



Stacy Dowdy Says Good-bye...

In some ways, it is hard to believe I have already completed five years in this job. In other ways, it feels like a lifetime! It is an understatement to say that quite a bit has happened over those five years. One of the greatest joys of this job has been the opportunity to re-connect and work at Camp Capers – the place that impacted my own spiritual growth and formation more than any other. Coming back to it as an adult was a great joy and privilege.

It has been an amazing gift to meet and work with all the young people who have served as counselors and staff each summer. They give so much of themselves to the campers each session, and they form bonds and friendships with each other that will last a lifetime. That is something that sets Camp Capers apart from all the other camping programs across the country – the relationships and spiritual connections that are formed there each summer. That is the thing that has remained constant over



Camp Capers' 64 years.



I wore many different hats in my job as Youth and Young Adult Ministry Officer for the diocese. However, once summer came, my full attention and all my time were at Camp Capers. From Staff Training week in May all the way through to the final closing service in August, my life was completely intertwined with the staff and campers at Camp Capers. After 20 years in a

classroom, this was tremendously exciting and rejuvenating. It gave me such joy to see the Holy Spirit working in every interaction and every conversation I observed, every chapel service, every song sung, and game played. There is a tangible awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit at camp. The love and joy of the staff and campers, combined with this awareness of the Holy Spirit, gave me strength as I was diagnosed with cancer the summer of '08, and then as I fought back after treatment in the summer of '09. I cannot imagine how different that fight would have been if I had not had the support and prayers of so many at Camp Capers.



At the end of this summer, I recognized the need to make a change in my life and my priorities. I have never been good at setting boundaries for myself, and I have a tendency to over-extend myself in commitments and things I am passionate about. The time I happily spent focused on work and camp meant sacrificed time with my family. And although my health is good right now, I felt the urge to make maintaining it a higher priority. Therefore, I have decided to step down from my position at the end of 2011. Although it will be incredibly

difficult to let go, I leave with full confidence that Camp Capers is in good, capable hands. Rob Watson loves camp every bit as much as I do, and his knowledge and experience will continue to serve camp's best interests. The leadership of staff and counselors is strong and getting stronger each summer. I look forward to seeing where these capable leaders will take the next generation of campers. And I thank God for blessing me, and you for entrusting me, with this amazing job over the last five years.