

What were you thinking?

What were you thinking last Thursday when 'Keith' said Friday and Saturday were going to be hot and humid... "most likely the most uncomfortable day of the year." Were you thinking, "Maybe I'll skip the retreat and stay in my nice air conditioned home." What were you thinking last Friday when you heard there were going to be severe thunder storms and lots of rain? Were you thinking, "Oh, those poor folks out at the retreat, it must be miserable out at Sherman Lake". What were you thinking Saturday morning when you awoke to the sound of rain on your roof and puddles on the lawn? Were you thinking, "Surely they will cancel the retreat now and return to town to the comfort and safety of their homes".

As you have no doubt heard the weather did very little to dampen the fun, fellowship and festivities at the Retreat. We were able to string extension cords (about 1,326 feet of it) from the Leadership Lodge to each of the YURTS. Thereby allowing each "family unit" at least one fan for the night. After only one false start, the rain stopped and with the help of the "dry log brigade" we were successful in getting a campfire started, marshmallows roasted and S'more's consumed. Then there were the usual "getting to know you...getting to know all about you" games and everyone had fun running from place to place acting a little crazy and making like an appliance. All too soon it was time for vespers at the Dogwood Circle and Firefly catching for the children. Thanks to the perseverance and heartiness of the folks at FCC, our first few hours at the retreat didn't turn out anything like you may have thought.



Vespers at the Dogwood Circle with Sunset over Sherman Lake!

Saturday morning we enjoyed a hearty breakfast of leftover pancakes, and sausage, fresh fruit and bagel and muffins. There was lots of coffee, juice and ice water for everyone. After clean-up and some free time, there were listening games (to go along with our "God Is Still Speaking" theme) for all to play or watch. The campers then split into age appropriate groups to go a little deeper in "listening" to God's voice today.

The afternoon brought sunshine, sandwiches, more faith enrichment and fellowship time, as well swimming opportunities. The Adults spent time in small groups "listening and sharing", The Youth put together "Sermons In A Bag" for Sunday morning worship, made an "Eye of God" wall hanging and also spent time in fellowship. The young children made door hangers and foam picture frames, went on a listening walk, learned new songs and practiced a play for the Sunday morning service.



Young and old alike also discovered the fast paced and compelling challenge of the “Ya Ya Pit”

After swimming it was time to eat again...and eat we did...we had lots and lots of sloppy joes, pasta salad, baked beans and watermelon...

Did anybody think that the weather would turn out to be so nice...it was a picture perfect afternoon, sunshine, nice breezes and wonderful people to love, laugh, play, pray and eat with.

Sundown brought more S'mores, campfire songs and (yes a few mosquitos) but another fine evening which was again concluded with Vespers at the Dogwood Circle enhanced by a fabulous Sunset.



After a night of “Raindrops falling on our Roof”, we awoke to a few clouds and the possibility of rain so we moved our worship service into the Leadership Lodge. We were blessed by a play “A Voice In the Night” presented by our children, three “Sermons in a Bag” given by our youth, and music accompanied by Joe Lekan on the guitar and the strong, harmonious voices of our wonderful quartet, Corlyn, Howard, Joe and Sara. Pastor Matt concluded our weekend and worship with a service of “Communion”.

There is so much more to say and share and my hope is that others who were present on the retreat will take time to share their stories and pictures. I also hope that all of you who were thinking about the retreat this year, will turn your thoughts into action and be present with us next year.

