



Black Rock Retreat

1345 Kirkwood Pike
Quarryville, PA 17566
717-529-3232

www.blackrockretreat.com

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
QUARRYVILLE, PA
PERMIT #106



in this edition of Pathways

- Solo Time..... p. 1
- Summer Camp 2009!..... p. 2
- SC Open House p. 2
- SC Sponsorships Needed p. 2
- Welcome Barry..... p. 2
- Save Trees p. 2
- Seedlings, What's Comin' Up p. 3
- Fall Banquet Featured Speaker p. 3
- Most Needed p. 3
- From the Executive Director p. 3

*The greatest among you will be your servant.
For whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

Matthew 23:11-12

Pathways

News, Information & Fellowship at Black Rock Retreat

Spring 2009

Solo Time

John (not his real name) came to Black Rock Retreat with his 8th grade classmates to participate in our Outdoor Education Program. On the first day, John and his fellow students were given a series of initiatives to challenge their ability to work together as a group and to highlight personal and group strengths and weaknesses. It would be an understatement to say that this group of 8th graders struggled with the tasks they were given. At the end of the 2 hour session they had been stuck on one challenge and were not making progress. John, in particular, seemed to struggle working with the other class members and was expressing his frustration with their inability to accomplish what seemed to be an easy task.

That night at devotions John was able to hear truth from scripture concerning the fallen state of man and the need for people to understand the truth of God's love in a world filled with lies. He also participated in a campfire which gave the 8th graders a chance to have fun together.

The next day the group started out positively, completing some new challenges and growing together in unity. Then, our instructor decided to take them back to the challenge they had struggled with the day before and once again things fell apart. John was annoyed and in a moment of anger he gave up on the group and sat off to the side by himself. At this point our instructor stepped in and asked them if they thought

they could accomplish the task without everyone in their group. They took time to discuss why it was important for everyone to be involved, listening to everyone's ideas, valuing each other and even physically supporting each other at crucial parts of

the initiative. Finally, with everyone on board, including John, they completed the task. They were elated with their accomplishment and their teacher was amazed that they had come together the way they did, especially John, as he was not a Christian.

As the group neared the end of their Black Rock Outdoor Education experience they participated in a solo time. A solo time is an opportunity for students to go off on their own and reflect on their experience and journal their thoughts of how they had grown through their time at Black Rock Retreat.

Towards the end of this time the teacher took the opportunity to approach John and ask him what he was thinking about. During the solo time, John had seen his need for Christ to come into his life and change his heart and subsequently prayed the prayer of salvation with his teacher at that moment.

The instructor brought the group together one last time to hear what they had reflected on and to encourage them to take what they had learned back to the classroom setting. John was particularly vocal in expressing what he had learned about his need for God and how God makes it possible to live through the challenges of life, through new life in Him! ●



A group of Outdoor Education students work together to solve an initiative challenge



Black Rock Retreat



Summer Camp 2009!

Black Rock Retreat, since its beginnings, has offered a summer camp program for children and youth to have the opportunity to get away and experience a week of summer fun like nothing else! The summer of 2009 promises to be no different as we prepare for ten weeks of Christ-centered programming for children entering grades 2-12. Each week, we host a different age group of campers who sleep in comfortable dormitory style housing staffed by our awesome, well trained summer camp counselors. These men and women provide positive role models of the Christian life as they relate closely to each camper. Our desire is that every camper will be challenged to grow in a relationship with God through the programs they participate in, the relevant Bible study and exploration they have, as well as the friendships they form with staff and other campers. This year's theme is "Like Father...Like Son" where our devotions will focus on the Fatherhood of God and the impact that has on all of our lives. Each day is filled with a wide range of activities...and we have a blast while doing them! Enjoy...

- Swimming in the lake and pool
- 130 ft. waterslide
- Floating trampoline w/ slide in the lake
- Archery
- Basketball
- Street Hockey
- Wild Field Games
- Creek Walks
- Snack Shop
- Campfires
- Ga-Ga Court
- Wilderness & Camping Skills
- Campout
- Crafts
- Volleyball
- Drama/Skits
- Nature Center
- High & Low Ropes Course
- Climbing Wall

For more information, or to register, check us out online at www.blackrockretreat.com and click on the summer camp tab. Registration forms are available there and can be printed off and mailed in. Or call us at (800) 858-9299 or (717) 529-3232 and we'll answer any questions you may have. Camp sponsorships are available for those who need assistance in affording the cost of camp.

SC Open House

Black Rock Retreat will be hosting an Open House the evening of April 7th for potential summer campers in 1st through 5th grades and their parents. This is a great time to come and see what Black Rock Retreat's Summer Camp is all about! There will be a presentation by our staff, an optional tour of the facilities, an overview of a typical day, and a time for questions. Parents will have the opportunity to sign their children up at the end of the program if they desire. Light refreshments will be served and the whole family is welcome to attend! There is no cost, but reservations are needed so we can plan accordingly. Call (717) 529-3232 and make your reservation soon! Hope to see you here!

SC Sponsorships Needed

Every year, many parents desire to send their children to a Christian summer camp experience but simply do not have the financial resources to do so. Black Rock Retreat has established a Summer Camp Sponsorship Fund as well as an Endowment Fund to assist parents in accomplishing this goal. If you would like to contribute to this fund, and help a deserving child come to summer camp this year, call Barry Stoner, our Development Director, at (717) 529-3232 ext. 171 for more information.



Welcome Barry

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Barry Stoner to the position of Development Director here at Black Rock Retreat. Barry comes to Black Rock Retreat having most recently served as a Minister/Consultant with Teaching The Word Ministries in Leola, PA. Prior to that, Barry spent more than four years as Associate Pastor at Mellinger Mennonite Church in Lancaster, PA.

Barry brings a strong relational and pastoral background to this new position here. Barry will be cultivating the relationships between Black Rock Retreat and individuals, churches and businesses and exploring ways that others can partner with us in the ministry that God has entrusted us with. If you are already familiar with Barry, feel free to drop him an e-mail at devdir@blackrockretreat.com!

Save trees!

If you would like to receive material from Black Rock Retreat electronically, rather than by mail, please e-mail your current mailing address as well as your e-mail address to main@blackrockretreat.com We will make a notation of your preference!



Seedlings

What's Comin' up at **Black Rock Retreat**

🐾 **Summer Camp Open House**

**Black Rock Retreat Grounds
April 7, 2009**

🐾 **Benefit Auction Quarryville Fairgrounds May 16, 2009**

🐾 **20th Annual Golf Outing September 14, 2009**

🐾 **125 mile BR2RB Bike-a-Thon**

**Friday and Saturday,
September 18 & 19, 2009**

🐾 **Fall Banquet Willow Valley Palm Court October 15, 2009**

Call Black Rock Retreat at (800) 858-9299 for more information on any of these events.



Fall Banquet Features Nationally Known Speaker

Plan to join us October 15, 2009 at Willow Valley Palm Court for our annual Fall Banquet. This year, our speaker will be Dr. Walt Mueller, founder and President of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. CPYU (www.cpyu.org) is a non-profit organization serving schools, churches, and community organizations across the U.S., Canada, and

worldwide in their efforts to strengthen families by helping those who know and love kids to understand today's rapidly changing youth culture.

Walt has been working with young people and families for over 31 years. He is a recognized authority on youth culture and family issues, and has appeared on numerous media outlets internationally to discuss teenagers and their world. A regular seminar and conference speaker, he communicates effectively with adults and teenagers alike.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Walt as well as catch up on what is happening at Black Rock Retreat. Call us at (717) 529-3232 to make reservations. 🍎

Most Needed

If you have a desire to fund a particular item of need for the ministries of Black Rock Retreat, please look over the list below and contact John Riddell at (717) 529-3232 or jriddell@blackrockretreat.com to express your interest. We are in most need of the following items:

- **A handheld weather station for use in an Outdoor Education class: \$100**
- **A digital camera for use in our Summer Camp program: \$100**
- **Severe weather alerting system for our Summer Camp program: \$1000**

Thank you!

from the Executive Director

As I write this report, our program staff is working hard at finalizing the many details that go into running the different programmed ministries of Black Rock Retreat. Dave Bouffard, Summer Camp Director has chosen the theme "Like Father...Like Son" using John 10:14 as the text for this year's Summer Camp program. Dave is in the midst of lining up his staff, many who are returning from previous years of service here. Rhiannon Baker, Outdoor Education



Director is also finalizing staff for the spring and fall seasons. Along with Rebecca Wells, OE Assistant, they are preparing for some new items to be included in addition to our regular classes. A new climbing tower, rock wall and 400 foot zip line will be ready for the first students to arrive April 6th. A grant was also received that enabled us to purchase 10 canoes which will allow us to offer water studies on the nearby Octorara Reservoir. Nancy Engel, Elderhostel Coordinator, is finalizing details for this year's first Elderhostel which arrives in March and is at full capacity. Eight more weeks of Elderhostel are planned through this year as well as several day events.

Last fall the Board of Directors approved a significant list of upgrades and improvements for some of the facilities here which were in need of attention. John Hollinger, Maintenance Director, and his team are very busy working to accomplish much of the list before the busiest part of our season arrives. John Riddell, Business Manager, recently completed the first phase of a technology upgrade and is preparing to begin phase two. Research is also beginning to computerize our retreat reservations system. Dan Ware, Food Service Director, and Melanie Shaw, Housekeeping Manager, and their teams continue to excel at providing quality meals and clean accommodations which please our guests. Our office staff and support teams are highly motivated and committed to their work.

I report all of the above to say that I am extremely pleased with the staff that God has brought together here at BRR. We continue to seek His guidance as we find ways to improve and grow our ministries.

Last but definitely not least, I am happy to announce that Barry Stoner has joined our team as Development Director (See article on page 2). Barry brings to this position many gifts that will help BRR do a better job of keeping in touch with our friends and supporters. Many of you know him and I welcome your inviting Barry to tell the Black Rock Retreat story to your church, small group or business.

As always, I end this report by asking for your continued and regular prayer support for wisdom and your financial assistance as we continue "To Know Christ and Make Him Known". 🍎

—John W. Shertzer
Executive Director