

“The Good Counselor”

[Mark 6:34](#)

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By Rebecca Enney

This past week was Family Camp at Camp Nawakwa! And guess who went! The Potato Family and Elizabeth Mawakasunga and Aunt Gertrude! The Potatoes had Cabin 11 and Elizabeth and her aunt had a room at Zinn Tozer Lodge, but they always sat together in the Dining Hall for meals and they ‘stormed the Bastille’ and they danced with hulla hoops and they slept in the treehouse and played games with the counselors and lots of fun stuff! They all had a great time.

Well, except on Monday night at the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camptastic Celebration of Camp Nawakwa which was held in Upper Camp. The Potatoes and Elizabeth and her aunt walked up the hill together, with all the other campers, to the Pavilion where the counselors had decorated it with streamers and balloons and Christmas lights and there was fun music! Polly and Haman were playing with their new friend, Mary Beth. The sun had just begun to set out over the woods at the edge of the meadow and there was a slight mist rising up from the trees.

“Look Mary Beth!” shouted Polly. “Fireflies!”

“I bet you can’t catch any!” taunted Haman. But Polly was having such a good time with her new friend that she did not even notice that her brother was trying to tease her. The girls ran across the meadow towards the woods to dance with the lightening bugs in the grass damp with dew! They pretended they could fly.

“I don’t need to play THIS game.” mumbled Haman, so he went back to watch his dad do the Limbo Rock! And then he had a piece of cake and a root beer float and lots of pretzels.



Elizabeth also saw the lightening bugs. “Aunt Gertrude, can I go out there with Polly and Mary Beth?” she asked. “Yes dear. I’ll watch from here.”



So Elizabeth joined Polly and Mary Beth to romp in the meadow. They did not pay attention as they ran after the fireflies and soon the sound of the music faded as they ran over the crest of the hill and grew closer to the dark woods. Aunt Gertrude momentarily forgot the girls and went to sit with Mrs. Potato Head. They laughed and laughed as they watched round Mr. Potato Head trying to get under the limbo stick!

Meanwhile, back at the edge of the dark woods, the girls heard a rustling sound coming from the woods and suddenly a very large, quiet owl flew out towards them and startled them. The three of them had lost sight of the pavilion with all the music and the lights. And Aunt Gertrude did not yet miss them. Oh dear!

Polly began to cry and Mary Beth started to meow for her mommy. Even Elizabeth was afraid. “We just need to figure out which way we came from.” said Elizabeth. But the fear was rising in her throat and she felt the sharp edge of panic cutting at her stomach. And then, a large furry creature came towards them in the darkening dusk.

“AHHH!!!” all three screamed! “A monster!” However, the large furry creature was NOT a monster, it was a large furry dog. Now, I don’t know if YOU think dogs can smile, but THIS dog was definitely smiling and friendly and wagging his tail. He calmly stood beside them in a protective kind of way and allowed them to hold onto his fur. Then he gave one loud bark “WOOF!”



At the sound of that bark, counselor Ken showed up at the top of the hill. He saw the three little girls and saw that they were lost and afraid. He had great compassion for them and rushed to help them.

“Oh! Thank you Ken! You must have heard the dog bark!” they exclaimed.



“What dog.” asked Ken. They looked around and there was no dog to be seen. “Never mind,” said Ken. “We’ll get you back to the party and get a root beer float.” And they walked hand in hand away from the dark woods, towards the light and the music!

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