



Pyoca Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

IT'S NOT JUST A PLACE. IT'S AN EXPERIENCE!

A ministry of Presbytery of Whitewater Valley and Presbytery of Ohio Valley



Pyoca exists to provide an environment away from the busy world where people can grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, with others in the Christian community and with themselves.

November 6, 2009

Dear Friend:

Fall has settled upon Pyoca and we pause to reflect on God's incredible grace and power as the seasons change. The leaves on the Maple tree by the Chapel were in full glory – red, yellows and oranges three weeks ago, but have succumbed to the cooler temperatures and have fallen, leaving wonderful solid branches reaching towards the sky that dance with the wind! As with all seasons, change is inevitable.

Change has occurred this past year at Pyoca as well, both facility and programmatically:

- We saw an increase of almost 8% in our campers this summer! The summer staff was one of the best we've seen. Our volunteers make the program come alive each week by providing opportunities for faith sharing and youth development.
- We've added three new programs- the Elementary Earth Loving Friends, a Junior High Night Owl Camp, and a You and Me Camp for kindergarten and 1st grade youth to come for a partial week with a parent, grandparent or significant adult.
- We are serving 48 retreat groups between August and November, which is a significant increase in the past year.
- We have been blessed with a successful campaign that has allowed us to complete the first of three fully accessible, year-round, youth friendly cabins, pave the parking lot, and add a Welcome Center/offices to the Lodge. Additionally, we have added a geothermal system that is serving the Lodge, and can be expanded to serve the entire campus in the future! We estimate saving \$10,000 in propane costs this year!



Even with all the change, we continue to provide great outdoor ministry experiences for youth and young adults. We've completed 57 years of camp ministry, and have served thousands of people. This year alone, we had over 862 youth, young adults, and summer staff part of their summer at camp. A camper summed up what Pyoca means to them:



"Camp has always been a big part of my life, and it's always taught me a lot about myself, my faith, and those around me. Pyoca, along with mission trips, have been the number one factor in shaping my faith journey... There is no other way to learn so much about our faith in that amount of time. If it wasn't for camp, my faith wouldn't be what it is today... Camp makes it easier to talk about my faith, makes me more outgoing, and improves my life in faith all around. In difficult situations, I turn to my faith more to help lead the way. Camp is and will continue to be a driving force in my everyday life and my faith journey."

10 year veteran camper ... Senior High Traditional Camp



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• Please remember Pyoca Camp, Conference & Retreat Center in your will •



As we move to the end of the year, we need your help! This past summer, we gave over \$6,000 in scholarships, which we were blessed to have covered by generous donations and our restricted funds. Our annual budget continues to be stretched as we provide more opportunities for spiritual growth through retreats and program development. At the same time, one of our principle means of support, mission giving from Whitewater Valley Presbytery, has been reduced by about \$12,000. Your support is more vital than ever if this ministry is to continue to be a source of light for so many youth and young adults.

There are several ways that you can help:

1. Support Pyoca through your church's regular mission giving.
2. Support Pyoca's ministry by a direct gift to the annual fund using the enclosed envelope or through our **easy monthly electronic transfer** option now available. A gift of just \$20 per month will provide support for one staff member for a week. You can find the link to eGive.com on our website, or review the enclosed flyer.
3. Contribute to our capital campaign fund. To date we have received almost \$550,000 of the one million dollars pledged. Add your support to the campaign; contact us for details.
4. Consider including Pyoca in your will or estate plan. Contact us for the necessary language and assistance.
5. Continue to pray for our ministry.



Your support in all its forms is greatly valued and appreciated. Outdoor ministry is an essential part of faith development in youth and young adults. We need to make sure that Pyoca continues to be a vibrant community that attracts and develops future leaders of our church for many years to come.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 866-251-2267. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

In Christ,

Rich Swartwood
Executive Director

Enclosure(s)

P.S. Your support is vital! Future Christian Leaders's faith development at work!