



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS CAMPS AND CONFERENCES

## *Camp Capers – Summer Staff and Counselors*

October 2009

Stacy Dowdy, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Officer

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The wonderful experiences of our campers are due in large part to the efforts and passion of the summer counselors and staff. Every year we hire college-age young people to lead and care for the campers who attend Camp Capers and for the families attending Mustang Island Family Camp in the summer. They serve as counselors, leaders of music, arts, activities, and even work crew. These young people spend one to two weeks before camps start being trained as lifeguards and spiritual leaders, learning about developmental differences between age groups, bonding as a community, and more. By the time the campers arrive, they are fired up and ready!

Each summer staff is unique, and the Camp Capers 2009 Summer Staff was no exception. Many of our staff and counselors grew up going to Camp Capers, waiting for the day they could apply for summer staff. Some had attended at an early age and suddenly felt the call to return as staff. Others had attended and even served as counselors at other camps, but decided to give Camp Capers a try because of all the wonderful things they had heard from friends. The unique twist for us this summer was the addition of international staff members. We had four guy counselors from across the ocean – three from South Africa and one from England. They all brought new perspectives and excitement to camp and to their campers' experiences. Dan Martin, from England, says that "This has been the greatest summer of my life; I've seen God in a new light and met campers and staff I will never forget. Thank you for these amazing memories." His experience on staff is not due solely to the fact that he traveled overseas to get here. Every one of the staff members will tell you that serving is a life-changing experience.

Each week, we also bring in mostly high school-age Session Counselors who pair up in a cabin with a summer staffer. This is a wonderful opportunity for leadership training and a new perspective from that of being a camper. Most session counselors cannot wait to return and serve another session!

If you or someone you know is interested in serving at Camp Capers or Mustang Island Family Camp, it's time to start filling out applications!

- **Camp Capers Session Counselors:** High school students, aged 16 or older, may serve as Session Counselors for summer and Mid-Winter sessions. In summer, they are required to have attended a Senior High Camp session the summer before they serve.
- **Camp Capers Summer Staff:** These are paid positions and require applicants to be 20 years old or have completed at least one year of college. The only exception is for Work Crew positions, which are also open to graduating high school seniors.
- **Mustang Island Family Camp:** Applicants for paid summer staff positions must be 20 years old or have completed at least one year of college.
- **All applications** can be found on our website at [www.dwtx.org](http://www.dwtx.org). Just click on Camps and Conferences. For Camp Capers, look under the link for "Summer Camps." For Mustang Island, look under the link for "Family Camps."

We are already taking applications, so go ahead and get them in soon!