

APRIL 2020 - NEWSLETTER



THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Wow! There has been a flurry of activity going on since the beginning of the New Year, a project at Camp RockRidge in Franklin, GA and a project at First Baptist Church in Union Grove, AL. If you haven't been a part of the activity, you have really missed out on some good hard work, good food, and good fellowship. And lots and lots and lots of rain! More rain than we wanted; cold rain, sleet, and snow. One thing we must always remember is that God is in control.

Two rallies are coming up soon. Our state rally is April 2-3, 2020, at Gunter Hill Campground, Catoma Loop, 561 Booth Rd., Montgomery, AL 36108. You must make your own reservations by contacting one of the following: National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777; or the campground office at 334-269-1053; or online at www.recreation.gov. We will be looking for you there!

The National Campers on Mission Rally is May 12-16, 2020, at Myrtle Beach, SC. You will need to go online at national coordinator@campersonmission.net for an application and get it in ASAP for the best price. This would be a great way to start your summer vacation.

If you haven't read your January National Newsletter, I urge you to read it. The Alabama Chapter was recognized with a short paragraph and two pictures from the Christmas Party at Shocco Springs. Thank you, Jerry and Renee McGovern! We loved having you visit with us.

Within a few short weeks, Christians around the world will be celebrating Easter. The greatest event in human history happened when our Lord Jesus burst through the tomb alive forevermore! And, because of His death and resurrection He made a way for our salvation, a way for us to live forever, too. What a Savior!

Blessings As We Go,

Nora Thompson

V P NOTES

Why Should I Go on a Project?

To Have Fellowship & Friendship. COMers are pretty good people. I may not know all the names of our group of Christian people who volunteer their time, but I am sure I know their basic character. The kind of Christian person who volunteers his or her time and spends his or her own money to be a volunteer is seldom a self-centered, what's-in-it-for-me kind of person. COMers are givers. COMers are people who like people. COMers are normally people who are easy to get along with. Of course, we each have unique personalities, but I have found it to be very easy to make friends with and work with fellow COMers. The friendships made in COM are frequently stronger than family. I love my family. We get along well, but the friendships in COM are by choice.

To Travel. COM has taken us across this great country of ours. We have seen some beautiful sites and been to some fascinating places. Working with COM, we get to spend time in a lot of interesting places, not just pass through them. Because of rising fuel costs, we don't get to that many faraway exotic places now, but we have traveled all over the South, and the South is still a great place to visit.

To Learn New Skills. Before retiring, we were teachers, salesmen, pilots, welders, office workers, computer programmers, etc., etc. Very few of us had a construction background. We may have owned a hammer and some tools, but most of us were not skilled in any of the building trades. Doing what we do seldom requires extensive expertise or natural talent. It requires only the willingness and capability to follow simple instructions. If we work alongside someone with experience, and follow what he or she is doing, we can learn new skills and make a real contribution. Not everyone needs to be an expert. One of the most important players in a construction team is the person who is on the ground handing up stuff to the person on the ladder.

To Be an Answer to Someone's Prayer. One of my real joys from working a project happens when a church member gives me a hug and tells me how much they thank God for our coming to their church. It is obvious, particularly in small rural churches, that much of the preparation for the project has been prayer because they can afford only the basics. When we show up, we are the answer to their prayers.

To Do God's Will. There is no greater accomplishment than doing God's will. Spending a lot of time enjoying and spoiling our grandkids or great grandkids is good, and we really should spend time with our youngsters, but making a significant contribution doing God's will is better. Retirement should also not be a time just for fishing or golf or dominoes. It should be a time when we live out our faith by accomplishing something that helps to build God's Kingdom.

Walt Miller

HIGHLIGHTS - SPRING RALLY - GUNTER HILL CAMPGROUND!!!

The meetings will be held in the Covered Pavilion in Catoma Loop. In case of inclement weather, we will move to a local Methodist church approximately 3 miles away.

Thursday night there will be a pre-rally hot dog cookout. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, paper plates, napkins, and utensils will be provided. Bring your drinks, cups, and ice. Everyone please bring a side dish to share.

Friday morning will feature past and future project reports. Board of Directors will meet at 2:00 P.M. Projector, screen, and laptop will be available for Project Leaders' presentations.

5:00 P.M. Friday night is the Potluck Supper. Please bring a dish to share with everyone, and your own drinks. Plates and utensils will be furnished.

Julius Ewing is in charge of music. If you would like to share in this, please contact him.

We will wrap-up with music, a message from our own Roger Woodard followed by the Business Meeting.

(Special thanks to Peggy and Larry Searcy and June and Roger Woodard for planning this event.)

IN MEMORIAM 2019...

Pat Higginbotham

Imogene Hastings

Rebecca Burdell

Malcolm Gilliland

Pete Garrett

James Wilson

John Bobo



COOK'S CORNER

CHEDDAR SAUSAGE BISCUITS

- 1-pound breakfast sausage, cooked and crumbled**
- 2 cups grated cheddar cheese**
- 3 cups Bisquick**
- 1 ½ cups milk**

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Cover a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Mix all ingredients together until well blended. Drop tablespoonfuls onto the parchment paper and cook for 8-12 minutes until they start to brown. If freezing let cool completely then freeze them on a cookie sheet and then put in freezer bag after they are completely frozen.

WEIGHT WATCHER'S FRUIT DIP

- 1 Sugar Free White Chocolate Pudding Mix**
- 1 16-oz. Low Fat Greek Yogurt**
- 1 16-oz. Sugar Free Cool Whip**

Using mixer, combine White Chocolate Pudding Mix and Greek Yogurt and beat well. Add Cool Whip and beat until consistency you like. Enjoy with your favorite fruits!

PROJECT HAPPENINGS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, UNION GROVE, ALABAMA - Project Leaders – Ken & Judy Conaway

FBC Union Grove is a start-to-finish job, scheduled over 3 projects. This project was originally scheduled as one project in early 2019, but the metal building was not erected timely. The structure is a 12,500 square foot one-story Family Life Center. The structure includes a 50' x 75' Gym, a 40' x 48' Fellowship Hall & Kitchen, 3 offices, a nursery, and 7 Sunday School classrooms.

Project 1A was accomplished last September and it encompassed about 80% of the framing and electrical rough-in. We had 13 men and 12 women (1,418 hours) work all or part of the project.

Project 1B was in December and a group of 7 men did the plumbing rough-in in 3 days. Some men slept on the floor (Disaster Relief style) in the old parsonage and the others, who lived in the local area drove in each day.

Project 2 is on-going at newsletter time. The framing is complete and drywall hanging and electrical rough-in is on-going. Unfortunately, we do not have the manpower to complete hanging all the drywall and the church will have to hire the finisher to install about 150 sheets. On Project 2 thus far, the women have made about 20 dozen diapers, 1000 bags for the peanut festival, 20 back packs, about 30 dresses and 30 shorts.

Project 3, scheduled for March 2020, will be painting, installing doors, suspended ceiling, finish electrical and trim as necessary. The church will contract drywall finishing between Projects 2 and 3 and handle flooring and miscellaneous details after we leave. The church plans to occupy the building this summer.



CAMP ROCK RIDGE, FRANKLIN, GEORGIA

Ron and Earnie McMonagle, Project Leaders - 13 January – 13 March 2020

We started the 2020 year with a project in Franklin, Georgia. Rock Ridge is a Christian Retreat in need of a staff housing building for summer staff and year-round workers. It is a two-story building, with eight bedrooms, each with their own bathroom. It has 1200 sq. ft. per floor and a small meeting room on the front of the building. We projected this to be about a six-week project done in two phases. Our hopes were to have it completed and ready to move in when we finished the project. Unfortunately, we are currently halfway through the project and we have had rain almost every day. We have had to re-evaluate our goals due to the delays from the weather. With all these challenges we had thirty-three Campers on Mission and two guests work to get the project built. We hope to have all the electrical, plumbing, drywall and exterior completed by March 13th!

During the first six weeks of the project the ladies sewed: 1 Lap Blanket; 59 pair of Boys Shorts; 72 Girls Dresses; 85 Walker Bags; 30 Wheelchair Bags; 16 Valances for the windows in the new building; 6 Aprons. Production for the last 3 weeks will be added and reported at the Spring Rally.

We had several on this project who had birthdays and anniversaries and we celebrated those with a potluck dinner and cakes. The average age on this project was 70.9 years old.



CAMP ROCK RIDGE - GROUP 1 - Front row: Ted & Nora Thompson; Randy & Joan Clemons; Kathy Ray; Joann Knowles; Ellie Ray; Earnie & Ron McMonagle. Back Row: Lynn Brown; June & Roger Woodard; Joyce & Marc Godwin; Rita & Dave Gaines; Tom Ray; Ken Knowles; Russell Ray; Deb & Mike Peoples.



Group 2 – Camp Rock Ridge: Gus & Mo Garrigus; Roger & June Woodard; Earnie & Ron McMonagle.



Group 3 – Camp Rock Ridge: Joyce & Jim Herman; Rita & Dave Gaines; June & Roger Woodard; Earnie & Ron McMonagle; Joan & Randy Clemons; Debra & Mike Peoples.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

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