

Christikon Reflections: A Former Staff Member Writes....

by Lynnette Evanson

A Christikon camper in her youth, a staff member in the late 1970's and again at the beginning of the last decade of the last century, Lynnette grew up in Livingston, Montana, and now teaches English, Speech and Drama in the high school there. She also serves as a Delegate from her congregation to Christikon corporation meetings.

It makes me feel good to think of the “constants” in my life. These are the things I trust, and when I fall asleep at night they will still be the same when I wake up.

I know, for example, that the first Monday in November, American Lutheran Church, in Livingston, Montana will hold a Lutefisk Dinner. On that night, I will get a brief glance of some rare Scandinavian members of our community that only allow themselves to be seen on this occasion, once a year...

I am always reassured by the “constant” that if I were to have a wonderful evening out with friends at an extravagant restaurant, and there was that slight and embarrassing chance that someone was to have a hair in their main entrée, that person would be me.

And frankly, I’m O.K. with that. These are the things that I can set my watch to. These are the pillars that support me in a time and a world where so many things are fickle and susceptible to change.

That said, it was around 1:30 p.m. on August 11th 2009, I stood at the top

of Monument. Writing those words now months later still makes me shiver a little. Standing tall on Monument’s peak, you breath in the clean, crisp air of a slick 11,000 feet. I know many of you reading this can make the same statement— different dates of course, but with the same sense of awe and accomplishment.

Monument has loomed, solid and unyielding, a gigantic mountain, “constant” in the Boulder River Valley for untold millennia. In my youth, as a Christikon camper and during the summers spent on staff, the

“constant” for me was that I was scared to take a shot at walking up that dang mountain. But I turned... shh... 50 in 2009, and that milestone birthday seemed to beckon and draw me up to Independence, Solomon City, and with the help of Paul Waldum and Bob Quam, up the side of Monument.

So it’s worth saying the words again. At about 1:30 p.m. on August 11th, 2009, I stood at the top of Monument.

As a tribute to the “constant” that Christikon has played in my life, I’m happy to write my thoughts down in this

edition of the newsletter. As I suspect it is for many of you, Christikon has been the shared experience that would be considered a “constant” in my faith journey.

A lot of water has passed under the Natural Bridge, so to speak, since my time at camp. Summers ’77, ’78, ’79, and a last hurrah in 1990, I breathed in and lived out the Christikon summer ministry with my heart and soul. Claimed and called, I think about the blessing it was, immersed in the ministry of that place, that blessed, beautiful place, that seems to open its arms and draw you in, closer and more deeply every single moment.

Well, there have been whole worlds of change that have occurred since I spent my four summers of tenure on the staff at Christikon. Life never stays still.

But here’s what I have come to know of the “constant” of what Christikon has offered. The grace and gospel, combined with the majesty of our camp’s setting, is the same now as it was all my years ago as camper and staffer. I have found God’s covenant, His promise, and the grace of a community that has tied so many of us together — the “constant” that continues to beckon us to discipleship and to the mountaintops we encounter each day.

And I am happy to report He is still on the job with me...shh... at 50, and it was a day like August 11th, 2009, that assures me God will continue to walk with me. Constantly. †



On the way: Lynnette Evanson

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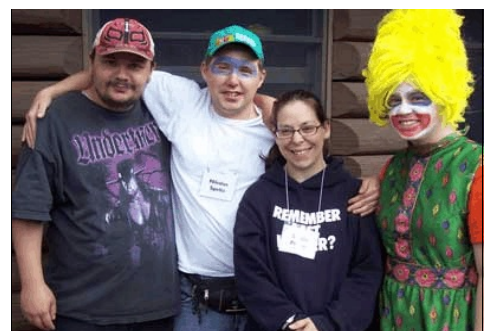
- Rod and Pat Davidson Billings, MT
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Congregational Auxiliaries

- American WELCA Livingston, MT
- American WELCA White Sulphur Springs, MT
- Bethlehem Lutheran WELCA Billings, MT
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- St. James Luth Church Women Columbus, MT
- Trinity Lutheran Church WELCA Cody, WY

Grants

- St. Paul Luth. Church Foundation Fairfield, MT
- Carbon County Chapter, Thrivent Bridger, MT
- West Yellowstone Chapter, Thrivent Billings, MT



Camper at the session for developmentally disabled adults pause during the Christikon Carnival with staff “clown” Laura Gardner to mug for the camera. Each summer, about sixty people share this special dimension of the Christikon life; many of them return year after year. Many of them are able to participate because of gift support for camping scholarships.