

Diocese of Georgia Camp and Conference Center (Honey Creek)
Annual Report 2007

2007 has been a year of transition for Honey Creek. While Honey Creek has continued to serve the Diocese and the larger community as a place for spiritual renewal, fellowship, Diocesan business and education, 2007 has been a year spent in leadership transition and planning for the future.

The year began with a transition in leadership of the Commission itself. The Rev. Lou Scales completed his years of faithful service as chair of the Honey Creek Commission. The Commission and the Diocese are indebted to Lou for his hard work and dedication. George Hubbs and Mark Cluett also resigned from the Commission after years of valuable service in which they were instrumental in steering Honey Creek steadily through turbulent financial waters. During 2007, Blake Ellis and the Rev. Jeff Jackson joined the Commission. Mr. Ellis, the original architect for Honey Creek, brings much needed expertise regarding our physical facilities, and Fr. Jackson gives us added input from the perspective of the youth programs.

2007 marked even greater transition in the staff at Honey Creek. Jim Cox resigned as Executive Director in March. Harry Jenkins then served admirably as Operations Manager for the remainder of 2007. The Commission has been engaged in a search for an Interim Executive Director, a position that it hopes to fill in early 2008. Several other staffers have resigned in 2008 after years of service, and the Commission has hired new staff members who are continuing the tradition of employees who love Honey Creek and are dedicated to its success.

The usage of Honey Creek remained steady in 2007 with approximately two thirds of the usage coming from groups and persons outside of the Diocese. While the Commission is pleased that usage has remained stable during this transition year, the Commission recognizes that the financial performance of Honey Creek is not where it needs to be. Although Honey Creek is in much better shape than it was five years ago, Honey Creek continues to lose money in excess of the Diocesan support, thus increasing its accumulated deficit. Although the trend in recent years has been to cut the annual loss, the Commission has concluded that Honey Creek must act decisively to eliminate its operating deficit if it is to remain viable. In that regard, the Commission engaged a consultant who analyzed the Honey Creek's operations and concluded that it can be financially viable but that changes must be made. In particular, there are a number of facilities and management related issues that must be addressed. The Commission is currently engaged in that work and is committed to making substantial progress in 2008.

One of the brightest spots of 2007 has been the startup of the Diocese's newest mission, the Church of Our Savior at Honey Creek. Under the leadership of the Rev. Linda McCloud, the mission is now up and running. The Commission looks forward to the growth of the Church of Our Savior and is pleased that our facilities are being used in this way for the spread of God's Kingdom.

Honey Creek is special place, a holy place. The Commission encourages all members of the Diocese consider how they can utilize and support Honey Creek in 2008

Ted Clarkson
Chairperson, Honey Creek Commission