“No [one] ever steps in the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and [they are] not the same [person].” – Heraclitus

Dear Silver Lakers,

I can say with certainty that camp has changed me and formed me. This summer, and with every experience of camp, I am changed week over week. The gift camp offers me is the ability to let me change from where I am in the process; I don’t have to go back to the beginning to change. And, as Heraclitus intimates in this quote, the stream could not change me the same way, because it too is different now. The beauty of this moment is seeing the change, because of the ability to see what was and what is.

Silver Lake shows myriad signs of what has been. We carry written memories of campers from the days of Broadview Girls’ Camp, Boys’ Camp Easton, Silver Lake Conference Center, and now Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center. Pictures and placards from staffs and conferences adorn walls in buildings across campus. We remember what has been.

In the same breath we also live toward. We were a great adventure when the two denominations merged in 1957 to become the UCC, and the Connecticut Conference decided to commit to youth ministry with a camp here at Silver Lake. Now, Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center is a ministry of the Southern New England Conference, and living into the shared waters of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Thank you for bringing that vision forward.

This summer, my son had a chance to do a stream walk during a program at Nature. He loved it. He talked for 15 minutes about what he saw and what he felt on his legs and in his hands. That stuck with him. He came home, begged me to take him back to do another walk. He convinced me and his brother to take that walk. As we walked, he talked about how it was a different route: the water was lower and the branches in the stream were not the same. He also shared his new discoveries: frogs, fish, stones, and waterfalls. His exuberance was palpable, and it spread. I was given a new perspective on the breadth, width, and depth of Silver Lake.

This is Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center living in the stream. The energy flows from one person to another. Hope is distributed across generations. I am so grateful for the churches, families, and partners that are tributaries to our stream.

We run camps and retreats because of you, and we flow into this waterway with you. These are living waters.

Our stream continues the course with your financial support. When I think of what that means, I am reminded of another proverb; “Little drops of water make the mighty ocean.” Giving to the ministries of Silver Lake enables us to keep the stream flowing for each generation. It allows us to update facilities, and to provide campers and retreat guests the opportunity to enter into the living waters of God’s Backyard here at Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center. We ask for your gift to the Annual Appeal to add proverbial rains to the stream of finances that support Silver Lake. Every dollar matters; and what one person does, as one drop of water, flows into what we all can do to form a lovely stream.

Blessings,

David Camphouse
Director of Outdoor Ministries, Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center

Ways to give:
1. Scan the QR code above to make your gift online at www.SilverLakeCT.org/donate
2. Write a check to Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center and mail using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope