

See you at camp at Grand Oaks Baptist Assembly!

Oak Leaves

Volume 18
Issue 6

December 2018

Merry
Christmas!!!



SRNB Campaign Ticker

Pledge Balance:

@\$20,389.02

Overall Goal:

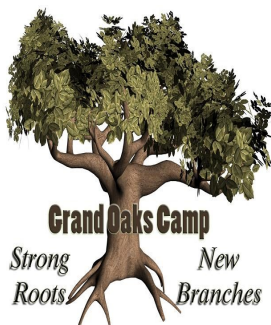
\$675,000.00

Fund Balance

Toward Multi-

Purpose Center:

@\$164,707.42



2018... Year in review.

2018 is the third year for Brad and Erin, and has been the smoothest camp season since their arrival. There have been many different events and activities that took place at Grand Oaks over this year. Here's a synopsis: Early in the year were several winter retreats. Youth groups, women's groups and college age groups made up the bulk of it. We have hosted several family reunions, and the number of swim parties remained similar to last year. We had a good summer of camp programs. The

number of spiritual decisions was near the previous year. The summer brought **1,307 youth and children** to camp along with **20 pre-campers** and **450 adult leaders**. That totals 1,777 folks in our summer camps. Of those, **89 made professions of faith**. Praise be to God!

The "Great Outdoorsman Day" this year had new workshops and engaged a good number of young people. The North Missouri WMU Day is always a superb event with ladies from around the area focusing on missions and ministry opportunities. Grand Oaks was one of three host camps for the Girls in

Action (GA) Retreats again this year. Sadly, attendance for GA retreats is dropping, possibly due to competing activities, and this may have been our final year hosting this event. One of the last events each fall is the Galt Baptist Church "Day at the Lodge." The Grace Family Fellowship Church rented meeting space in our Dining Hall the first part of the year. They have since moved into their own facility, however still continue to rent facilities for special events. We don't have a precise total, but suffice it to say, over three thousand folks have come through the gate in 2018.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS & CHANGES

This year has seen some upgrades around camp, some more noticeable than others.

New park benches were added around Steen Lake for prayer and better viewing of the paddle boats. New fascia trim and bathroom paint was added to the Hilltop cabins. The pool slide stairs were resurfaced. New stain was applied to the Staff bunkhouse. More buildings were converted to LED lighting. Volunteers helped with quite a few projects in preparation for the camp season as well as this fall. Their help was extremely valuable! As you can see by the picture, Parker Hall dismantling has begun.

See the next page for more information!



MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

In October the Executive Board met and voted to begin the first phase of building a new Multi-Purpose building. This phase is the removal of Parker Hall and the site preparations to pour footings. Don, Jolette and Brad have started dismantling the interior. Phase two will be construction of the basement which will be fully surrounded in concrete for the floor, walls and ceiling. This will act as the camp's storm shelter and safe area, a valuable addition to the campus. Phase three will be the main floor gymnasium and second story mezzanine, which is proposed to be a metal building structure. Proposed plans for the multi-purpose building may be viewed on our website at www.grandoaks.camp/strong-roots-new-branches.

The Multi-Purpose Building project is what the Strong Roots New Branches-Protecting and Providing for the Next Generation capital fundraising campaign is for. The Board has renewed the campaign with a three year commitment and fundraising has begun in earnest. Our fundraising goal for the building is \$675,000.

We currently have over \$164,000 toward that goal. One's initial reaction to the dollar figure may be one of unattainability. Let us give some perspective. First, we serve an awesome God. When we follow His will the Lord will provide! Second, Grand Oaks serves eight Baptist Associations with over 200 churches within those associations. If all 200+ churches committed to \$1000 a year for the next three years, the building project would be paid for completely. That equals a commitment of less than \$100 a month per church. We understand not everyone can contribute the same dollar amount. As Luke 21:1-4 reminds us that we are not called to equal giving, but rather equal sacrifice. Please pray that God would lead us all in how we can give to His treasury to further His kingdom. As individuals, churches and associations all contribute, the power to make life changes happen. This life change happens not just at Grand Oaks but with all who help make this building and ministry a reality. Will you join us in changing lives today?

FINANCES

Overall attendance was down slightly with a corresponding decrease in overall camp income. Income? Yes! Grand Oaks is a ministry, but it is also a business that cannot continue without adequate revenue. Grand Oaks receives income from three sources: summer camp fees, non-camp event fees and direct giving support. The camp Board has a goal of keeping the cost of summer camp as low as possible. However, the Board reluctantly increased the camp fees for 2018, the first increase in several seasons. This is due to having two full time staff and lower camper attendance. We are seeking further cost saving measures in various ways. We also are continuing to develop strategies to reach out to churches & other groups to increase our non-camp rentals. **Finally, we are diligently trying to make sure that those churches, Associations and individuals that support this ministry directly know the value of their giving and feel appreciated. And, although we seldom do so, we are taking this opportunity to ask each of you reading to prayerfully consider if you might add Grand Oaks to your personal giving and to consider leading your church to do so if not already. If you or others would like to contribute in some way, be it end of year donations, or regular giving beginning next year, you will help to change lives for the Kingdom. Those that have so faithfully given in one form or another have blessed all who enter Grand Oaks. We know that the Father will bless you in return. If you would like to give to a specific need, send us a message to learn more about where you can help. May God bless you and fill you with Joy this Christmas Season!**

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

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