

Under the Bell

by Rev. Charlotte Asher

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Camps have many iconic images. Camp Cazadero, called Camp Caz, is no different. There is The Bowl, The Slab, The Pool, Vesper Point, and more. There are places where we feel the presence of God clearer than any other; in the redwoods, seeing the Milky Way, dozens of shooting stars, Cascade Falls, a deer, a piece of turtle bread. The Caz bell is unique in that it surrounds us all when it rings. From on top of the hill, the sound carries across the meadow, through the cabins, and down to Vesper Point. It whispers at The Bowl. It gongs at the pool.

The Bell is what enables and surrounds the life at Caz. For the younger ones, when you got to set the tables for a meal, you got to ring The Bell. As a child waiting on your bunk during Turtle Time (rest time), you would wait for The Bell to spring out of your bunk and race to the pool, crafts, or a hike. As the day wore on, it would signal that finally, it was time to eat. In anticipation, one could wait for its sound and also have the trust that the bell would allow you to be free in whatever you were doing until you hear it ringing.

The Bell is also there when things weren't going so well. It rang every 5 minutes when a group of hikers were late to lunch. (OK. It was the entire camp. I did make a wrong turn. It took us an extra 75 minutes to make it to camp but lunch was still warm; salad, garlic bread, raviolis. It was my fault. Now you all know!)

The Bell also rings when something unscheduled comes up; a camper has to go home, a camper or staff has to be airlifted to the hospital, fire.) Through good times and bad, The Camp Caz Bell calls us, surrounds us, and protects us.

This column will be to inform you about what is going on at Camp Caz. It will appear at least once a month, sometimes more often. It is my personal understanding of what is going on as a Conference Council member and co-chair, with Mei Wang, of the newly formed committee that will follow through on the vote

at the last Annual Gathering "To follow through on the [Camp Cazadero] Financial Recommendations."