

Burnamwood Report For March Presbytery Meeting

Greetings! So much has happened at and around Burnamwood in the past few months. I will try to condense it all for you here but I look forward to speaking to everyone I can later this month at the Presbytery meeting.

In January we hosted the College Retreat. It was the coldest I can remember it being while having people at Burnamwood, but was a great weekend for fellowship, worship, fun and hiking before they headed back to school.

Over February we had the Senior High Spirit Walk at camp. Sara Benedetti from Second Presbyterian Church in Lexington was the Program Director for the weekend with the theme being "Loving Yourself." The Spirit Walk retreat focuses more on worship, reflection, meditation, and spirituality. Sara has now directed a few retreats and summer conferences bringing a great program and perspective to each one. A big thank you to her for all the hard work she puts in to make sure the youth get the most out of every experience they have at Burnamwood.

On February 25th we hosted the 9th Annual Burnamwood Bowl-A-Thon at Southland Bowling Lanes in Lexington. We raised over \$11,000 and had over 100 people come out to participate. A HUGE thanks to everyone that came out and to those who gave so generously to make this year's event a huge success. Congratulations to Second Presbyterian in Lexington for raising the most money, to Pisgah for winning best team costume, and to Philip Allison from First Presbyterian in Lexington for highest score. It was a lot of fun and I cannot wait until next year!

There are three very important dates to remember this spring at Burnamwood.

- April 13th-15th: Senior High and Middle School Spring Retreats
- April 27th-29th: 1st-5th Grade Spring Retreat
- May 19th: Burnamwood Open House. Come join us from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on that Saturday. We will have a worship service at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. In the afternoon you can go on a tour of the grounds, take advantage of our lakes, hiking trails, and activity areas, or help out with one of the many projects we have going on at the camp.

If you have any questions about the retreats or the open house, feel free to send an e-mail to info@burnamwood.net or call 859.494.9113. You can sign up for the retreats at www.burnamwood.net.

This summer we will have our usual camp conferences. Go to <http://www.burnamwood.net/programs/summer-camp/> for more information on those including dates, pricing and what to bring to camp. We have started lining up Program Directors, Medical Personnel Volunteers, and Chaplains but still need more. If you would like to participate or volunteer in any way for a summer conference, please e-mail info@burnamwood.net or call 859.494.9113.

There are still weeks available for your church to sign up for Burnamwood Appalachian Ministries. If you still need a place to take your youth, or you have adults that would like to participate in a weeklong mission project in Eastern Kentucky, please consider BAM. We have a number of great projects this summer ranging from working with at-risk youth to volunteering at the local food bank to construction projects. Parts of Eastern Kentucky remain in extreme poverty and it is up to organizations like BAM to help out in any way we can to better the lives of those that are less fortunate than we are.

In addition, we are offering an open week at BAM the last week of July. Anyone can sign up for this week just like they would a summer camp conference. It will be a great week filled with lots of mission work.

We have recently started the Burnamwood Continued Giving Campaign. This fundraiser allows you to give a little each month instead of a larger sum all at once. I encourage each and every one of you that reads this to consider giving whatever amount you feel comfortable with each month. If everyone gives a little, that adds up to a lot that can keep Burnamwood going for years to come. It works like this:

- go to <http://www.burnamwood.net/support/donate/>
- click on "CLICK HERE TO DONATE ONLINE"
- type in your name, e-mail, choose "Recurring Monthly", and type in the amount you wish to donate every month.
- follow the directions to provide your payment information.
- each month, the amount you put will be automatically be donated from you to Burnamwood.

We are in the process of updating some of our facilities at camp. Kevin Turpin, our site manager, has been working tirelessly to renovate the Unit Lodge bathrooms and the Camp Office before this summer. I believe everyone will be impressed by the facilities on your next visit. Thank you to Kevin for all of his hard work to make Burnamwood beautiful.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who has continued to support Burnamwood. I believe 2017 showed considerable growth for the camp and I want to continue that momentum in 2018, something that I think is happening. Burnamwood is such a special place to so many people and such an important part of what brings the youth, and all members, of our Presbytery together. Going forward, I urge all of you to reach out to the youth of your church and urge them to give Burnamwood a chance. It is a wonderful and transformative place of fellowship and prayer that can have a significant and positive effect on their lives and the life of the church.

Robby Lear