



# At The Center

## Handle With Care In 2008

Just the other day it was snowing out here at Cherokee Retreat Center when a couple of days earlier the temperatures reached well into the 70's. Despite what you believe about Global Warming and humanity's part in our planet's current climate changes, the Bible tells us that we are to be good stewards of our natural resources and care for this glorious creation that we have been given.

This summer, our theme is "Handle With Care." We will be using this platform of discussion and study to help our close knit Christian community learn and practice what it means to be purposeful in our co-existence with God's Creation.

In true Camp Cherokee tradition, our summer camping program this year will take participants on a well planned experience in Christian Community within a safe environment where individuals are cared for as well as the larger body of faith that is created.

Fun and Games, worship and study are used to weave the scriptural lessons into a real world, hands on experience like no other. Paramount to Camp Cherokee's goals is the creation of an environment that is highly conducive to supporting and creating new connections between campers.

The leadership for this summer is nearly all set up and we are truly blessed this year to have many returning staffers as well as some very well qualified new folks from within Cherokee Presbytery and beyond. As usual, all of our staff will be First Aid and CPR certified and many of them will also be certified lifeguards. After their week of staff training, these leaders are positioned to provide all of our participants with a fun, life changing and most of all safe experience for all.



Mary Katherine and Thomas Dykes (Dalton PCUSA) – Ready For the Road Ahead During Challenge Camp

### Changing Landscape

Cherokee Retreat Center lies on 100 acres of Corps of Engineers property. We lease this property and therefore have little control over the larger wildlife management of our wooded areas. In an effort to improve the health of the woods on our property as well as acreage near CRC,

the COE has recently begun a tree harvesting project that will last several months. They are near completion of the phase on the CRC property (only 5 acres), however the acres near camp are already looking much different than just a few months ago. The plan we have learned,

is to remove the trees both selectively and as a clear cut depending on its location, then later conduct a controlled burn and finally re-seed. Only about 5 acres of CRC land will be effected, many more surrounding the Retreat Center will, however be clear cut in the process.

#### Inside this issue:

Kelly's Korner	2
Have You Seen Them?	2
Where The Chair Stands	2
Revving Up For Summer	3
Mission Field CRC	3
Andy's In "Sites"	3
PW=Pretty Wonderful!	Back Cover

#### The CRC Wish List

- New Canoes
- Wall Hangings and Interior Décor Items
- Gently Loved Furniture Pieces
- Applicants For The Camp Nurse Position
- Volunteer Groups For Site Projects

## Kelly's Korner

Springtime is always a conflicted time of year for me emotionally. The anticipation of Easter sets me on edge just in time for what is truly my biggest programmatic and administrative push of the year. T-shirts have to be designed, staff have to be recruited, supplies have to be purchased and weekend groups need the calm hand of warm Christian hospitality at what sometime seems to be the most inconvenient times.

Through all of this however, each year about this time, a deep sense of calm also comes. As I look to the empty cross I begin to be able to let go and take in on a very deep level the reality that it is done. Regardless of what I do or don't accomplish on my mile long task list, Christ has died for our sins....as in it has already happened, it is in the past it is real. Christ



has died for our sins and in that fact we have the unbelievable ability and right to say to each other, that we are a part of a grander plan at the hands of our Creator.

It is also at this time of year that my wife Jean, always says...."honey, lets get the tiller out and work on the garden." Now, I love fresh produce, there is nothing else

like it, but frankly it isn't always easy for her to convince me to get outside and work the land to the point of being suitable for a garden. As I do, however, every year I once again reconnect with the parable of the sower in an even more tangible way. The summer camping program which sometimes seems overwhelming to organize, takes on a renewed importance in the life of the larger body of faith. We burn the "midnight oil," mold curriculum, set up schedules and prepare the way in order to encourage the growth of Christian believers for this age and beyond. Our summer camping program offers us the opportunity to be the farmer, the caretaker, the role model, the mentor.

What nobler endeavor could we possibly pursue?

## Have You Seen Them?

Have you seen the new decorations? Thanks so much to the Presbyterian Women who have graciously supported us with donations of couches, cups, pictures, lamps, tablecloths, and curtains to name a few items. We do hope to get some painting and landscaping done this spring and really give the retreat center that feeling of coming home. We still have need for more donations of furniture

such as night stands and chairs for the cottages, desks and small dressers, too. The flooring in the lodge and the basement of Lydia are in serious need of replacement and while we are dreaming big, does anyone know how to build a labyrinth? We are so excited with the changes

and help going on at the retreat center and know anyone who is a part of it will be greatly blessed as well.

*"while we are dreaming big, does anyone know how to build a labyrinth? "*

We want everyone in the presbytery to come and spend some time in solitude or with a group to enjoy the beauty of God's creation that we have share.

## Where The Chair Stands (Retreat Ministry Division)

Welcome to the work of the Retreat Ministry Division of Cherokee Presbytery. It is wonderful to work with such a motivated, enthusiastic group of people who believe in the power of retreat/camp ministry. The division is presently dedicated to seeing Cherokee Retreat Center become a fully accredited ACA – American Camp Association retreat center by this summer. This has been the goal of the retreat center for many years and while we do operate under those stringent guidelines, we have never formally been

evaluated. Kelly, Nannette Enloe, and I attended a training at Camp Greenville (somewhere on top of a mountain north of Greenville, SC but in North Carolina) on March 6<sup>th</sup> which was the beginning step for ACA. The rest of the process is showing the documentation and being visited in the summer while summer camp is in process. We are excited and believe we can make

this happen with the help of Kelly, Andy, the division, and any other interested folks in the presbytery who would like to be a part of the excitement. We are looking for other folks who wish to join us on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 at the Retreat Center, just give me or Kelly a call.



ACA=American Camping Association

Cheryl's Jenkins—RMD Chair

Cell: 706-676-1177

## Revvving Up For Summer!

Cherokee Retreat Center has planned a wide range of experiences for your children this summer at Camp Cherokee, from our Discovery camps for our youngest to the adrenaline pumping Challenge camp for our Sr. High youth. For those who come out and experience it, the sessions of Camp Cherokee offer a memorable and often life changing experience which form the foundation of spiritual development and understanding within a safe and loving Christian community. Registration forms and brochures for this summer's

Camp Cherokee program at Cherokee Retreat Center have already gone out in the mail. If you have not received yours yet, please contact your church office or the Cherokee Presbytery office directly. These materials can also be downloaded directly from our website at:

[www.cherokeeretreatcenter.com](http://www.cherokeeretreatcenter.com)

This year you can also register for camp online so **register today!** We are already receiving registration forms for the different summer sessions. In order

to insure that your child's space is reserved for this summer **register online today** or go ahead and return her/his registration form as soon as possible.



## Mission Field CRC

Cherokee Retreat Center has recently begun to take on a renewed place of mission within Cherokee Presbytery. For the past several months, the Craftsmen group from Eastminster has been helping out with many site and facility repairs and updates. Sixes Road PCUSA has helped to blaze the trails on our property and have recently committed to donating funds and labor to refurbish our challenge course. PW has played a significant role

in improving the décor of the interiors of our year round buildings and most recently we received word that the mission trip group from Marietta First PCUSA has decided to redirect their group to bless CRC with a week of intense mission work. In an effort to hold this ministry in the light of Christ making it a place

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that we all can truly be proud of and excited to share with our families and communities of origin and faith. Together we are answering God's call to continue to make this ministry truly accessible to much more than only our young people. Please keep CRC on your list of mission field in need or your help and prayers.

## Andy's In "Sites"

As a child, I looked forward to always coming to the "mountain top experience" known as Camp Cherokee. I would look forward to seeing the group of friends from camp and creating new memories around campfires. As I grew older and became a part of the summer staff, I began to understand on a basic level the immense amount of work that went into creating a place for solid Christian community. As an adult, I appreciate even more the foundation that has been laid here at CRC. I'm often reminded of the parable of the man who built his house on the rock and the other who build his house on the sand. On the surface, this parable seems ingrained with my favorite personality trait, common sense. Most

people have a general knowledge that any good building has a solid foundation. But what is that foundation made of? When I started last May, Kelly and I created a list of projects that needed to be done to ensure the camp would be safe and ready for each camper that would attend. As I looked at this list, I remember thinking to myself, "There's no way we can get all this done." But then one group of volunteers called, and another, and then another, and in a week the list was just short of being completed. The foundation had weathered a storm I thought would crush it: but the people of this presbytery responded. It seems every time I get overwhelmed and begin to think something can't be done, God re-

minds me that CRC is built on a solid foundation. This place is built on the most solid of all foundations: rock of Christ, and the love that shines through the people in his church. This is a living, breathing, growing foundation that can weather any storm.



Andy Hendrix Sailing the CRC Site, Straight & True!



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***Far From Everything...In Your Own  
Backyard!***

## **Welcome to Cherokee Retreat Center**

Cherokee Retreat Center is Cherokee Presbytery of Northwest Georgia's Summer Camp and year round retreating facility. Located on 100 acres of beautiful forested land with more than two miles of Lake Allatoona shoreline.

During the summer, our retreat center serves as a summer camp. When not in use for summer camp, our facilities are available for rent for conferences, meetings, and retreats. Our primary service is to groups affiliated with Cherokee Presbytery, but our facilities are open to anyone. Visit our website for more information on year round conference center information.

*Cherokee Retreat Center and all of it's staff seek to create opportunities for Christian growth while living in a caring, safe, fun Christian community and environment. With God's guidance, we seek to play a positive role in nurturing children, youth and adult's faith in Jesus Christ, through creative Bible study, worship, interacting with creation, encouraging self-awareness and sensitivity towards others.*

***[www.cherokeeretreatcenter.com](http://www.cherokeeretreatcenter.com)***

### **PW=Pretty Wonderful!**

On March 8th, 2008, the Presbyterian Women of Cherokee Presbytery graced Cherokee Retreat Center for their annual meeting. As a part of their meeting, leader Barbara Elliot, spearheaded a significant effort to help Cherokee Retreat Center begin to appear to have a loving hand in interior decoration and arrangement at work.

These talented and giving individuals, blessed Cherokee Retreat Center with a large donation of wall hangings, lamps, decorations of a wide range and warm and welcoming nature. Table clothes, curtains, floor mats and even a significant monetary donation that led to the purchase of two sets of new couches for the Lydia Cottage and Parker Lodge all have played a

large role in giving the interior of these spaces a much more "homey" feel that welcomes the weary traveler with a first impression of open Christian Hospitality.

As we move into the next 50 years of ministry here at CRC, the focus on becoming more and more accessible to much more than only our young people will continue to grow as we more fully live into our calling to become a year round ministry of hospitality to Cherokee Presbytery and beyond .

Our PW have led the first of what must be a renewed effort to take ownership in, beautify and hold up this joint ministry in the light of Christ in order to demonstrate to the world what it means to truly

prepare the way in Christian hospitality, warmth and love for Jesus Christ in this world.

So the next time you see a member of Cherokee Presbytery's PW in the hallway at your church, give them a hug, thank them for their support and leadership at the Presbytery level and tell them that PW truly means Pretty Wonderful. Then take their lead and help to continue this work of renewal, rejuvenation and indeed "re"-creation of this ministry known as...

**Cherokee  
Retreat Center!**