

The Episcopal Diocese of Lexington

The Cathedral Domain
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Dear Cathedral Domain Friends,

The Cathedral Domain grounds are awash in beautiful fall colors and the air is filled with thanksgiving for a fantastic 2022 and excitement as we dream about and plan for 2023. We give God thanks for this gift we call the Cathedral Domain!

Hopefully, you've been able to visit the Domain this year. If you visited this summer and tried to use our amazing new map of camp to navigate your way around (Thank you, Regina! Check it out at cathedraldomain.threadless.com), you may have been confused. The names on the cabins themselves sounded like houses in a series of movies about a heroic little boy with a lightning bolt on his forehead. These temporary summer camp cabin names were the beginning of lots of fun as kids were 'sorted' into their cabins and they became known by these fun labels.

"What's in a Name" was our summer camp curriculum this year. The kids learned about names and labels that others assigned to us individually, to our families and friends, and to those we see but don't know. We shared stories describing what it feels like when we are labeled by others and given names. The kids listened to stories about how others may feel when we label them. They heard the good news that all people are called God's Beloved Children and are loved by God today and forever.

Our Cathedral church is named The Cathedral of St. George the Martyr. You may be familiar with the legend that tells of St. George slaying a dragon that had been terrorizing a town and then courageously rescuing the princess. While Glenn Adkins was camp director, he began a tradition for rising sixth grade boys that Gerry Yeiser later expanded. Young boys at Boy's Camp track dragons throughout the camp and learn about service, chivalry, God's love for them and others, and personal responsibility. The adolescent boys learn about all kinds of life dragons they may face which have many names. They learn about when and how to engage them or when to just walk away. At the end of the week, they receive a St. George's medal in a knighting ceremony and are issued a challenge to continue living a life in service to others. This summer, Gerry's grandson was a recipient of the Order of St. George.

The Cathedral Domain is a loving, safe space where all God's children are embraced, nurtured, and sustained, regardless of any label given them by the world. Nearly one-third of our campers arrive with no church affiliation, no church name, but each camper leaves knowing that she/he is loved dearly by God and by the Episcopal Church.

Like everyone, we've been challenged by the escalation in the prices of food, fuel and materials but we are excited to report that our 2022 camper numbers were at 95% of our 2019 record numbers. Our forest management plan has continued with selective harvesting of trees on the property, limited to those over 20" in diameter or those damaged by falling trees and continuing with renovations to any trails that were impacted. We have begun work on a new four-season cabin on the 'boys' side' of camp which will be ADA compliant and provide 24 additional beds. This building will also include separate quarters for our maintenance staff. While we have at times had to turn campers away due to space limitations, and this new cabin will help with that, we remain resolved to not turn any child away due to an inability to pay. We have you to thank for keeping that ministry thriving and offering Christian formation to our youth. You've earned a St. George's medal with your devotion and faithful support!

Because of your ongoing generous financial support of Cathedral Domain's ministry, God's children have a place where they are deeply loved and where they can grow up and be formed in a supportive and healthy Christian environment. Thank you! Thanks be to God for your ongoing financial support, prayers, and hands-on help that makes this ministry possible.

On behalf of the Cathedral Domain, I'm asking you to prayerfully consider how you can support this vital ministry by contributing to our year-end fundraising campaign. With your support, we will continue and expand the Domain's ministry. You are shaping young lives as we continue to Be the Church and Be the Change. Thanks be to God for you!

God's Peace,

Jon Ott

You may use the enclosed envelope to return your donation or scan this code.