

# The History of Camp Edgewood and the Chapel Cross

by Carole McLeod

The foundation for Camp Edgewood was in the late 1930's at Fishers' Glen on the shores of Lake Erie, between Port Dover and Turkey Point. Campers from St. Matthew's and my parents from Guelph and Preston, as staff, attended this camp whose location is still present and still named Fishers' Glen.

Camp Edgewood itself opened in Eden Mills near Guelph in 1944 and existed until 2017. Many Pastors, seminarians, staff, counsellors and campers (including many from St. Matthew's) enjoyed its natural beauty and Christ-centred programs at camps and retreats. Unfortunately, its closure was forced by a government department that insisted on a new central septic system that Synod could not afford.

The Camp was disbanded and sold in several parts, one of which became Edgewood Gardens/Jones Family Greens, a 12 acre organic farming operation. Another section was purchased by a group of Eden Mills' residents who created Edgewood Trails, a conservation area for the public and former campers.

Through a newspaper article, Farmer Matt Jones thoughtfully conveyed the information that two crosses remained on his site. The one cross he gave to his daughter to give to a friend who had been a camper; the other cross, the Chapel Cross, he made available to anyone who would like to have it. That cross had been dedicated to the memory of my Father, Rev. Norman Berner, one of the directors of the camp at Fishers' Glen and Edgewood. I made contact with Matt, and Norm and I went to Edgewood last October to pick up the cross.

The cross was lovingly refurbished by Rick Kiess, father of former camper, Adam, and skilfully mounted on our south wall by former camper and son, Jonathan McLeod, and his team to create a reflection of the cross behind it.

To God Be the Glory.

## Dedication of the Camp Edgewood Chapel Cross



Sunday, October 16, 2022

St. Matthew's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church

*When all have gathered where the chapel cross has been installed a special collect will be prayed....*

## **Collect Prayer on Holy Cross Day**

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annually, September 14

Almighty God,

who in the passion of your blessed Son  
made an instrument of painful death  
to be for us the means of life and peace:  
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ  
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. —Church of England

## **Song: Kum Ba Yah (Come By Here)**

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Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah!  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah!  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah!  
O Lord, Kum ba yah.

Someone's crying, Lord, Kum ba yah! ...

Someone's singing, Lord, Kum ba yah! ...

Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah! ...

Come by here, my Lord, Come by here! ...



## **Prayer of Dedication**

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God of steadfast love,

your living Word has been proclaimed to generations of  
campers and staff at Camp Edgewood. We give thanks for  
the mission, ministry and witness of the camp and its  
enduring influence in our lives of faith.

We give thanks for the vision, generosity and skill of those who  
have arranged to bring a tangible piece of camp Edgewood  
to our worshipping community.

Draw us near your cross; where you meet us in our greatest  
need.

Lead us to your resurrection; where your love mends all that is  
broken and restores the world.

Guide us to be your hands and feet among all your beloved  
people-

Craft us to be a people who live in the shadow of the cross and  
people who bear your creative and redeeming word to all  
the world.

We pray in your Holy Name. Amen