



The Center Page

First Quarter 2003

Volume 2 Issue 1



The Center Page



SUMMER IS ON THE WAY!

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It may be cold now, but warm weather is just around the corner, and you know what that means...

SUMMER CAMP!

Parents are already registering their children for an unforgettable experience at JKC. What makes summer camp here so exceptional? Everything! From the games we play to the campfire songs, we design our program to be both a spiritual growth experience as well as a chance for campers to expand their comfort zones and gain self confidence.

The theme for the summer's Bible study is "Under God's Roof". Each day campers participate in Bible study and worship that bring Christian values to life through songs, skits, and stories. Hiking, canoeing, swimming, arts & crafts projects, campfires, and hands on nature classes are just the beginning! Each day is packed with tons of activities. Give your child the opportunity to spend their days having a blast with new friends learning new skills and their evenings worshipping with the



sun setting across the lake, singing praise songs around a campfire, and making thousands of memories.

For more than 40 years the John Knox Center has provided a safe, fun environment for campers to grow in faith, develop a positive self-image, and create friendships that last forever and this summer is no different. We offer programs for children ages 5-18. Don't wait, we offer special discounts for early registration. Register on our website or call for a brochure!



MEN'S RETREAT

Join us for a relaxing weekend on the lake. Fellowship with men from across our Presbytery as you spend your time sampling an old pastime or what may become a new hobby. Choose from our incredible list of Program Options or bring a book, relax, and do your own thing! You can look forward to hearty meals fit for a king in a relaxed atmosphere at the John Knox Center. The spiritual focus for this weekend is a fresh look at the parables of Jesus. Many of the stories Jesus told don't seem "fair" by today's standards. Dr. George Anderson will give a new perspective on the lessons taught by Jesus and put them in modern day terms. George's impressive storytelling background gives him a presentation

style all his own. You won't want to miss the "Parables of Irritating Grace"! Our guests will stay in our comfortable newly renovated facilities. The cost for this weekend is only \$65 (additional program option fees may apply). Don't let this opportunity pass you by. To register just fill out the form in this newsletter or online.

Space is limited.

Register today!

www.johnknoxcenter.org





Friday, April 25th

6:00 - 7:00 pm - Arrive/Check-In
 7:00 - 7:30 pm - Fellowship & Snacks
 7:30 - 8:30 pm - Keynote Session #1
 8:30 - 8:45 pm - Evening Devotion
 8:45 pm - Free Time
 (cards, movies, fellowship etc.)

Saturday, April 26th

8:00 - 9:00 am - Breakfast
 9:15 - 9:30 am - Morning Devotions
 9:30 - 11:00 am - Keynote Session #2
 11:00 - 12:00 pm - Free Time
 (1st group of golfers leave for golf course)
 12:00 - 1:00 pm - Lunch
 (12:30 pm - 2nd group of golfers leave for course)
 1:00 - 5:00 pm - ***Program Options***
 (Fishing, Zip line, Woodturning, Hiking, Golf)
 5:30 - 7:00 pm - Cookout
 7:15 - 8:30 pm - Keynote Session # 3
 8:30 - 8:45 pm - Evening Devotion
 8:45 pm - Free Time
 (cards, movies, fellowship)

Sunday, April 27th

9:30-10:30 am - Brunch
 10:30-11:30 am - Free Time
 (time to enjoy the property, pack, etc.)
 11:30 am - Worship
 12:00 pm - Check Out

Program Options

Fishing (Free)

Pack your rod and reel and try to catch the big one! Make sure sunscreen and your favorite lure is on your list as you sign up for a day on the lake. If you have a boat, you are encouraged to bring it down for the weekend.

Golf (\$16)

Head out to the green for a day of golf at Southwest Point Golf Course. We'll provide the transportation to and from the course. Cart rental (\$10) and pull along (\$2) rental is available at the course for an additional fee. Don't forget your clubs!

Woodturning (\$15)

Learn the basics of woodturning on a lathe by turning a Cross-style pen. No experience necessary to learn this new hobby. Start with a block of wood and turn it into a masterpiece that is yours to keep. Cost includes pen turning kit, wood, and instruction.

Nature Hike (Free)

This is not your typical hike through the wood. We'll spend part of the time exploring the plants and animals native to our area, and part of the hike will include exotic animals that live in our nature center.

Zip Line (Free)

If adventure is what you crave, get harnessed up, clipped in, and ready for the ride of your life! Climb 43 feet in the air and swing down the Zip Line!

What people are saying about

"Inspirational" *programs at JKC...*

"Uplifting"

"This was my first stay at John Knox and I loved it!"

"Fabulous!"

"Outstanding!"

"...we Presbyterians have a resort!"

"I don't know how you could top this!"

"...what an incredible experience"

"The staff went out of their way to make us comfortable. This was a great Women's Retreat!"

JKC Calendar of Events

Men's Retreat	April 25-27
Summer Camp	June-July
Family Picnic	August 24
Women's Retreat	Nov. 14-16
Church Officer Training Retreat	Nov. 21-22
College Retreat	Jan. 16-18, 2004

Several weeks ago a group of about 30 deacons and elders met at the John Knox Center for a 2-day officer's training event. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, sharing, and learning. During one of their sessions they learned about the "Great Ends of the Church."

To be more precise, these are:

- **The Proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind**
- **The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God**
- **The maintenance of divine worship**
- **The preservation of the truth**
- **The promotion of social righteousness**
- **The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world**

These noble goals are set forth in the opening paragraphs of our church's constitution and guide us in the different missions and programs undertaken in congregations throughout our denomination. It occurred to me that perhaps it would be a good idea to look at the mission of the John Knox Center in light of these "Great Ends." Our mission is:

To provide quality Christian experiences that...

- **Builds up the community of faith**
- **Strengthens Christians of all ages**
- **Leads people to a new relationship with Jesus Christ**
- **Celebrates God's gifts of nature and fellowship**

Upon initial inspection, our mission and the Great Ends of the Church are not that far apart. Of course any real comparison should be done looking at the way we carry out our mission. In other words, are we practicing what we preach?

We offer an exciting summer program which has continued to grow for the past several years. Children of all ages attend for up to two consecutive weeks where they hear the gospel in new ways from well-trained counselors who truly love their job and the children they serve. Our leadership development program for high school

students equips young people to go back into their congregations and actively engage in ministry.

Our congregations have found this an excellent place to hold church gatherings. Churches can meet for an afternoon picnic or spend several days enjoying the facility. The John Knox Center offers them a unique setting for spiritual development and Christian education. The staff's flexibility and availability allows churches to concentrate on important matters while we take care of the details.

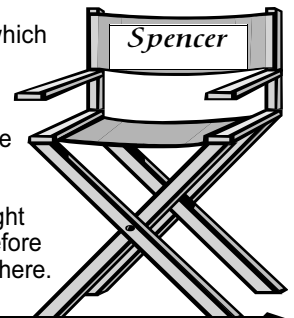
Most recently we have begun programming in different areas (campers come in all sizes and ages). We offer retreats for women and men which focus on spiritual development and fellowship, workshops for church officers to better equip them for the tasks at hand and weekends specially geared for college students to let them know that the church is still a potent and meaningful part of their lives. And we continue to expand our facility and our program to meet the needs of the people in our churches.

All in all I think we do practice what we preach. I would invite you to become a part of this exciting ministry. There are several ways in which you can do this. Attend one of our events and experience the new ways God is using us. Pray for us that we continue to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Contribute to one of our funds (camper scholarship, facility development or general) so that we might continue to do the work God has set before us. It's an exciting and wonderful time here. We would love for you to be a part of it.

DIRECTOR



REV. SPENCER PARKS



Summer Staff

Name: Stephen Ogden

D.O.B.: 9/13/82

Fountain City Presbyterian Church

Position: Counselor 2002 & 2003

Hello, my name is Stephen and chances are if you have been to JKC in the summer in the past several years, you've seen me. I have filled many roles at the John Knox Center. I started out as a camper in the second grade and worked my way up to a leadership capacity as a Covenant Partner and then junior counselor after my junior high days. Even my last years of high school I couldn't stay away, I worked and volunteered as a member of the maintenance staff. Finally, last summer I had the privilege of working as a counselor. Thus, I have had a chance to see many different faces, many different sides to John Knox; all have been such a blessing in my life.

Some of my closest friends are former campers or staff. The scenery, camp fires, canoeing, returning staff, and, of course, that classic camp spiritual high came to be the common and expected staples of my summer home, John Knox. It is amazing how, as a camper, everything about John Knox just seemed to easily come together so magically and perfect.

As a camper who went on to experience camp through leadership training, weed-eating, scrubbing dishes, and planning whole days of activities and group-building exercises for campers, I have a

different understanding now. I know now that magical camp experiences happen because of many people working and praying hard--dishwashers scrubbing, lifeguards watching, Covenant Partners leading in worship, counselors mentoring and, of course, Spencer climbing up trees, being a father, pastor, and friend to the staff, and singing the "bullfrog song" again and again. All these things occur to make camp what it is. Camp is still, very much a magical and perfect place. Though I realize now that it takes a lot of hard work from many different people in various capacities, I still see magic. I see magic in canoeing with my campers across the lake, encouraging them on a challenge course element, or in seeing a camper overcome homesickness. I still see perfection, though mistakes are made and plans are revised. I see perfection in the nightly Vespers service, perfection in children's voices lifting up in praise to God, perfection in the simple and not-so-simple faith of kids asking questions in a Bible study. This is the type of perfection that Jesus talks about when He says that "unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). I know now that camp is not magical and perfect because it's easy and requires no hard work; on the contrary, camp is magical and perfect *because of* hard work--work which leads to singular and special experiences, work with amazing reward, work with meaning.

I'll be back to JKC this summer! I can't wait to see some new and familiar faces of campers and staff. If you don't have plans this summer, I encourage you to print an application from the JKC website and spend a summer making a difference in the lives of children. There is no place like camp. It will change your life!



Sign-up to receive this newsletter online:

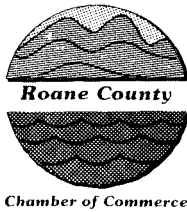
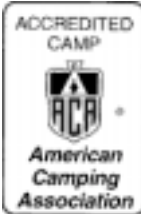
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The Center Page

John Knox Center
591 West Rockwood Ferry Rd.
Ten Mile, TN 37880
(865) 376-2236 Phone
(865) 376-1719 Fax

**MEN'S
RETREAT
APRIL 25-27**



Registration Form

**MEN'S
RETREAT**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Number your Program Option choices 1-5 with "1" being the activity you would most like to participate in. Please include fee for your #1 choice in payment.

Men's Retreat: \$ 65
Program Options: \$ _____
Total Enclosed: \$ _____

- Fishing (Free) I will bring my boat.
- Nature Hike (Free)
- Woodturning (\$ 15)
- Zip Line (Free)
- Golf (\$ 16)

Register on line at www.johnknoxcenter.org.
Please detach this form and return it along with the total amount to:

John Knox Center
591 West Rockwood Ferry Rd.
Ten Mile, TN 37880