

*A ministry of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in Georgia*

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Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Dear Friends of Camp Christian and Outdoor Ministries:

As we come to the end of 2008, we need to ask for your help. We know that the financial realities of the world are bearing down on some of the ministries you strongly support. Perhaps your congregation is having trouble making ends meet? Certainly you or friends are facing important decisions about how you can support the work of the church. The ministries of the region including the camp are facing the same economic constraints. The camp could really use your support next year.

The Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team believes very strongly in the ministry of our camp and conference center. Lives are being changed by this ministry. We have joined with the regional board to pay the camp's mortgage payment one month each year. We need to insure that our ministry can continue through the current financial pinch in our economy. If we spread out the work and cost amongst the many people and groups who believe strongly in and depend on our ministry to children, youth and adults, we believe we can find 12 groups who can support the camp in a special way.

We would like to ask you or a group from your church or perhaps the entire congregation to work together and Adopt-A-Month of the Camp's Mortgage Payment for \$4,200 in 2008 and or 2009. Can you commit to joining or putting together a team of people to support this project? Can you commit to doing this for three years?

We would love to have your help. Members of the outdoor ministries team are canvassing our congregations right now to find groups and individuals who can commit to support our camping and retreat program in this way. Can you be one of our volunteers and financial supporters? Your support this year or next would be greatly appreciated. If you can plan to support the camp for the next three years that would be a great help to our ministry, but one year at a time is of great help to the camp.

The Outdoor Ministry Team will make a strong preliminary report at our Regional Assembly, Nov. 14-16, 2008. In that report, we want to let the region know that the camp's ministries will continue to be strongly supported in 2009. Please, if possible, let our team member know of your commitment to Adopt-A-Month in 2008 and or 2009 prior to our regional meeting.

Please take a look at some of our story that accompanies this letter. If you have questions, contact our regional minister, executive director or a member of the outdoor ministry team. We would be pleased to present a program in your congregation with photographs and stories about Camp Christian Conference Center and the vital way this ministry supports the work of Jesus Christ in each of our congregations. You can complete the response form and return it to let us know of your commitment or contact our team member.

**Thank you and God Bless you in all your ministries:
The Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team**

Why the “Adopt-A-Month at Camp Christian” is needed

Each month Camp Christian Conference Center pays **\$4200** in mortgage payments for improvements and additions made to Camp Christian. Many of you recall that just eight years ago we were working to reopen the camp after it had been closed for one and a half years. You believed strongly in outdoor ministries for our youth and children and you supported Camp Christian when we came forward with a plan for taking our ministries year-round and expanding them to include adults. This had been our dream in this region, camp and retreats for youth, children and adults. The region was in the middle of a capital campaign to benefit several ministries (one was the camp) which would have raised nearly all of the funds needed to revitalize the camp and open our weekend conference ministries when the United States economy hit the skids after 9/11. In spite of the downturn our campaign ended on a successful note, but left the region and the camp specifically owing about **\$500,000**.

There is good news in this. We have invested almost **\$900,000** on needed improvements to our existing cabins and buildings as well as the 365 Miracle Day volunteers who turned Lavery Hall into a building instead of a pavilion. These improvements have made it possible for us to serve more than **8,400** people in our camp and conference center ministries since Lavery Hall and Peachtree Conference Center were remodeled and Woodland Lodge opened. Many friends supported the Miracle Day financially, made regular gifts to the camp, and started giving to the Friendship Circle for annual gift support of our outdoor ministries.

We can all agree that these last few years have been difficult and unpredictable. In spite of all this, today the camp has paid off much of this debt with gifts from people, groups and congregations and owes only about **\$356,000**. We have intentionally decided to keep our rates competitive rather than raise rates to pay off the loan. Gifts from friends through the Friendship Circle and the Adopt a month mortgage program have helped to reduce this debt.

Wow, God is awesome and has seen fit to bless our shared ministry at Camp Christian Conference Center. Our donors have helped us reduce our indebtedness for the camp’s ministries by almost two-thirds. Can you help us get the other one-third of the way?

We believe there are individuals, Sunday school classes, men’s groups or women’s groups who would be excited to take on the challenge of one mortgage payment. If we find 12 groups or individuals who do this, we ensure the quality of ministry and facilities at the camp. Are you a member of such a group? We would love to visit with you about adopting a month at Camp Christian Conference Center. Contact an outdoor ministry team member, the regional minister, or our executive director to set up your adoption. Use the form below to let us know or give one of us a call.

Adopt-A-Month at Camp Christian Conference Center: \$4,200

Contact Person _____

Please let us know what month you can present your gift of adoption to Camp Christian Conference Center.

Address _____

Month _____ Year _____

Can you support the camp for the next three years? _____.

We would like to send a thank you note. Please include contact information for donors in your correspondence.

Phone (_____) _____

Please return this form to the camp or regional office. Thank you.

E-mail _____

Congregation or Group(s) supporting the project _____

There are stories from the children, youth, and adults who have benefited from the camp’s ministries online on the Friendship Circle Page of our regional website, www.gadisciples.org. Read more online about the impact Camp Christian Conference Center is having on the lives of members of Disciple congregations in Georgia.