



HOLMES CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER  
ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISING EVENT

# *Star Gazing*




Event Journal  
OCTOBER 14, 2023  
AGAPE CENTER

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# Superkidz Kamp



Keeping a positive spirit is ensuring that even on the darkest night you will be able to see beautiful rays of the stars!

*Dedicated to the Belief that All Children are Gifted and Talented*  
SuperKidz Kamp  
Congratulates  
Holmes Camp and Retreat Center  
On Its  
Star Gazing Weekend



# Weekend Program

## SATURDAY

### **Silent Auction Opens in Charlotte's Room.....Noon**

- Auction curated by Victoria Neilson and Gala Committee
- Be the first to place a bid! Bidding will be open through lunch.

### **Lunch in Agape Dining Room.....1pm**

- Music by Zoe Temple
- Welcome by Kyle Branin, Director
- Grace by Rev. Pete Jones
- Lunch Prepared by Mark Ainsworth
- Fund a Need - Help us make improvements to Agape Center

### **Dessert and Silent Action .....2:30pm**

- Charlotte's Room - Place your final bids! Auction closes at 3:00 pm
- Enjoy passed desserts and coffee

*End of Lunch programming. First shuttle will leave for Southeast at 4:40*

For overnight guests or those who will stay for the evening programming, the event continues.

### **Explore Holmes (Free Time).....4pm - 7pm**

- Enjoy a walk or sit by the lake
- Relax in the Vinik Hilltop Lounge

### **Evening Program.....7pm**

- Light dinner served at Agape
- Camp Sing Along with Fred Frost
- Campfire and Star Gazing at Vinik Hilltop (*Weather Permitting*)

*Last shuttle leaves at 9:40pm*

## SUNDAY

### **Breakfast at Agape Center.....8am**

### **Worship in Charlotte's Room.....9am**

*ALL TIMES APPROXIMATE*



# MENU

## **First Course**

**Tomato Soup En Croute**

## **Second Course**

**Wedge Salad with Ranch Dressing,  
Croutons and Bacon**

## **Entrée**

**Thai Chicken**  
**with Rice, Vegetables & Peanut Sauce**

## **Coffee and Dessert**

*(Served in Charlotte's Room)*

**Assorted Passed Dessert**



**Mark Ainsworth** is an award winning chef, cookbook author, and a professor at the Culinary Institute of America. He has cooked in restaurants and kitchens around the world, and shares his passion for food through his teaching and writing. Mark is also a Holmes Camp Alumni.

# Welcome from Our Board President



Dear Friends:

Welcome to our 2023 gala weekend celebration at Holmes Camp and Retreat Center -- we're so glad you're here!

The Holmes mission to Educate, Empower, and Renew rings true for each and every one of us whose lives have been so impacted by our welcoming Christian community and have seen their faith grow or lives change through our programs and our beautiful natural setting. Truly a place of stillness and restoration in a turbulent world, Holmes offers hope, renewal and a sense of belonging.

This past year and leading into 2024, Holmes is vibrant and active, serving our presbyteries, our congregations, and our mission partners with retreats and programs old and new. We're busier than ever! Our summer saw our facilities fully booked with young adults and religious leaders alike, and just in the short time before Advent we've got on the calendar the Fall Women's Retreat, Reiki Seminar, Culinary Weekend, and Red Cross trainings. And of course, our always-popular communicants class weekends continue in full force.



The rains and lightning storms over the summer have required us to scramble to deal with unexpected demands on our energy and resources, but we've been able to continue the improvements to some of our aging facilities, including Nunemaker (50 years old now, hard to believe) and Agape (now 40 years old). Ask to see some of these exciting improvements while you're on site this weekend!

The funds raised during this gala celebration will continue our already-in-progress restoration and upgrade of Agape, so please . . . bid up and purchase an item in the silent auction and use the



opportunity to join in today to give generously – even if you've given already. We can't do it without you!

Enjoy the weekend and continue to support Holmes and its exciting future. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thanks for celebrating with us and being a part of our community.

*Mark*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter  
President, Board of Directors



-- Thank you --

**SAINT DONORS**

Mark Hostetter and Alex Habib

**TABLE HOSTS**

Bedford Presbyterian Church

The Candland Family

Hitchcock Presbyterian Church

Mark Hostetter and Alex Habib

**SPONSORSHIP**

David and Linda Burpee

The Sickle Cell Association of New Jersey

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*Holmes Camp & Retreat Center*



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and the AMSkier Family*



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# A Note From the Director



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Agape at Holmes Camp and Retreat Center for our annual fundraising gala and auction; we are so happy you chose to join us.

It is fitting that we are here in Agape today, as this year is the fortieth anniversary of the Agape Center. The name Agape comes from the Greek concept of different types of love. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King described Agape as “overflowing love which is purely spontaneous, unmotivated, groundless, and creative ... It begins loving others for their sakes.” He adds “Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community.”

The Agape Center is the beating heart of the Holmes Camp community, has been a place of love and community building for tens of thousands of campers, retreat guests, congregations, youth groups and more. For forty years Holmes has expressed our love through delicious meals cooked in the Agape kitchen, comfortable rooms, and meeting and worship spaces for people to come together in community.


While the Agape Center is still very much a special—and busy—place, forty years of wear and tear from camps, retreats, and programs will take a toll on any space. We are in the midst of a concerted multi-year effort to revitalize and modernize this sacred space. This afternoon we implore you to give generously and help us prepare for the next forty years of games, songs, meetings, worship and more; the next forty years of community; the next forty years of “Agape.”

Our annual event also presents an opportunity for Holmes to say thank you. Thank you for being here today, and for your support of Holmes Camp & Retreat Center and our mission to Educate, Empower, and Renew. Thank you to our Board of Directors, committees, and everyone else who shows up to volunteer their time and talents to make Holmes a success. Thank you to the many congregations who choose Holmes as a place to carry out their sacred work, whether it be the business of their church, spiritual retreats, operating a farm, or more. And thank you to our dedicated staff: Grace, J.J., Paul, Charlie, Aly, Ashley, Chuck, and Deb. Without their time, talents, and herculean efforts nothing we do at Holmes would be possible.

Thank you all,



J. Kyle Branin  
Director



For the latest information on our programs, join our eNewsletter by signing up at [Holmescamp.org](https://Holmescamp.org) (see link at the bottom of the home page.) or scan here.



*Our Silent Auction  
is made possible  
by these generous donors*

Darby Ainsworth

Liann Ainsworth and John Eck

Mark Ainsworth

Fifth Tuesday Quilters/Comfort Quilters  
of Northern Star Quilters Guild

Mark Hostetter and Alex Habib

Judith Secco Photography

Claudia Kuhn

Dr. Ansley LaMar

Ted Masters and Carol Castillo

John and Eloise Morehouse

Mary Lou Pappas

Sang Park

Katherine Pater

Alice Pulliam

Jane and Malcolm Ritter

Stephen Taylor Portraits

Mark 12:31 - "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.  
There is none other commandment greater than these."



*With our shared love of Christ, we are blessed and grateful for Sunrise Services at Denton Lake, here is to many more years of service, your Neighbour*

**Holmes Methodist Church,  
41 Holmes Road, Holmes, NY 12531**

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## **Happy Star Gazing**

**The Baker Family - Rocking Rock Farm**  
neighbors on the north side over 75 years

"We returned your lost campers & retrieved our



straying cows, many times under the Stars"





## **2023 Fall/Winter Retreat Weekends**

WOMEN'S RETREAT

November 3-5

JKIDEN REIKI SEMINAR

November 10 - 12

CULINARY WEEKEND

December 1 -3

### **2024 Events**

SPRING COMMUNITY EVENT

March 21, 2024

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

April 26 - 27, 2024

FRIENDS DAY WEEKEND

July 27 - 28, 2024

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

October 12, 2024

**For more information and to register for a programs visit [holmescamp.org](http://holmescamp.org). Select a program from the programs button.**

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## **HOLMES OFFERS A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS; SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

- Confirmation Retreats
- Education & Spiritual Restoration for Pastors and Church Staff
- Women's Retreats
- Nature and Specialty Retreats
- Church and Organizational Retreats

**Scan here to visit our  
website and learn more!**



Visit Our Website

# Ways to Support Holmes

- Make an annual donation
- Purchase a plaque on our Memory Wall
- Join us at a work day
- Register for a program
- Plan your next church retreat at Holmes
- Sponsor a bedroom renovation in Agape
- Make a purchase at the Camp Store



- T-Shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Beanies
- Baseball Caps
- Pins
- And More!

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## Holmes Commemorative Plate....\$50

*Show your Camp pride!*

100% of proceeds from plate sales will be used for upgrades and repairs to Holmes Camp facilities.



**Bring home a Holmes Commemorative Plate to display.  
Or purchase a set. These dinner plates are dishwasher safe and meet food service safety standards.**

We are grateful to an anonymous donor who has underwritten the costs associated with the Commemorative Plates.

# Holmes Camp and Retreat Center

## *Leadership*

### **Hudson River Presbytery Members**

Linda Burpee, Secretary

Edgar Hayes

Deborah Milcarek, General Presbyter (Ex-Officio)

### **Long Island Presbytery Members**

Frank D'Andrea

Gary Wolf

Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams, Gap Presbyter (Ex-Officio)

### **New York City Presbytery Members**

Jane Ritter

Rev. Kate Jones-Calone, Acting General Presbyter (Ex-Officio)

### **Board Nominated Members**

Liann Ainsworth

Rev. Paul Alcorn, Vice President

Kathy Frost

Rev. Mark Hostetter, President

Rev. Flora Wilson Bridges

## **Join Us!**

If you are interested in a leadership role at Holmes Camp,  
reach out to [Holmes@Holmescamp.org](mailto:Holmes@Holmescamp.org) to get started.



# Our Mission



## Educate | Empower | Renew



Holmes Camp and Retreat Center's mission is to Educate, Empower and Renew by providing a space for people to connect to nature and their faith.

Everyone, regardless of their religion, gender, sexual orientation, race, health, age, or disability is welcome at Holmes. For more than 75 years, we have hosted religious organizations, community groups, scout troops, businesses, schools, and summer campers. We also offer our own programming, including women's retreats, confirmation classes, professional development, and nature programs.

# Our Values

- **Faith** - A sense of God and the Sacred which sustains our lives and inspires a vision of how life should be and the world should be for us and for all. Holmes honors our roots in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but welcome all into our spaces.
- **Education** - Programs and learning opportunities which open us up to new ideas and new ways of thinking and seeing our lives and the world.
- **Conservation** - A deepening care for our communities, our world, and all creation that God has now entrusted to our care and keeping, and responsible stewardship of our corner of that creation.
- **Community** - Young and old. Gay and straight. Settled and refugee. Female and male and all others across the gender spectrum. All fall within the circle of God's love. All are welcomed and fall within the circle of our understanding of community.
- **Recreation** - To laugh. To splash in the lake. To play with abandon. To sit in the sun or slide on the snow. We are to delight in the wonders of each other and the wonders of God's creation.
- **Hospitality** - With more than just words, here you are welcomed just as you are. The whole you. The searching you. The strong you. The fragile you. The inquisitive you. Holmes will honor and respect who you are and who you are becoming.
- **Rest** - In the 24/7 world in which we live, rest and sabbath are a necessity. Whether for an hour, a day, or a week Holmes is a place of renewal.

-- Thank You --

to our Event Committee.

Without their support this event could not happen. We are grateful for their tireless efforts and commitment to Holmes!

## FALL EVENT COMMITTEE

Kathy Frost, Chairperson

Victoria Neilson, Auction Coordinator

Mark Ainsworth, Chef

Jane Ritter

Brenda Verdesi

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To our dedicated Volunteers who regularly take the lead on projects, throughout the year, that improve the camp experience for everyone!

Mark Ainsworth

Chris Burke

David Burpee

Amanda Cabrera

Casey Carbone

Bruce Ficinus

Eric Ficinus

David Frost

Alex Habib

Claudia Kuhn

Dave Neilsen

JP Nilsen and Crew

John Morehouse

Katherine Pater

John Quesada and Ivy Conner

Steve and Cheryl Silvernail

Louis Silvernail

Jan Knickerbocker and Chad Turner

Brenda Verdesi

Join us! Let us know if you are interested in Volunteering.

[Holmes@Holmescamp.org](mailto:Holmes@Holmescamp.org)

# -- Thank You --

## YEAR-ROUND STAFF

J. Kyle Branin, Director

John "JJ" Branin, Hospitality Manager & Chef

Paul Verdesi, Maintenance Specialist

Grace Buck, Administrator

Ashley Branin, Office Assistant

Charles Schappach, Facilities

## Seasonal, On-Call or As Needed Staff

Aly Hawana, Facilities

Charles Wilde, Chef

Deborah Wilde, Kitchen Assistant

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To this year's entertainers,  
who have shared their faith and love of community through their art.

**Zoe Temple:** Zoe is sixteen years old and has been playing music since she was in 3rd grade, when she first picked up a trumpet. She discovered her love of music when her grandmother, who is a music teacher and is the music director for Gilead Presbyterian, taught her how to play the piano in 5th grade. Later, she learned how to play the guitar and hasn't stopped playing since. She can often be heard during Sunday Service at Gilead Presbyterian Church.

**Fred Frost:** Fred is a former Holmes camper, staff member, board member and a long time friend of the camp. Fred recently completed his first CD, Trailing Wisps of Color, and can be found on all major music streaming sights as J. Frederick Frost or by Trailing Wisps of Color. He currently shares his gift of music at the Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church.



## There's No Place Like Holmes<sup>®</sup>

Holmes Camp & Retreat Center is a ministry of the Presbyterian Conference Association, Inc. and is affiliated with the Presbyteries of Long Island, Hudson River, and New York City of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). You do not need to be associated with the Presbyterian Church or identify with any particular faith to attend; everyone is welcome at Holmes! We build community and encourage people on their own spiritual journey.



Holmes Camp and Retreat Center  
60 Denton Lake Road · Holmes, NY 12531  
845.878.6383 · [HolmesCamp.org](http://HolmesCamp.org)