

See you at camp at Grand Oaks Baptist Assembly!

Oak Leaves

Volume 17
Issue 4

December 2017

Merry
Christmas!!!



SRNB Campaign Ticker

Received:

@\$377,000.00

Pledge Balance:

@\$8,500.00

Overall Goal:

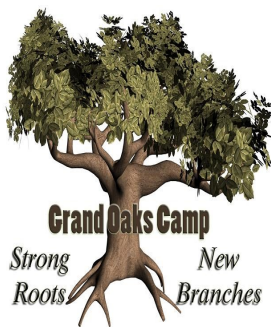
\$500,000.00

Fund Balance To-

ward Multi-

Purpose Center:

@\$112,000.00



2017...It's a Wrap!

This year is nearly to a close and it seems prudent to offer our supporters a "wrap up" issue of Oak Leaves with a summary of the year at Grand Oaks.

We had a good summer of camp programs. The number of spiritual decisions was up from the previous few summers. Attendance also was up slightly with a corresponding increase in camp income. Income? Yes! Grand Oaks is a ministry, but it is also a business that cannot continue without adequate revenue. But, more on that later.

The summer brought **1,350 youth and children** to camp along with **18 pre-campers** and **488 adult leaders**. That totals 1,856 folks in our summer camps. Of those, **103 made professions of faith**.

Early in the year were several winter retreats. Youth groups, women's groups and college age groups made up the bulk of it. Unfortunately, threat of snow cancelled two events. We have hosted several family reunions, and the number of swim parties was up over last year. The "Great Outdoorsman Day" grew this year and seemed to take on a young people's flavor as a good num-

ber of kids were here. The North Missouri WMU Day is always a super event with ladies from around the area focusing on missions and ministry opportunities. Finally, the Solar Eclipse Family Retreat that Grand Oaks sponsored was a great success. One of the last events each fall is the Galt Baptist Church "Day at the Lodge". The Grace Family Fellowship Church has been renting meeting space in our Dining Hall throughout the year and will continue at least for part of 2018. We don't have an accurate total, but suffice it to say, several thousand folks have come through the gate in 2017.

STAFF

This has been a big year as your Camp Board completed the "transition" process in our camp management. As of October, Brad Fields is the new camp manager, Erin Fields continues as Kitchen Coordinator and Don Boyer is now assistant manager. We have eliminated the former position of "maintenance helper" as Don will be filling in on much of the mowing and outdoor chores the "helper" provided. The Boyers would like to thank everyone who attended their celebration reception. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you at Grand Oaks. We wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope to see YOU at camp in 2018!

*Brad, Erin, Judah, & Manaen Fields
Don & Jolette Boyer*



CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Quite a bit of work has been accomplished this year by staff, volunteers and hired contractors. In the latter category, we recently had the roof on the Stilt Staff Building replaced. It is too far off the ground for most of us to tackle! Back in the summer one of the AC units in the chapel conked out and so a new York system, including a new furnace, was quickly installed by Fosters Heating & Air. (also, the Board has approved replacing the other 32 year old system in the chapel before next camp season) Volunteers helped us with quite a few projects, including roofs on Riverview and the old Pump House by the lake. The major project was creating a new porch on the nurse's cabin along with a new roof there. The biggest project for the onsite staff was trimming trees back in the spring as well as lots of brush cleanup. An insurance safety inspection mid-year led us to spend some time addressing some issues raised in that visit. The final project from that is to re-wire the Hilltop #6 cabin so that it will have grounded wiring throughout. As reported in a previous edition, manager Brad upgraded a lot of our light fixtures to LED, with a significant electricity savings following. We have also this year taken steps to achieve cost savings in several other areas. The trash service cost was getting out of hand and a call by Don to inquire if there were ways to save resulted in our provider offering several concessions that reduced our monthly cost nearly half. Similarly, Brad spent a good deal of time visiting with AT&T about our phone service, which also had risen to an unmanageable cost. He was able to change our service, but keep the same number and reduce our monthly cost by two thirds!

FINANCES

Well, there's that ugly but necessary area again! As said at the beginning, Grand Oaks is a ministry, but it is also a business. We derive income from three sources: summer camp fees, non-camp event fees and direct giving support. In making the transition to two staff positions with benefits provided, the camp Board has made a bold move to keep Grand Oaks moving forward. They also continue in their goal of keeping the cost of summer camp as low as possible. At present, this is creating a strain on our finances and unfortunately we are somewhat in the red as we end 2017. To address this shortfall, we are taking several steps. First are the cost savings mentioned earlier. Second, the Board has reluctantly increased the camp fees for 2018, the first increase in several seasons. Third, we are developing strategies to reach out to churches & other groups to increase our non-camp rentals as well as develop "in-house" events such as the Solar Eclipse Family Retreat. **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!**

**Grand Oaks Baptist
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