strong Kids Goal Nearly Reached

Thanks to all who have volunteered for the 2010 campaign and for all who have given. To date we have raised over \$42,000 to help support our summer camp scholarship program. Our goal is \$65,000 so we still have a ways to go. Last summer 301 children received financial assistance through this program. The average amount awarded was \$400 which means we gave over \$120,000 in financial support. As you can tell, there is a significant gap between dollars raised and dollars awarded. Our goal is to not turn anyone away from Camp Fitch for financial reasons. Thanks to the 209 donors who have given so far, we have been able to do this. Camp Fitch is reaching out and making a difference in the lives of children and families from all over our region.



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E-mail: [info@campfitchymca.org](mailto:info@campfitchymca.org)

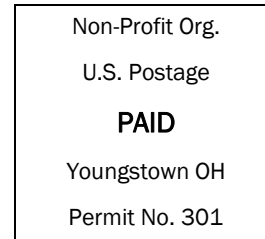
**A Great Camp on a Great Lake:  
Putting Christian principles into practice  
through camping programs that build a  
healthy spirit, mind and body for all.**

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We are on the Web

[www.campfitchymca.org](http://www.campfitchymca.org)

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Address Service Requested

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## New Video for Parents Peace of Mind

This past summer, we produced a new video titled, "Parents Peace of Mind." The purpose of this video is to communicate with parents in a very direct way, the specific reasons why Camp Fitch is the place for your child this summer. In the video we address the mission and goals of camp that we know are important to parents.

We also focus on subjects related to food service, health, safety, lodging, bathrooms, staffing and more. We are very confident that a Camp Fitch week of summer camp really is

transformational in a child's life. More children need to come to Camp Fitch!

This video can be viewed from our web site at:

[www.campfitchymca.org](http://www.campfitchymca.org)

What are parents saying about the Camp Fitch experience?

*"I overheard my daughter telling my four year old that camp was the best week of her life. We love Camp Fitch and can not wait to come back next year."*

*"Reed had an amazing experience. This was his first time at a week long camp and he loved it. He didn't have a negative thing to say. You obviously run an amazing camp."*

*"I am thrilled that Leah enjoyed Camp Fitch.*

*I have wonderful memories of being a camper, CIT, Dish Crew and Counselor, and am excited that three of our four children have been able to experience what I did as a kid. Our fourth child will attend next summer for the first time."*

*"We are so impressed with everything there. we have already recommended it to every friend and family member we talk to !"*

