

Special Feature Story

Focus of Pocono Plateau

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The EcoEternity Forest at Pocono Plateau

By, Rev. Ronald Schane, Director



A service of consecration for an EcoEternity Forest at Pocono Plateau was held on June 18, 2008. The first of its kind in Pennsylvania, and only the second in the United States, the EcoEternity Forest is a burial concept for cremated ashes. The cremated ashes of the deceased are buried at the roots of a tree such that the nutrients from the ashes are absorbed by the tree. This natural and peaceful woodland setting is designated an EcoEternity Forest.,

surrounded by God's creation. The EcoEternity Forest completes the circle of our ministry opportunities. This Forest allows the camp to impact lives on the most challenging aspect of life – preparation for death.

The beauty of this place will provide those who visit - the peace and comfort they seek, and we know, as Christians, is found in the hope of the Gospel message.

This forest burial concept utilizes 2.5 acres of forest at the far end of Beaver Lake to create a cemetery ministry for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church—open to all denominations. Pocono Plateau at all times owns, controls, and manages the forest.

Causing no lasting disturbance to the forest floor, the EcoEternity Forest interment process preserves a natural setting that is different from the traditional cemetery, but well within the spirit of the original church ministry. In a plot of mature growth forest, suitable trees are selected, and registered in a log. Interested parties visit the EcoEternity Forest by appointment and select a dedicated burial tree for an individual or a family. Based on the wishes of the family, graveside services are conducted in the forest at the time of interment. A 4x4 inch memorial plaque with family names is attached to the tree.

The ministry of Pocono Plateau began over 60 years ago with the vision of a group clergy and laity to create a place for young people to hear the Gospel message and grow in their faith - surrounded by God's beautiful creation. Since that time the mission of Pocono Plateau remains unchanged promoting Christian growth through a well-rounded spiritual and recreational program that shares an appreciation for God's creation.

Pocono Plateau impacts the lives of the very young through the very old. Children have grown up at the camp, young adults have served in its ministries, families have grown closer, and senior adults have shared good-times - all while enjoying the beauty of God's wonderful handiwork.

There is no better place to reflect upon life's choices than being



Meditation Area

Go to: www.ecoeternity.com

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