

# — THE — CAMP CONNECTION

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## Leadership Paths *at* Cross Roads

by Julia Zak, 2016 Leader-in-Training

I was drawn to Cross Roads this summer because of how the staff integrates Christian faith and education into everyday camp experience. Learning as a Leader-in-Training is an incredibly rewarding experience, but watching and helping younger campers grow in their faith, alongside the other Leaders-in-Training, was priceless. I love the counselors and staff, the campers, the activities, the songs, the accepting and loving environment—everything that makes Cross Roads special. Cross Roads is infinitely more than any other camp I have been to. It has truly become my second home.



Cross Roads is a welcoming place where people of all ages can find beauty, peace, and fun throughout the year! One of our amazing programs or events can show you your own path. Find out how at [CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://CrossRoadsRetreat.com).

## ANTHONY'S CORNER

by Anthony Briggs, Executive Director



About a week after summer camp ended, I received this letter—one of many—from a parent. I just have to share it with you. Your support enables Cross Roads to change lives.

My son Jonah just completed his fourth year at Cross Roads. Year after year I continue to be impressed.

On the technical end, I find working with the Cross Roads system and staff to be a true pleasure. Registration is always easy, and... camper check in is equally a pleasure.... Checking out—while sad for everyone—is not only efficient, but being able to join in the worship makes me, as a parent, feel like a larger part of the camp and its family.

Jonah loves going to camp at Cross Roads.... He has little to no fears about camp, and for 51 weeks of the year he talks about wanting to go back! Every year he seems to learn something new, engage and conquer a new activity, come home with deeper faith and stronger confidence.

Cross Roads' staff could not be more wonderful. When I leave my son on Sunday, I leave with no worries.... I can only imagine how many campers pass through every summer, yet the counselors not only remember Jonah, but us as well. At pick up, they are always sure to tell us about his week. As a parent, this is crucial. While Jonah loves to talk about camp, getting details from the staff point of view helps us to really see what his week was like. These are young adults who take their role very seriously and live up to every positive expectation I would have of them.

Jonah's most positive experiences and favorite memories stem from the activities that challenge him.... When I pick him up, I find a boy who has blossomed in some new way. Cross Roads is able to nurture and draw out new elements to his personality every year.

Thank you again for all that you do—for all kids!  
Charly Wells

Charly's letter might as well be written to you. When you support Cross Roads, you make a huge impact on campers' lives. On behalf of Jonah and thousands like him,  
THANK YOU!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Briggs'.



*"Camp is a safe, supportive opportunity for my young children to spread their wings and come into their own."*



### Early Bird Discount for Summer Camp— and a Thank-You Gift!

Register for Summer Camp 2017 before December 31st to receive a \$20 early bird discount and this limited edition hoodie. Easy online registration is at [www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com).



# Great Events *at* Cross Roads

Cross Roads offers a time and place apart all year! Pick your retreat and go to [www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com) to register or learn more.



## **DECEMBER 1–4 SHEPHERDS' GATHERING**

Working with youth in your home congregation? Come to Cross Roads for fellowship, networking, and fresh ideas from other people in youth ministry.

## **JANUARY 6–8 YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

Adults 18–30(ish) will gather in faith and fellowship to consider where the next phase of the journey leads.

## **JANUARY 20–22 FAMILY RETREAT**

Family = Friends + Family! Families of all kinds are welcome. Join us for a weekend away to experience the wonder of winter.

## **WEDNESDAYS AWAY AT CROSS ROADS**

Wednesdays Away are day retreats led by experienced spiritual directors. Each session focuses on a different spiritual practice. Join us on the first Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Christ Center. The \$50 cost includes a delicious lunch. The remaining 2016 dates are November 2 and December 7. The 2017 dates are February 1, March 1, April 12 (Holy Wednesday), May 3, and June 7.

## **FEBRUARY 17–19 LIGHT OF THE WORLD: AN ELEMENTARY RETREAT**

Kids in grades 3–5 will explore how to be out into their worlds; how to relate to family, friends, and school; and how to reflect God's love and light. Space is limited, so register now!

## **MARCH 10–12 AND APRIL 21–23 LIGHT OF THE WORLD: A MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT**

Middle schoolers gather for an intimate weekend at Cross Roads to learn about letting their lights shine in the world around them. Two dates give you two opportunities for the same great retreat!

## **APRIL 23–27 WISDOM TREE SENIOR ADULT RETREAT**

Cross Roads Wisdom Tree Ministries are devoted to continuing faith formation for mature Christians. Wisdom Tree Ministries celebrates every stage of life, including the transition into retirement and beyond. Wisdom Tree programs bring older adults together in fun, faith, and fellowship. This five-day retreat will be filled with Bible study, day trips, great food, wonderful people, and more!

## **MAY 20 WORK DAY**

Help us get camp ready for the best summer ever! All skill sets are welcome. Bring your whole group or just your family. All helpers will enjoy a delicious lunch and a great time of fellowship in return for their hard work.

## **JUNE 12 GOLF OUTING**

Enjoy a day on the green while helping to keep camp affordable for all! See page 9.

## **JULY–AUGUST SUMMER CAMP**

See summer camp opportunities in the middle insert.

## **AUGUST 20 GIANT CHURCH PICNIC**

Join us for our annual end-of-season bash! Experience camp fun one last time with great activities: canoeing, swimming, high ropes, and more, plus great fellowship and walks in the woods. Church groups, families, and individuals are welcome. Check-in is at 2 p.m. and closing worship at 6:30 p.m.



# Change a Life, Change *The* World

We all want to make the world a better place. But when you read the headlines, you may wonder how you can possibly make a difference.

Here's how: Change one life. Enable one child to experience God's unconditional love. Help one young person see new possibilities for the future.

That is, sponsor a summer camper at Cross Roads.

All kids need camp. But the kids who need it most are the ones who can least afford it.

Low-income kids rarely get to play outdoors. They get too little exercise and have too much stress. They don't know the joy of challenging themselves, failing at first, and then succeeding, with their teammates cheering them on.

But they can—with your help.

How much difference will it make in the world if you send just one child to camp? How much difference will it make if just one child learns—because you cared—that he or she is strong, capable, and beloved of God?

You'll never know. The difference you make in that one child's life will live on after you die. At least, that child will grow to influence his or her family, workplace, and neighborhood. At most, that child may literally change the world.

Isn't it worth the investment?

To sponsor a child (or two or three) at Cross Roads summer camp, call Anthony Briggs, Executive Director, at 908.832.7264. Together, we can change the world—one child at a time.

## Rally *For* Cross Roads Volleyball Marathon

Our second annual Volleyball Marathon for Cross Roads in October was a smashing success! Participants of all ages kept the volleyball court busy all night. When they weren't on the court, they enjoyed music, games, snacks, and, of course, a campfire.

Volleyballers solicited sponsors who donated generously to our GoFundMe campaign. Their contributions will help Cross Roads provide unique outdoor experiences again next year.



*"It was easy to bond with the other campers that I hadn't met before, as we are living together, spending time together, and turning into one big family. I have certainly made some new best friends at camp this summer."*



*"Every opportunity to return to Cross Roads brings renewal to my whole self. It is an amazing place for a time and space away."*

2017

# SUMMERCAMP



Cross Roads provides an amazing opportunity for people of all ages to have a classic camp experience in a safe and supportive environment. Families can come for Family Weekend or a whole week of Family Camp to experience God's amazing world together.

Children encounter God in nature, in worship, and in relationships during youth camp. Cross Roads certified staff members provide a safe and loving space for each camper.

- Faith formation strengthened through camp activities, song, and worship
- Healthy, homemade, delicious food
- Weeklong experiential and active programming
- Positive adult role models
- Lasting friendships and connections outside of the electronic world



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

The Episcopal Diocese of Newark

A welcoming, ecumenical retreat center and camp of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the NJ Synod of the ELCA

WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM



## THEME FOR SUMMER CAMP 2017

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:2). We'll explore how water, a resource we often take it for granted, is the source not only of physical life but also of spiritual life.

## VARIOUS WEEKS YOUTH CAMP

(see schedule on page 7)

**Explorers** (grades 3–4) | **Discoverers** (grades 5–6)  
**Journeyers** (grades 7–8) | **Pioneers** (grades 9–12)

Summer camp changes lives and opens hearts and minds. Campers are welcomed to a time and place away. They step out of their comfort zones and away from their electronics to experience life in a new and powerful way. Youth form lasting relationships with staff and new friends. Fun, interactive experiences grow campers' self-confidence and enable them to experience God's creation firsthand.

## JULY 9–AUGUST 20 LEADERS-IN-TRAINING

Leaders-in-Training are experienced campers who are active in their church, love God, like working with kids, and want to work at camp in the future. The Leader-in-Training experience equips older high school students to be leaders at camp, in their home congregations, and in their communities. Leaders-in-Training learn all aspects of camp life, from leading activities and Bible studies to certification in first aid, CPR, and lifeguarding. They have their own community activities, devotions, and time away. Many will go on to become summer camp counselors.

Spaces in this once-in-a-lifetime, faith-based leadership development experience are limited. Applicants must turn 16 or 17 years old in 2017 and have finished their sophomore year of high school. Apply at [www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com) by May 15, 2017.

\*Two Holdover Weekends are available: July 29–30 and August 12–13! Come for two weeks of summer camp and stay over in between.

## JULY 9–JULY 15 HIGH SCHOOL WEEK

High school students who have completed grades 9–12 take the summer camp experience to the next level during their very own week of camp. This intimate time away gives campers a safe space to remember who they are, what gives them joy, and what challenges them. Meanwhile, they have their pick of outdoor activities such as swimming, canoeing, and volleyball. As they learn from peers and staff through interactive Bible study and fun activities, they build relationships that help them navigate their complex and challenging world.

## JULY 16–29 SEEK:

**SERVICE. EXPLORATION. EXCELLENCE. KNOWLEDGE.**

This two-week program is designed for mature young leaders who have completed 8th and 9th grades. Besides the usual camp experiences, SEEKers develop leadership and collaborative skills, discern their spiritual gifts, and participate in local service projects. This is a two-year rolling program, so both last year's SEEKers and new participants will benefit.

## JULY 28–30 FAMILY WEEKEND

A great getaway for much-needed family bonding, Family Weekend gives families the chance to participate in traditional camp activities while living in God's time. All kinds and sizes of families can benefit! We especially recommend Family Weekend if you're interested in sending a child to camp next summer.

## AUGUST 20–25 FAMILY CAMP

Family Camp kicks off with our Giant Church Picnic, where you'll get to know the larger Cross Roads family. Bring your whole family to enjoy the awesome perks of summer camp: fun activities, learning, worship, and time for reflection. Go at your own pace; relax and be renewed in the Spirit—and let us take care of cooking and clean-up!

## COME |<sup>+</sup><sub>o</sub>| AN OPEN HOUSE

See what Cross Roads offers! A pre-summer-camp visit can really help with new campers' (and new parents') anxiety.

**APRIL 22 | MAY 20 | JUNE 3**

Register at [www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com).



## YOUTH CAMP SCHEDULE

PROGRAM	DATES	COMPLETED GRADES	COST
Leaders in Training	July 9 – August 20	10	\$505
High School Week	July 9–15	9–12	\$505
Youth Camp 1	July 16–22	2–8	\$505
SEEK	July 16–29	8 or 9	\$760
Youth Camp 2	July 23–29	2–8	\$505
Holdover Weekend *	July 29–30	2–8	\$60
Youth Camp 3	July 30–August 5	2–12	\$505
Youth Camp 4	August 6–12	2–8	\$505
Holdover Weekend *	August 12–13	2–8	\$60
Youth Camp 5	August 13–19	2–8	\$505

\* Holdover Weekend is for campers who attend camp during the weeks on either side of the weekend. Staff and activities will be available for Holdover Weekends.

Check-in is at 3 p.m. on the Sunday of your camp week. Closing worship starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. on the Saturday of your camp week. Please do not bring pets or electronic devices (including phones) to camp.

## FAMILY WEEKEND JULY 28–30

SLEEPING FACILITY	FEES
Christ Center (space is limited)	Adults \$190 Kids 7–12 \$95 (6 & under FREE)
Other facilities	Adults \$130 Kids 7–12 \$65 (6 & under FREE)

## FAMILY CAMP AUGUST 20–25

SLEEPING FACILITY	FEES
Christ Center (space is limited)	Adults \$460 Kids 7–12 \$290 (6 & under FREE)
Other facilities	Adults \$345 Kids 7–12 \$190 (6 & under FREE)

Register online at [www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com). If you need help with summer camp registration, call us at 908.832.7264, Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Deposit and registration fees are non-refundable.





# Body *and* Soul Renewal at Cross Roads

by the Rev. Bowie Snodgrass, Christ Episcopal Church,  
Short Hills

I love camp. I grew up going to church camp and was a counselor through my college years. When I heard that Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center offered a week of Family Camp, I was excited to attend and share a week in the woods with my son.

One woman I spoke with had never been to camp before. She decided at the very last minute to bring her two teenage kids because, she said, “I just felt like my family needed this.”

I think we all did. By the end of the week, the campers (toddlers to grandparents) and young adult counselors had become one family in Christ. We cared for each other’s kids, listened to each other’s stories, and let the Holy Spirit renew our bodies and souls.

The week at camp reminded me that loving the Lord with our whole self is a whole lot of fun. It also amplified the meaning of what we do in church each Sunday. In church we celebrate each baptism; at camp we jump in the pool. In church we light and carry candles; at camp we gather around a blazing bonfire. In church we sing beautiful four-part harmony; at camp we praise the Lord at full voice while clapping, snapping, jumping, and dancing.

Amidst the joyful fun, one of the moments I remember best was sitting quietly on a stone bench in a forest chapel as Rachel Kurtz closed an evening worship with her own new lyrics for Leonard Cohen’s classic “Hallelujah”: “When children are tucked in at night, parents dream of peace and light, of hope and love and freedom, and a future. In the midst of war, and poverty, the broken dreams and the mystery, the Spirit comes and breathes the hallelujah....”



Like or follow us on social media. See photos of all the fun we’re having at summer camp and retreats on





# Bishops' Cup Golf Outing

**DATE: JUNE 12, 2017**

**PLACE: COPPER HILL COUNTRY CLUB,  
RINGOES, NJ**

Proceeds from our annual golf outing support affordable camping for all. Be a true hero to Cross Roads campers by becoming a sponsor—at whatever level is right for you and your organization. As a sponsor, you can:

- Be part of our amazing outdoor ministry
- Show others that you care about children and youth
- Build your foursome into a team
- Enjoy the great outdoors
- Network with like-minded business and nonprofit leaders
- Feel good about your contribution to healthy development for youth and families

Learn how you can be part of this wonderful event at [CrossRoadsRetreat.com/golf\\_outing](http://CrossRoadsRetreat.com/golf_outing). To explore sponsorship opportunities, contact Tom Kull at [golf@CrossRoadsRetreat.com](mailto:golf@CrossRoadsRetreat.com).

Thank you to our 2016 Gold Sponsors:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chatham; Friends of Reformation Lutheran Church, West Long Branch; and Friends of Living Waters and Grace Lutheran Church located in Flemington and Mendham.



Bishop Tracie Bartholomew of the NJ Synod, ELCA, and Bishop Mark Beckwith of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.



The winner of the Fifth Annual Bishops' Cup Golf Tournament was the team from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chatham. A great day was had by all!

# Be Part of Cross Roads' Ministry

There are so many different ways you can be a part of the mission and ministry of Cross Roads. Keeping camp affordable for all is possible because of amazing people like you. Individuals, families, or church groups can adopt a project, donate an item from our needs list, or make a financial contribution. When you do, you become a part of Cross Roads' incredible life-changing ministry.



## ADOPT A PROJECT

Our top projects are listed below with their estimated cost. Make a group project out of it, and you'll reduce the cost while having a great group-building activity!

New sign at the entrance to camp: \$6,000

Fence around the dumpster and recycling area: \$5,000

Deck at the camp store: \$5,000

Fireplace and chimney repair for the Log Cabin: \$2,500

New roofs for Cabins 9 and 10: \$5,000 each

Pavilion near the pool: \$15,000

To learn more about adopting a project, contact Kathy Felch at [OfficeManager@CrossRoadsRetreat.com](mailto:OfficeManager@CrossRoadsRetreat.com) or 908.832.7264.

## VOLUNTEER OR MAKE AN IN-KIND DONATION

Your in-kind donations and volunteer work help us to stretch our dollars to serve more campers and retreat participants.

If you have time and skills, we can give you important work to do in the following areas:

- Administrative / office support
- Web development
- Painting
- Carpentry
- Chainsaw work

Make a difference today by donating a piece of equipment in new or nearly new condition:

- Snow blower
- Weed whacker
- Brush trimmer
- Commercial wood chipper
- Commercial log splitter

If you can help with any of these needs, contact Kathy at [OfficeManager@CrossRoadsRetreat.com](mailto:OfficeManager@CrossRoadsRetreat.com) or 908.832.7264. Thanks for your help!







Cross Roads Summer Camp Staff 2016

## Looking <sup>FOR</sup> an Amazing Summer Job? Be a Camp Counselor!

Cross Roads is looking for outstanding young adults who love adventure, outdoors, children, and fun! Camp counselors have a huge effect on the kids they nurture every week. What other summer job allows you to have a lasting impact on hundreds of children's lives?

**SUMMER CAMP POSITIONS RUN FROM EARLY JUNE THROUGH MID-AUGUST 2017.** Apply online today at [www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com).

If you know someone who would make a great camp counselor, spread the word.

"I was concerned that the leadership literature would be dry and lifeless, and instead experienced approaches that honor just what the church needs to be about in this time of change and challenge—self-knowledge, experimentation, relationship building, risk taking, creative conflict, and undergirding it all: purpose. To share this journey over time with brilliant colleagues has made for deep learning and courage for change."

—Recent participant in The SHAPE of Leadership

## Clergy: SHAPE Up *Your* Leadership!

Leading church in this day and age is like driving a narrow, winding road (like the ones to Cross Roads) on a dark night, straining to see beyond the headlights. You can't see far enough ahead, and you're on high alert, knowing that something unexpected could be right around the next bend.

Leading churches today just isn't like it was 50 years ago, and seminaries can't spend the time to develop the complex skill sets church leaders need. But you can shape up your leadership gifts in "The SHAPE of Leadership." This ecumenical program provides opportunities for growth that are both rare and essential in these challenging times.

Retreat style, a group of church leaders meets at Cross Roads four times during the year for two nights each time. Together, group members explore what it means to lead the church today. They rediscover and deepen their gifts by honing their leadership skills in a safe environment with supportive colleagues. Topics covered include adaptive leadership, power and influence in leadership, conflict management, and leading change.

SHAPE is led by Mary Kay DuChene and the Rev. Mary Davis. Mary Kay is the program's founder and an assistant to the bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA. Mary is rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chatham, NJ, and a member of the Cross Roads board of directors.

The SHAPE of Leadership is limited to 20 participants; you must apply to attend. For more information or to apply, go to [www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com](http://www.CrossRoadsRetreat.com) or contact Mary Kay DuChene, [mkayduchene@gmail.com](mailto:mkayduchene@gmail.com).

# *Your* Contributions at Work!

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is a welcoming and inclusive community providing life-changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy.



**CROSS**  **ROADS**

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

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29 PLEASANT GROVE ROAD  
PORT MURRAY, NJ 07865

WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM  
908.832.7264

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