

## THE BOARD OF CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

2006 has been a year of challenges for your Camps and Retreats Board.

As you know we are operating at our maximum capacity given the physical facilities that we have at both sites. The summer camping program was filled. Our retreat ministry is hampered by the lack of appropriate accommodations and meeting space at both properties. In spite of the limited physical resources, our staff has done a stellar job of welcoming the folks who come to the sites to learn, to grow, and to appreciate the transforming experiences that are so abundant in these two beautiful places.

We had an extremely successful summer camping season. We operated at capacity almost every week of the season. We are committed to making sure that **any** young person who wants to attend summer camp has the opportunity to do so. With widespread support for our Campership program across the Annual Conference, we had funds available to underwrite about \$ 25,000 in assistance to enable children to come and experience the wonders of Asbury Hills and Sewee.

Our adult Retreat ministry will continue to suffer until we can address the need for adequate meeting, sleeping, and study spaces at both properties. However, working with what we have, we have been able to ensure that groups who do visit Asbury and Sewee have a rich transforming experience when they visit these special places.

We continue to be in negotiations with an anonymous donor for the gifting of the Skye Ranch property contiguous to our property at Asbury Hills and the related arrangements with The Nature Conservancy to guarantee the protection of the pristine environment at Asbury Hills. We are hopeful that these negotiations will come to fruition very soon.

Just at the end of the Conference year, our dear friend and Director of Camps and Retreats Ministries, Russell Davis, announced his decision to take a similar position in his home state of Georgia. After serving South Carolina for ten years, we certainly wish Russell well as he goes to a new place of service. His leadership and creative vision have guided us well for a decade! We will miss him! We look forward to celebrating his time with us at Annual Conference in Florence.

The Board has established a Search Committee to find a new Director of Camps and Retreat Ministries. As this report goes to press, the Search Committee is in the interview stage.

*John A. Redmond, Chairman of the Board of Trustees*