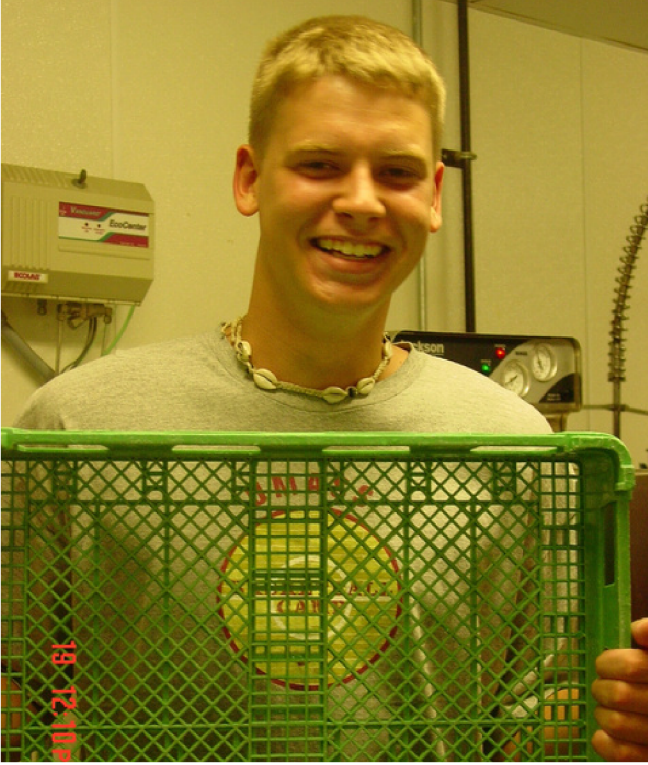


Aldersgator Stories

A Mother's Perspective with Shirley Pease



"Where is Aldersgate"? I asked our boys. I was looking at the camp brochure that was handed out in church. Bridgeport United Methodist has been an avid supporter of the camping program for many years, paying half of each child's fee. Previously Pat and Sean had been attending Casowasco, and Aldersgate was new to me. My church friends had gone to Casowasco, so I sent my boys along with their children. I had grown up in the old Wyoming Conference and had gone on MYF retreats at Sky Lake.

They excitedly showed me more info (it may or may not have been the camp week where you get to stay up "all night" and have ice cream for breakfast). So we headed to Aldersgate that summer -- and then returned for several more. During that time, they came home with so many stories and

Aldersgate sayings like, "It's a REAL ROAD WITH REAL CARS!" Or the verse of the week: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

After being a camper, Pat approached us about being a counselor in training and later, a counselor. From that, we learned:

- It is possible to survive sending your child away in your car when he just received his driver's license, and it's possible to be away for entire summers when you thought you'd have him home with you for two or three more years.
- Even though your child is a counselor, he can still manage to scrape up one side of his face in the "mud pit."
- Boys' cabins can win the "Golden Dustpan" award for the neatest cabin. (I should have gone to Aldersgate to learn how to clean!)
- To be incredibly proud of our college student who knew the value of Aldersgate, "Mom and Dad, I know I could make more money at a different summer job, but I think I belong at Aldersgate."

And in the top spot of times at Aldersgate, Pat came home and said, "I met a lifeguard; her name is Anna." This August, they'll be married for eight years and have two future Aldersgators.