

# Camps for Good

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Lakeshore Christian Camping [www.prescamps4ever.org](http://www.prescamps4ever.org)

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The crucifixion and resurrection were events witnessed by all creation. We learn from Luke that the sun “failed.” Why? What was happening? Perhaps the darkness was creation’s way of providing clothing for Christ as he hung shamefully naked upon the cross. And perhaps too, it was nature’s way of symbolizing the darkness of our sin that Christ was bearing upon the cross.

The gospel of Matthew tells us that the earth shook and rocks were split, “And tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had died were raised. (They came out of the tombs after his resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people); “Suddenly there was a severe earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descending from heaven came and rolled away the stone and sat on it.” Perhaps this was the earth mourning and shaking at the death of Christ. Perhaps too it was the earth preparing for the resurrection of the saints and celebrating the resurrection of Christ, as Matthew records.

We do not have the actual words of creation to know exactly what was happening. But it is exciting to know that the death and resurrection of Christ were witness to by creation; creation was making it’s own proclamation about these great events. This is one of many reasons why Presbyterian Camps is so important to Christian ministry; creation witnesses to the power and glory of God-which it did at the cross and empty tomb. When we come to Saugatuck we discover that the land itself has it’s own witness, one that enhances and confirms our verbal proclamation. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

*It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed...When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!...And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.  
Luke 23:44-45; Matt 27:54; 28:2*

## Info Corner: What is the Real Value of the Camps at Saugatuck?

Over the last three years, many conversations have taken place concerning the “value” – appraised or otherwise – of the camps. Some claim it’s worth in dollars - \$14.5 million to be exact –although real estate & conservation experts dismiss this amount given the property’s critical dune status, the millions required to make only some of the land buildable and the over supply of available property in the Saugatuck area. All agree that the buildings are not worth much in terms of structure – most need updating and they are after all, cabins.



To those who know the camp, love the place and treasure happy memories, this is not vacant land. The camp is holy ground that may not command much in dollars, but is priceless to thousands. The board of Lakeshore Christian Camping continues to be amazed at the haggling taking place over the property. This is not an asset that will save the Presbytery in dollar terms, as some would have you believe, but it is a natural sanctuary, a place of comfort and safety, that offers a ministry of growth, Christian values and spiritual oneness. Please see our website for more information concerning the actual worth of the property versus the unrestricted appraised value.

Knox Presbyterian Church in Naperville, IL is fully committed to its pledge of \$250,000 for Camp capital improvements once Lakeshore purchases the Camp. In order to anticipate and be prepared to fulfill its pledge of building two cabins, Knox is forming a Saugatuck Capital Improvement Team. This Team will develop a plan to implement the goal to build Rose I. Knox members will welcome other churches and individuals to join them preparing for the future. If you are interested in being on this team or would like more information please contact board member Janet Hyde: [info@prescamps4ever.org](mailto:info@prescamps4ever.org)



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