

**Allegheny Region Conference
Foundation
Report for 2024**

Members: Scott Porterfield, Lee Kline, Mitch Johnson, Gladys Grimm, Ben Tobias,
Tim Beatty

Pastor Lee Kline has resigned from the Foundation Committee. He is retiring from the
Pastorate in April.

The Foundation gave money to the following at our Regional Conference Sessions:

Adrian Community Church for a new sign. \$15,000

Indian Head Church of God for a new sign. \$3, 273

Allegheny Region Conference for ACTS Team Members. \$5000

Camp Sonrise Mountain
2024 Annual Report

January was a month of cleaning up, fixing up, and plowing snow. Buildings and equipment were inspected and repairs made as needed. One thousand envelopes were donated to the camp in preparation for the upcoming Envelope Challenge Fundraiser.

February brought 78 junior and senior high campers back to camp for Arctic Blast. The junior high kids learned about Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension; what sets Christianity apart, and how to share the good news that the King is Alive! The senior high campers, a small but mighty group, came together for an amazing weekend as they talked about the societal lies that we've been conditioned to believe, the truth found in scripture, and how God can rewrite our stories and turn our tests into testimonies. These kids are doing great things!

We were also blessed by another visit from our wonderful friends from the University of Findlay who, once again, volunteered to spend their spring break at Camp to work and worship. These 13 students, along with the group leader, spent the week clearing trails, splitting and stacking wood, removing ALL of the benches from the Amphitheater, and cleaning the dining hall, kitchen, and chapel. We are so thankful for this group of young men and women!

The month of **March** was the kick-off for the bunk bed fundraiser starting with Markleysburg Union Church. We greatly appreciate the love, prayer, and support from our church community. We could not have camp if it weren't for our generous helpers.

In **April** we were visited by MANY bears – at least 8 bears were taking advantage of the peace and tranquility that camp is known for! Most of the bears maintained their distance, however one male was quite attracted to the Dumpster Diner. We tried various bear deterrents (which didn't work) but ended up contacting the game commission to bring in a bear trap. The bear was quite evasive and ended up just going away on his own.

May was a busy month as we geared up for summer camp. A group of volunteers installed new benches at the Amphitheater. A huge blessing! A new volleyball net was purchased and installed. AND, the bunkbeds were purchased and set-up!

We also held our first ever Counselor Retreat/Training Weekend. The weekend focused on unity and community and how we can best serve our campers. It was a great time of fellowship, learning, and growing together as a team.

In **June** we welcomed nearly 250 campers and counselors for the first three weeks of summer camp. This place comes to life when the kids arrive!

We were also thrilled to have several volunteers throughout the month helping in the kitchen and with housekeeping. It takes a village to make camp run efficiently and we are so grateful for those who continue to show up!

It was a hot, dry month which ended up being a good thing because the pool heater quit working. After some trial and error, it was determined that the heat exchanger needed to be replaced along with the burners. A costly repair, but the pool is one of the most popular attractions at camp (the gaga pit is a close second).

Primary Camp took place in **July** with 70 campers and counselors delighting us with their contagious energy and joy.

We continue to improve and/or rebuild existing campfire sites. Mt. Sinai was the most recently renovated and we look forward to gathering around and singing camp songs.

We are also starting to reap the benefits of our new marketing program. We have more than 30 groups scheduled in 2025 – and eight of them are brand new to Camp Sonrise Mountain!

Our annual Friends and Family Fun Day in **August** was very successful in spite of the weather predictions! Various activities were offered such as face painting, spin art, and a ping pong tournament, plus live music. We were blessed to have nearly 100 people come and enjoy some time at camp – eating, laughing, swimming, and listening to some great tunes by the Poplar Run Boys and As I Am.

We had a total of nine teams (36 golfers) for our **September** golf outing at King's Mountain Golf Course. Even though the turnout wasn't as big as we had hoped, we still enjoyed a beautiful day full of comradery, sunshine, and delicious food. And we raised over \$4,000!

As a staff, we focused on Fall Retreats and started contacting potential deans for summer camp. We also spent a significant amount of time in intentional prayer as we look forward to Summer Camp 2025.

Junior and Senior High Fall Retreats were held during the months of **October** and **November** with a total of 80 campers attending. The theme for the 50 campers who attended Junior High weekend was *Unscripted – This is my surrender*; "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

Thirty senior high campers joined us for another great weekend. Their theme was *Kingdom Minded – May Jesus be our first priority, not our last resort*. The scripture verse was "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness." Matthew 6:33

As we prepared for summer camp, we hosted the first of three dean/counselor meetings. It all went very well – everyone was very engaged, and many good ideas and suggestions were brought up. It's so nice to see everyone working together for the common good!

December was a relatively quiet and uneventful month. We focused on deep cleaning, brainstorming 2025 merchandise designs and options and staying connected to our campers through social media. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of a busy Christmas season, it's such a blessing to be able to stop for a minute and focus on the wonderful gift of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There truly is no greater gift than Him.

For me, there's nothing more rewarding than seeing the impact camp has on our youth. Our goal, as parents, teachers, pastors, counselors, and congregations, is to help shape not only their spiritual life,

but also their social, emotional, and personal development. To teach them about the love and life of Jesus so they can, in turn, share the Good News with others throughout their life.

My goal for the coming year is to connect more churches to camp. I believe camp ignites a flame. It's where kids often encounter God in new and powerful ways. Surrounded by worship, teaching, nature, and meaningful relationships, they experience faith that feels real and personal. Many make first-time commitments to Christ or take big steps in their spiritual journey.

Camp is not meant to take the place of church. If camp ignites the flame, then the church should fuel the fire. Providing the ongoing care and discipleship that turns a camp experience into a lifelong walk with Jesus. Through weekly services, small groups, mentoring, and youth events, the church helps kids grow deeper roots in their faith.

Camp's Role: Jump-start faith and spiritual hunger that church continues to nurture.

Church's Role: Celebrate these spiritual breakthroughs and help kids carry them forward.

In closing, I would like to, once again, thank the Allegheny Region Churches of God, our wonderful donors, and volunteers for your kindness and generosity. It really does take a village to maintain and grow this camp that God has entrusted to us. Your unwavering support enables us to keep faith, hope, and joy alive in our youth and to help them shine as a steadfast light in a dark world.

Grove Manor Foundation Report

Robert Guy

Over the past few years, as Grove Manor has transitioned with a new management company, the Grove Manor Foundation has continued to fulfill its stated mission in serving the Grove Manor Corporation. These have been challenging times, prompting important questions that we expect to explore within the upcoming year.

Robert J. Guy, Jr., PhD