

Camping and Retreat Ministries Report

District Board Meeting

September 15, 2018

Karen Dillon, Director

After the busy summer camping season, one would think that activities would slow down. With the growing enthusiasm surrounding the expanding programming of the Camping and Retreat Ministries, slowing down is not possible.

July was a month of youth work. Jon Keller and I served Southern Ohio/Kentucky District as coordinators for the Junior High Activities at Annual Conference. We packed lunches, held Bible studies, played games, visited museums, and exhausted ourselves with the attending kids. It was very rewarding, especially our closing "Prayer Room Experience" on the last night. Who knew that 40+ junior high students could focus and remain silent for an hour in quiet meditation? Well, they did! After that week, it was off to National Youth Conference in Colorado. I traveled with many youth and advisors from several other churches in a friendly group who got along so well and represented SODCOB in a very positive light.

Our big event in August was the Annual Golf Scramble hosted with Brethren Disaster Ministries. Each year the scramble grows. Turtle Creek Golf Course generously provided a beautiful landscape and support system that insured the success of the outing. Many volunteers prepared the lunch items the day before and came to help serve the 21 teams of hungry golfers at the scramble. The committee who organized the golf scramble did a fantastic job. All the effort from so many people brought over \$5,000 profit to the CRM and BDM.

Women's Retreat was a big success also. 69 women from all over the District gathered at Bergamo Center for the retreat. The presenters were all women from our district who studies and gave the attenders insight into the "Friendships of Women" based on the book by Joan Chittister. Lots of fun was included with crafts, painting classes, yoga classes, jokes, sharing. Worship, personal meditation time, and prayer brought God's spirit closer to the hearts of us all. The women left the retreat feeling happy, satisfied, encouraged, excited that their friendships with other women had been strengthened.

The planning for the fall season of events has been ongoing. Two Adult Bible Schools will be held: one at Salem COB Sept 24 - 28, and one at Troy COB Oct. 22 - 26. Our fall Ambassadors' meeting will be in October, just before District Conference. Work is continuing for the presentation at District Conference.

Camping and Retreat Ministries is a strong, vital part of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. It is expanding and meeting the needs of our people in every stage of life. Young children, school age children, special needs students, youth, young adults, middle age adults, and older adults are all being offered more opportunities to join together in life's

journey of faith and fellowship. Everyone is invited and included. Lives are changed through these encounters. God's Kingdom on earth and His great love can be witnessed at all of the exciting gatherings.