Greetings from Camp Washington- Our Place in Morris

I am truly blessed to be the executive director of Camp Washington, our diocesan camp and conference center, and I am privileged to work with a staff of caring, motivated people who are committed to creating a space for exploration, retreat, and discipleship. This past year has been filled with growth, excitement and possibility as we listen closely for God’s voice and explore new ways to respond to that call. What is God calling us to do, and how might we best use this wonderful place in Morris, CT?

Our accredited summer camp program has positively changed the course of young lives by providing a safe space to explore their relationship with God and consider their responsibility to friends and family, community, church and the world. This year we welcomed 500 campers, provided $39,000 of financial aid to 89 campers. In our new association with the Bishops’ Fund for Children, 79 young people experienced Camp Washington for the first time. With the leadership and love of 34 summer counselors and 9 chaplains, we provided over 1000 hours of fun, friendship and opportunity for spiritual growth and discipleship. We have spent many Sunday mornings visiting worshipping communities around the ECCT to spread the news about Camp Washington and discuss ways we can be in co-mission with God and each other.

We offered opportunities to explore discipleship at three retreat weekends: Stewardship of God’s Mission, Spirituality for Leadership, and Discipleship for Young Adults. We have expanded our programming to include quarterly youth weekends and a Family Advent Day, and we welcomed more than 100 people to two Open Houses. We continue our relationship with Nature’s Classroom, offering an opportunity for outdoor learning for 1,826 students. Second Sunday is another new program which offers a time of learning, reflection, and community and has become a wonderful way to stay connected to Camp Washington throughout the year.

We welcomed nearly 1000 guests from 42 groups for retreats and conferences. We have brightened guest rooms, painted buildings, replaced docks, enhanced the ropes course and added a zip-line. We planted three raised garden beds, installed two peace polls, four outdoor graffiti boards, and lined our porches with rockers and Adirondack chairs. We are working hard to create a space that is relaxing and welcoming. An environment that provides the opportunity to re-energize, and re-connect to God and to each other. A space for all that inspires, connects, and transforms.

Finally, 2017 marks the centennial year of Camp Washington- 100 years of camp, community, memories, and discipleship! Stay tuned for programs, celebrations, and opportunities to insure that Camp Washington- Our Place in Morris continues as a magical place that challenges our minds, encourages curiosity, fosters creativity, and produces joy.

Faithfully,

Bart Geissinger
Executive Director