

Camp Weed and the Cervený Conference Center



JOE CHAMBERLAIN
Executive Director

- A Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida •
The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop



An Invitation for Camp Weed to Receive 400,000 Gallons of Water Every Day for the Next 20 Years

*If we say "YES!" and accept this invitation,
we can recharge the dry lake at Camp Weed
for all to enjoy.*

My friend, this is the answer to our prayers!

And you can be a part of it. . .

Dear Friend in Christ,

Have you seen the lake at Camp Weed recently?

I haven't either...not for a long, long time.

That's because the lake is now dry.

I remember when children at summer camp would canoe, kayak, and fish in the lake...the joy we all felt watching the waterfowl play...the aroma of flowers in bloom...and the enchanting chorus of frogs.

Those days are gone now.

So many of us have prayed that God will provide a way for us to restore the lake and those good times.

Amazingly, the City of Live Oak has offered to give Camp Weed 400,000 gallons of water EVERY DAY for the next 20 years!

The city's environmental experts have determined that this water must go somewhere. If not to us, then to somebody else.

And their findings show the best spot for the water is the property at Camp Weed.

To receive this blessing, we simply have to help provide the infrastructure necessary to receive the water from the city.

The cost of construction?

(over, please)



The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard

*...the sort of place
that it was originally
designed to be,
centered around
gracious and
life-giving water...*

*Water is an integral part of the
story of our salvation history.*

In the beginning the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.

It was water which swept away the sin of the world in
the time of Noah.

It was through the water that God led the children of Israel
out of slavery in Egypt.

It was through the water that God led his people into the Promised
Land.

It was in the water of the Jordan that our Lord Jesus Christ
was baptized.

And it was on the shore of the Sea that Jesus called his first
disciples and again would encounter them and encourage them in
the wake of his resurrection.

It is, therefore, no accident that Christians traditionally have
sought places beside the water for prayer, reflection, and to
draw closer to God.

The present site of Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference
Center was originally chosen because it was situated on the water.
Our beautiful Mandi's Chapel and the Conference Center complex
were designed to take advantage of the presence of water nearby
and to share its beauty, peace and tranquility with those who visit
it. Because of droughts in the last few years, our lake has dwindled
so that it is hard to see water at all today.

We miss its beauty. We lack the sort of spiritual focus that it provided.
We need it as a constant reminder to us of the spiritual importance
of water, and especially of the water of baptism.

We have a magnificent plan now to restore that water, and to once
more make our lake and the Cerveny Conference Center and Camp
Weed the sort of place that it was originally designed to be, centered
around gracious and life-giving water where our campers can play
and beside which all of us can gather, pray, and draw closer to God.

I encourage all of you to give generously to the New Water, New
Life campaign for the restoration of our lake. It is important to
Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center. It is important
to your Diocese. It will be important to generations who will follow
us as they seek the nearer presence of God.

"He leadeth us beside the still waters. He restoreth our souls."

Psalm 23:2

A surprisingly low \$300,000.

If you average that out over the next 20 years, it's only about \$42 a day!

Yes, it's low for all the wonderful benefits the water will give to everyone who loves Camp Weed. Just think of it:

School retreats...Summer camps...Kayaking...Picnics...
Canoeing...Swimming...Fishing...Boating...Bird watching

— and the wild beauty and habitat of North Florida's rich aquatic life.

But it's still a lot of money to raise. *So, every dollar counts.*

We've named our fundraising effort the "New Water, New Life" campaign — because that's exactly what your gift will provide.

But we need to hear from you by October 22.

Will you join me in this good cause?

As you know, today's uncertain economic times have forced a lot of people to neglect their gift-giving intentions.

But this is truly a rare opportunity. How many times does the city knock on your door and say, "We want to give you all this water for the next 20 years?"

You hold the power of hope in your hands.

Please make the decision to get involved now. Don't turn away, put it off, or leave it to someone else to solve the problem.

I can only realistically expect to see gifts come through of \$50...some \$250...and the occasional gift over \$500.

And, believe me, we appreciate and welcome them all.

I also know that some will do more — and already have.

But please understand this will be our last appeal to you.

We want to conclude this effort by October 22.

Take a look at the reply card and envelope I have enclosed — and cast your vote for our efforts.

When combined with your most generous gift, you'll bless the lives of thousands of people who care — as you do — for Camp Weed, the Cerveny Conference Center, and our lake.

The good feeling you'll give yourself will last for years to come.



*The Rt. Rev.
Charles Lovett Keyser*

It is the source of life. In it we died with Christ and were raised with Him. The firmament of Heaven and stately pines are reflected in its glass-like surface. Its calmness provides us with a peaceful quiet.

I speak, of course, of WATER. Camp Weed has always been 'on water.' New Water not only gives New Life to our lake, the lake becomes an icon of our Christian life and through an icon we see the face of God.

To frolic in it and enjoy the freshness of our lake water, to worship in Mandi's Chapel over the 'waters of baptism,' and to sit quietly and offer our prayers of thanksgiving, what a great gift. Join me and many others to make the icon of our lake come alive.

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"Tell the People to Stop Giving!"

There's a beautiful story in the Bible where Moses was charged to build the Lord's tabernacle. And the people were asked to give to the cause.

The outpouring from their response to God's call was so unprecedented, Moses actually had to issue a command for the people to stop giving — because the congregation had donated so much to the effort that the workers had more than enough to complete the work.

Oh, that we would have such generous hearts as those souls did. It is my prayer that the Lord will stir your heart to give to this most worthy cause.

Friends, we can no more provide a summer camp without a lake than we can provide church services in Florida without air conditioning.

Over the years, as the waters dried up, we've prayed for help. Thankfully, we now have been given this opportunity. Now it's our turn to act.

*The December issue of **The Diocesan** will list the names of all those who participate.*

Will you and the Church see your name there?

I don't want you to miss out!

Take a minute — while it is still handy — to return a gift to the "New Water, New Life" campaign.

It will be a gift of joy and hope for all of us who stand at the edge of that thirsty lake...and wait.

I look forward to celebrating with you the day the water begins to flow to recharge the lake at Camp Weed — thanks to you.

Please send your gift today. You'll feel good about it.

Blessings to you,

Joe 

Joe Chamberlain
Executive Director

P.S. If you know a friend or family member who would like to help, please go to www.campweed.org. You can forward an electronic version of this letter via e-mail. Their contribution along with yours will get us closer to our goal even faster. Thank you for caring!



The Rt. Rev. Frank Stanley Cervený

"New Water, New Life"

What beautiful words. They resonate to the depth of my soul because the restoration of our lake will assure our Diocesan family that we will have a place of refreshment and reflection for generations to come.

I remember when I purchased our White Lake property in 1977. I believed then as I do now, that we were led to this property by the Holy Spirit. It is equidistant between Jacksonville and Tallahassee; it has a lake, soon to be fully restored, that connects our summer camp with our conference center; and our canopy of trees and rolling hills become a natural preserve for families to hike, camp and fish.

Today, Camp Weed and the Cervený Conference Center is the "parish hall" for Diocesan life. It has also been described as a "rare jewel" — "a place set apart" for national and regional church conferences, for government, corporate and non-profit organizations to enjoy, as well as a place for our Live Oak family to celebrate special occasions.

Emmy and I are thrilled to have pledged our support, and we hope that every family who has ever set foot on this "holy ground" will give a love offering to assure that there will be "New Water, New Life."