



A Mountain Top Communion Adventure with God, Family, and Friends

By the Rev. Robert Woody

What could be better than sharing the spectacular awesome beauty and wildness of God's creation on display in Colorado's Rocky Mountains with loved ones and friends? I couldn't think of anything better, so I decided to organize a "Clergy + One" backpacking trip for fellow

clergy to the Colorado Adventure Camp at James Park, with the help of our DWTX Camps and Conferences Department. I also saw this as a way of motivating our clergy and family members to improve their physical condition. In preparation, we required all participants to get a physical and doctor approval for a strenuous backpacking adventure. We encouraged everyone to set a workout routine and stick with it. Our team consisted of Fred Brown and his son-in-law, Jim; Chuck Sharrow and his wife, Ruthanne; and my 22-year-old son, Seth, and myself.

On Monday, July 9th we flew to Denver and drove to the Colorado Adventure Camp at James Park. On Tuesday morning, we headed into the Indian Peaks Wilderness area and hiked about seven miles to our first camping area at Coney Lake, a beautiful lake surrounded by rugged peaks. Unfortunately, Fred suffered from altitude sickness, and he and Jim hiked back out on Wednesday. The rest of the team hiked another seven miles to our second camping area on St. Vrain Creek, in a valley that borders Rocky Mountain National Park. On Thursday, Seth and I took a day hike up to the Continental Divide and enjoyed a 360-degree panorama view of the Rocky Mountains, including the high peaks of Rocky Mountain National Park. We also had some success fly fishing on St. Vrain creek and caught enough trout for a gourmet dinner. Chuck and Ruthanne spent the day exploring the St. Vrain valley. On Friday we hiked back out and flew home on Saturday.

Although the high-altitude backpacking was physically challenging, we all enjoyed the indescribable beauty and the exquisite bonding time with family and friends.