Brian Kates
Camp Capers
Program Director

Friends,

I have always enjoyed the book of Psalms. I seem to find direction, even when I'm not looking. Never before has Psalm 139:16 meant more to me than this past year. Psalm 139:16 reads, "Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin this past year, my life took a course that I never imagined. I got married, moved back "home" to San Antonio, and worked at summer camp. Psalm 139:16 still applies to my life today, and I'm truly starting to grasp the meaning of this verse. There are an infinite number of years left on this earth for me, with many more chapters to live out. Scary as it may be to not know what is written on those pages, one thing remains constant; Jesus is my true north.

In August, another chapter in that book was cracked opened. I'm going back to camp? Although I hesitated at first, I knew this is what God had planned more than 23 years ago; all I needed to do was say, "yes." This fall, I started my "new" journey as the first Camp Capers Program Director for the diocese. So far, this has been everything I could have dreamed, and more. What an exciting time it is to be working in Camps and Conferences. This past summer we had more campers come through our gates than ever before. We had one of the most amazing staffs come together from all over the state to serve together for three months. It was the people that I worked with this summer that made coming back easy.

I'm very excited to work with our new staff director for this summer, Emily Vandewalle. For those of you who know Emily, you know that she radiates integrity, and shares her heart with those whom she encounters. Emily graduates from Texas A&M this December, and will begin working out of the Bishop Jones Center in January.

We have already started to receive applications, not only for summer staff, but for session staff too. If you are interested in applying, for a program position or Mid-Winter, get those applications in by January 1st for priority consideration.