

NC Baptists on Mission presents

TAPPING THE SPRING

"For whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:4

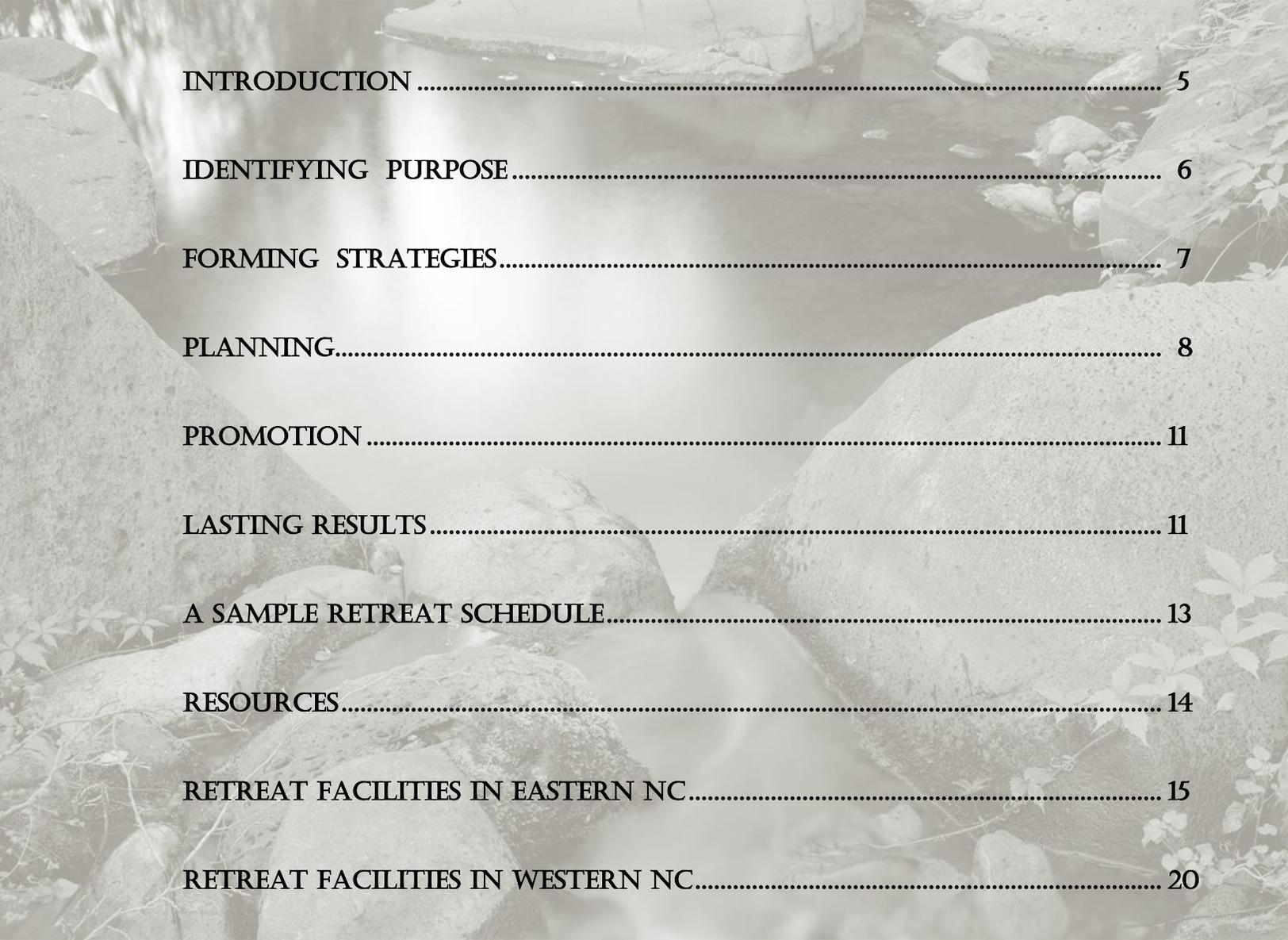


A Men's Retreat Planning Resource



TAPPING THE SPRING:

A MEN'S RETREAT PLANNING RESOURCE



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INTRODUCTION

Over the course of the past twenty years, North Carolina Baptists on Mission have emphasized the importance of Men's Ministries - that is, a well-rounded approach to ministering to and with men. All across our state, churches are discovering the need to be strategic in how they reach out to men in their sphere of influence. That strategy includes four main areas – outreach/fellowship; spiritual growth/discipleship; ministry within the church; and missions involvement. What we have seen is that, with much prayer, a clear purpose, pastoral support, shared leadership, and knowledge of available resources, men's ministry thrives in the local church.

While regular gatherings of men (monthly or weekly) remain the “hub” of a local men's ministry, there are other aspects that can strengthen the ministry as well. Among these are mission opportunities, fellowship activities, small group studies, and**well-planned, meaningful retreats for men**. The purpose of this booklet is to provide a resource for North Carolina churches who would like to engage their men in a retreat experience here in our state. It is not designed to be a curriculum piece, but rather an aide to planning the retreat.

On behalf of NCBM's Men's Ministry Advisory Team, we hope you find this resource helpful. May God bless you as you continue to minister to and with the men of your church and community.

Mark Abernathy
Consultant for Men's Ministries
North Carolina Baptists on Mission

IDENTIFYING PURPOSE

Re-treat [ree-treet]-n.- a period of retirement for spiritual exercises and meditation.

PURPOSE OF A RETREAT

The purposes for having a men's retreat are varied. Therefore, before planning and carrying out a retreat event, it is very appropriate to ask the question "Why?" What is it you hope to accomplish by having a men's retreat? The answer to that question may also help determine who is invited.

Are you looking to involve:

- your existing men's group? ;
- inactive men in your church?;
- unchurched men from your community?;
- all of the above?

Furthermore, is your purpose for having a retreat:

- spiritual renewal?
- closer fellowship?
- team-building?
- leadership development?
- an opportunity for outreach?

It's possible – maybe even probable - that all of these could happen during the course of the event, regardless of your targeted audience and purpose. But it **is** best to have a **primary purpose** for your event.

Certainly, one main purpose of any men's retreat would be to draw men closer to God. In fact, a retreat can be a life-altering event for some participants. Anticipate, pray for, and expect the interaction of the Holy Spirit in each aspect of the retreat!

Also, a well-planned, well-purposed retreat allows men to learn more about each other and become closer as a men's group. This happens because a retreat offers a relaxing atmosphere in which men may find it easier to talk about issues they may not feel comfortable talking about "in church". Men who are new to your church become better known, and in return, come to better know those who have been involved for a while. New friendships can be formed and old friendships can be deepened.

FORMING STRATEGIES

Forming a retreat planning team is always a good idea. Choose team members who may bring different perspectives that can make the retreat a richer experience. Include your pastor or other church staff member in the planning process if possible. Once the purpose for the retreat has been identified, the planning team should turn their attention to formulating strategies that will help meet the goals envisioned for the retreat. Once strategy and goals are developed, assign duties to certain members to carry out. Below are some possible strategies. You and your team will likely think of more:

Have a solid Biblical theme for the weekend and communicate it in your promotion and throughout the weekend.

Make worship through music and song a central part of your retreat. Nothing says “retreat” like a man with a guitar!

Present a spiritual challenge – something that will lead men to grow closer to Christ – during every gathering and throughout the weekend.

Build in time for men to share through small group discussion, testimony, or both.

Incorporate times for prayer – corporately, individually, and in small groups.

Arrange for some team-building activities that will lead men to work together to accomplish a task.

Allow time for men to relax and be alone, as well as time for informal interaction

Have a follow up plan, challenge, or opportunity that lead men to action beyond the retreat.

Men’s Ministry Retreat Planning Team areas of responsibility:

- Facility Reservation
- Event Promotion
- Meals/Snacks
- Activities/Recreation/Team-Building
- Spiritual Development
- Music
- Prayer Support

PLANNING

Once the purpose of your retreat has been identified and the strategies that will be utilized to accomplish retreat goals have been named, the planning process can begin. Here are some things to consider:

INVOLVING YOUR PASTOR

Meet with your pastor or other church staff member to discuss your thoughts and desires for a men's retreat. Be receptive to their feedback and perspective. Invite their involvement as they desire, either as a leader or as a fellow participant. Be aware that your pastor may simply enjoy being "one of the boys" – sharing in the driving, cooking, or other necessary duties, instead of being "up front".

CHOOSEING A DATE

When determining a date, consider what time of year might be best for a retreat. The sports calendar and hunting seasons would be two things to consider. Fall and spring are probably the best times weather-wise, especially since outdoor activities are likely to play some part in the experience. You may want to consider polling your men to get a general idea, keeping in mind that you will never select a date that is suitable for everyone. Of course, once you do narrow the possibilities down, you will want to consult your church calendar to make sure there are no conflicts with other church events.

CHOOSING A LOCATION

Have one or two members of your planning team investigate options for a retreat location. When selecting a location, consider a place that...

...is not too close to home, but no more than a few hours drive.

...provides housing so that men can "bunk" in the same facility – a house, dorm, or cabin setting.

...has an in-house kitchen that your group can use, or reasonably priced meals that will be prepared for you.

...has multiple recreation, sports, and/or outdoor options.

...provides a common room large enough to accommodate your group for worship, training, etc.

...is reasonably priced, yet clean and comfortable.

Make sure you thoroughly understand the facility's requirements as to deposit, guaranteed number of participants, cancelation policies, and policies due to inclement weather. Establish sign-up procedures accordingly and make sure all men understand deadlines, obligations, etc.. Assign planning team member to stay on top of all facility requirements and details.

TIMEFRAME

The planning team will need to decide the starting time and length of retreat. Most retreats will begin on Friday evening. Consider distance traveled as you plan your opening activities. You may want to plan for participants to eat on the way or begin with a meal together. Either way, plan for an official start to your retreat around 7:00 pm.

Length of the retreat will vary. In some cases it may be desirable to have a full weekend, including Sunday morning worship. Other times, it may be wise to wrap up on Saturday afternoon or night in order to be back in church on Sunday morning.

MEALS

Unless the retreat is being held at a facility that prepares meals, a cook team will need to be recruited. This will be a main task. Men like to eat...and snack...and nibble! In addition to the main meals, plan to have plenty of snacks, drinks, and coffee available at all times. Good food can be a catalyst for a great meeting. Make sure food calculations go into determining the overall cost of the retreat.

OVERALL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The purpose of the retreat and the resources you choose will help determine the program schedule. And while this is important, do plan for the retreat to indeed be a retreat. Ample time should be given to the spiritual purpose of the retreat, but structured “program” time should be balanced with informal times of fellowship and fun. Some of the most effective retreat times for men are when they are given the opportunity to be boys again. Plan for some fun activities that men may enjoy, but don’t find time for anymore, such as archery, slingshots, fishing, a free throw shooting contest, horseshoes, corn hole, etc. This could be combined with team-building activities that involve putting men in small teams and seeing how many points they can score at a given event. Some facilities may include a low ropes course or challenge course that also enhances team-building. Equally important may be time to be alone for prayer and reflection, depending on the retreat’s purpose.

MUSIC

Believe it or not, men like to sing! Singing adds a worshipful dimension to any gathering. A retreat setting is ideal for the use of guitar. Not only can it be used for times of worship, but also for informal times of singing. If no guitar or player is available, a piano will do, as will simply singing a cappella. Worship DVDs may also be very appropriate for a retreat setting, offering both musical and visual inspiration. Each general session should probably include a time of worshipful singing.

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Your team should plan for the retreat to be a catalyst toward spiritual growth. There are several options for this that would lend themselves to a retreat setting.

Use of a **live speaker** can allow you to hone in on a particular message you want to convey. It also offers an opportunity for one-on-one interaction and follow-up. Speakers could include a well-known local pastor or church staff member of a neighboring church, your Associational Missionary, an area evangelist, etc. Enlist the speaker well ahead of time. Work with him on what topics you would like covered and on how small group discussion can be incorporated based on his presentation(s).

There are several **video resources** that can be used for men's retreats. These series offer well-spoken, challenging speakers and allows you to control your time. Discussion questions are almost always included. Most of these series are designed for on-going men's ministry, so you will need to choose one or two sessions that particularly apply to the retreat purpose. NCBM's Men's Ministry web page includes lists of these resources for your consideration:

www.baptistsonmission.org/men

Facilitated discussions based on a men's ministry book can also be an effective way to engage men. Preferably, the men would have access to a copy of the book before the retreat, so that they can have read and become familiar with its content. But, a well versed facilitator, with use of a discussion/question sheet, can lead men through thought-provoking discussions even if they have not read the material.

DISCUSSION

As mentioned before, a key strategy for your retreat may be to get men talking about things that they may not normally discuss in a church setting. This can be the element that really gives meaning to the retreat. Keep in mind, though, that with men, sharing does not usually "just happen". Put some thought into how you can cultivate an atmosphere of sharing. Prepare to use some ice-breakers throughout the course of the retreat. ("What is the funniest thing that happened to you growing up?" "What was the first car you ever had?") Openness in these "safe" areas may lead to deeper sharing later on. Give men an opportunity to discuss spiritual ideas that are presented during the course of the weekend, by preparing discussion sheets for small group use.

PRAYER SUPPORT

Begin praying for the retreat early. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance throughout the planning process. Make prayer an integral part of the actual retreat time, including times for men to pray in small groups and quiet times alone. Enlist wives, families, and other church members to pray specifically for each man while the retreat is in session.

PROMOTION

Planning for the retreat should begin at least six months in advance. Securing the facility may require even more time than that. Along the way, give ample time for promotion. When publicizing the retreat, include the theme and verse in order to pique curiosity and create an identity for the event. Remember that men will need to hear about the event several different ways over a period of time leading up to the event. Consider:

- Getting the event placed on the church calendar months in advance.
- Announcing the event in men's meetings, Sunday School classes, and during announcement times beginning 2-3 months out.
- Mailing a postcard to each man with all the needed details; something he can post on his desk or the refrigerator about two months out.
- Use texts and e-mail to remind men as the event (or deadline to sign up) is drawing nearer – maybe two weeks out, and then again one week out.
- Phone each man and personally invite/remind him to come about one week out.

Also:

- Ask the pastor to announce the event from the pulpit.
- Promote the retreat in the church bulletin or newsletter.
- Post flyers around the church.
- Post a sign-up sheet, which will create a visual commitment.

Include the wives of your men in any e-mails you send out about the retreat, as she may be the “e-mailer” in the family. Most wives will be glad for their husbands to attend an event that may result in his growing closer to Christ! That e-mail or correspondence that catches her eye may be the very thing that gets that particular man to your event!

LASTING RESULTS

One of the purposes of any retreat would be to effect a change in the participants. The spiritual growth and fellowship experienced during the retreat can continue after the retreat is over. Here's some things you can do during the retreat that will help keep the momentum of a retreat going:

1. Continue Discussion and Sharing
Talking informally, discussing issues in small groups, and sharing what is going on in their lives with other men builds trust. Find ways to continue meaningful discussion among the men in your church as part of your on-going ministry once the retreat is over.
2. Invite Introspection
Sometime during the retreat, ask men to reflect upon and record something they have learned about themselves and/or their relationship with Christ. Afterward, continue to encourage men to learn to recognize how God is working in their life.

3. Allow Opportunity for Decision

If appropriate, invite men to make a public decision during the course of the retreat. This could be any number of decisions, depending on the goals and purposes of the retreat (to become more engaged with his family, to be a more faithful steward, toward becoming the spiritual leader of his family, etc.) Schedule time after the retreat to revisit those decisions and see what kind of progress is being made.

4. Establish Accountability

One of the outcomes of the retreat could be for men to be more accountable to one another. Part of this is for encouragement and part may be to help “hold a man’s feet to the fire”. Encourage men to identify accountability partners. Accountability partners will agree to talk on the phone at least once every week and have a face to face meeting at least once every two weeks. The purpose is to hold each other accountable for their personal spiritual growth or whatever other decisions are made at the retreat. There are several good men’s ministry books that deal with accountability and even include some accountability questions that men can ask of each other. (*Examples: The Man in the Mirror by Patrick Morley; Character Counts by Rod Handley*)

Hopefully, the church as a whole will benefit from an effectively conducted men’s retreat if men return more focused and dedicated to the work of the church. These men will be more confident in their role as God’s servants and may take on new leadership roles in the life of the church.

At the next worship service, consider asking your pastor or other key leader who participated in the retreat to take a moment to briefly share a testimony of how the Holy Spirit was felt during the event. Encourage your “prayers” to continue praying for men of the church after the retreat has concluded.

A SAMPLE RETREAT SCHEDULE

Here is a sample retreat schedule. It is meant only as a reference. Any number of combinations can be used. Adjust the schedule to fit your retreat needs.

Friday Afternoon

- 1:00 Golf or fishing tournament at a club or lake near the retreat center. (Optional)
Others arriving early may just want to go on to the retreat center and relax if that is an option.
- 4:00 – 6:00 Registration and check in.
- 6:00 Supper together at the retreat center.
- 7:00 Evening worship, theme-based presentation, and discussion.
- 9:00 Dessert or snack and informal discussion or planned game time.

Saturday Morning

- 7:00 Group devotionals followed by a time for quiet and prayer.
- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 Organized fun – small group or total group recreation and/or team-building.
- 10:00 Part 2 of theme-based presentation and discussion
- Noon Lunch

Saturday Afternoon

- 1:00 More organized fun – small group or total group recreation and/or team-building.
- 2:30 Free time to relax, enjoy the retreat center facilities
- 4:00 Part 3 of theme-based presentation and discussion, including follow-up strategy
- 6:00 Supper and dismiss

RESOURCES

Because resources change frequently, highlighted below are websites that contain men's ministry materials – video series, books, manuals, etc. Keep in mind that most of these resources are designed for longer-term use. For use in a retreat setting, you will need to choose one or two sessions that address your retreat purpose. Perhaps conclusion of the series can be part of your follow-up plans.

Man in the Mirror

www.maninthemirror.com

Lifeway Christian Resources

www.lifeway.com

Men's Fraternity

www.mensfraternity.com

Top Gun Ministries

www.topgunministries.org

Ransomed Heart Ministries

www.ransomedheart.com

Zoweh Ministries

www.zoweh.org

Other Resources:

NC Baptists on Mission has several power point presentations on Men's Ministry subjects. You can access these by going to our website at www.ncmissions.org/men . These presentations address the following areas:

- [Men's Ministry Overview](#)
- [Men's Ministry Action Plan](#)
- [Men's Ministry Resources](#)
- [Meaningful Men's Ministry Meetings](#)

RETREAT FACILITIES – EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Facility fees are subject to change. Be sure to ask for the current pricing.

Chestnut Ridge Camp and Retreat Center

4300 Camp Chestnut Ridge Rd.

Efland, NC 27243

info@campchestnutridge.org

919-338-2820 office 866-372-5801 fax

Facilities; Chestnut Ridge has four cabins with heat/ac, two restrooms and showers with sleeping for 12 guests. Two lodges hold up to 30 each with heat/ac, restrooms and showers and one has meeting space for up to 45. The Morris Center offers dining and meeting space for up to 150 people and is equipped with an audio/visual system with a drop down screen, microphone, speakers and projector. A large deck overlooks Lake Fellowship.

Activities include volleyball, canoeing, fishing, wildlife spotting, reflection and strolls. A beautiful camp with plenty of trees and wildlife to enhance your retreat. This is a United Methodist camp open to all denominations.

Camp Monroe

Pinehurst, NC – 10 minutes north of hwy 74 outside of Laurinburg

Contact Ann Locklear, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

annlocklear@presbycc.org

910-862-8300

800-277-7479

Facilities; Hafer Dining Hall can seat 200 people for a meal or meetings. Meal service provided for groups of 30 or more. Meeting space is available at no extra charge for overnight groups purchasing meal service. McKnight Lodge can house groups from 6-26 with meeting space for up to 35 people. Four Unit B cabins up to 10 each while sharing a central bathhouse with hot water. The Vesper Dell Amphitheater is a great place for outdoor meetings and worship services.

Services and activities; Food service (minimum of 30), swimming, ropes course, canoes, hiking/walking, fishing and fire circle.

Camp Oak Hill

1528 Oak Hill Road

Oxford, NC 27565

Camp Oak Hill Office

3824 Barrett Drive Suite 107

Raleigh, NC 27609

919-782-2888

info@campoakhill.org

Facilities; Cabins 1-4 are duplexes sleeping 16 people on each side. Bathrooms include 2 showers, 2 toilets and 2 sinks. Four stand alone cabins house 18-26 people each and include porches overlooking the lake. The dining hall can feed up to 250 people serving family style and can be used for large meetings. The camp includes a 10,000 s.f. activity and fellowship center, stables and infirmary. A gym and two lakes are also part of the facility.

Activities; Canoeing, paddle boats, sunfish sailing, swimming, zip line, fishing, frisbee golf, horseback riding, low ropes course, archery and tennis

Camp Oak Hill was started by community business and religious leaders and is a Christian camp accredited by the American Camp Association.

Rockfish Camp & Retreat Center

226 Camp Rockfish Rd.

Parkton NC 28371 (near Fayetteville)

Jacque@rockfishoutdoorcenter.org 1-910-425-3529

Facilities; Adult Retreat Center can hold up to 70 people overnight and 100 for day use. Minimum number of people and rooms apply. A-frame cabins with heat/ac, treehouses and tent sites available. Dining hall can hold up to 140 people for meals and meetings.

Activities include archery, group challenge course, swimming and rappelling tower. Natural setting; American Camp Association accredited

Don Lee Center

315 Camp Don Lee Road

Arapahoe, NC 28510

1-800-535-5475 ext.27 info@DonLeeCenter.org

Facilities; Older block cabins sleep 20 people in 3 rooms, The new cabins sleep 24 in six smaller rooms. All cabins are heated with screened porches facing the water. 240 total spaces are available.

The Dining Hall main room holds up to 180 people and a smaller room seats 80 people. Both rooms have heat/ac and can be used for meetings. A Fellowship Hall seats 200 people. It has a large fireplace and is great for activities and games. A Community Life Center holds up to 350 people and is perfect for large groups and indoor games. The Chapel seats 25 and overlooks the Neuse River. The Vesper Dale Riverside Outdoor Theater can seat around 200 people.

Available activities include; sailing, canoeing, kayaking, archery, arts & crafts, challenge course, campfires, game equipment, fishing. A.V. equipment is available.

Retreat packages start at \$50.00 per person for 1 night with 3 meals. The Don Lee Center is operated by the United Methodist Church and is available to all denominations. The camp is accredited by the American Camp Association.

Camp Albemarle

156 Albemarle Drive
Newport, NC 28570
252-726-4848

www.campalbemarle.org

Located on the banks of Bogue Sound.

Facilities: McElmon Lodge sleeps up to 42 people in 7 bedrooms with 6 beds and a bath in each room. The Carraway room serves as a dining and meeting room with a gas log fireplace and cozy sitting room. A fully equipped kitchen is available for your use. Six semi-rustic cabins sleep up to 16 people in two rooms each. Use of the dining hall and commercial kitchen are included in the rental fee. You must bring your own cooks and food.

Activities available: swimming pool, sports field, basketball, tennis, volleyball, group challenge course, tetherball, canoes, fishing and sea kayaks.

The North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell

100 Caswell Beach Road
Oak Island, NC 28465
910-278-9501

Caswell@fortcaswell.com

Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of NC

Facilities; Fort Caswell has 30 different lodging facilities of various sizes. They have facilities for up to ten to over 100 people. From a cottage to a large house to the motel like conference center there is a facility to fit any size retreat group. Many of the facilities have meeting areas for small groups. Many contain kitchens with basic utensils. Fort Caswell has a chapel, gym, auditorium available for groups of 300 to 1000, class room building, cafeteria and PX gift shop. The old fort is great for exploring. A coffee shop is part of Fort Caswell. Twenty-four class rooms with capacity for up to 30 each, 4 class rooms with capacity for up to 60 each and 4 class rooms with capacity up to 150 are available.

Recreation and Activities: Boat ramp and slips with direct access to the Cape Fear and Elizabeth Rivers leading to the Intracoastal waterway or the Atlantic Ocean, indoor gym, outside volleyball, softball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, tennis court, pier and surf fishing (bring your own equipment) swimming pool and beach swimming, relaxing and ship watching, walking on the beach, kayaks and initiative course (some items have extra cost). Golf course located in vicinity.

Prices start at \$24 per person per night not including meals
Cafeteria meals available breakfast \$6, lunch \$6.50, dinner \$7

Camp Dixie

373 W Bladen Union Church Road
Fayetteville, NC 28306
910-865-5180 fax 910-865-4277
info@campdixie.com
www.campdixie.com

Located on hwy 87 between Fayetteville and Elizabethtown, NC

Facilities: Jordan, Galilee, Mt. Herman and Mt. Carmel each sleep 36, divided into 6 rooms with 2 bathrooms, 2 showers, and 2 stalls. Nile Dorms # 7-12 sleep 14 in one room with one bathroom containing 2 showers and 2 stalls. Mt Zion can hold 75 people for meetings. The Chapel can hold up to 250 people and the Educational Center has five rooms and is capable of seating up to 200. The Outdoor Chapel seats 25. The Main building houses the kitchen, dining hall, concession store and vending machines. All lodging and meeting rooms have heat and A/C.

Recreation & activities; softball & soccer fields, swimming pool, the Blob and The Lake Waterslide, miniature golf, fishing in the 35 acre Lake, canoes and kayaks, full size gym with basketball, volleyball, ping pong, torpedo ball and foosball

Prices start at 22.35 per person Nov. to March and 28.71 April to October
Meals are breakfast \$5, lunch \$5 dinner \$6 and Pig Pickin' \$10.50

Aqueduct Conference Center

1620 Mount Carmel Church Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
919-933-5557 fax 919-968-1114 info@aqueductcc.com

Facilities: Aqueduct has two homelike cottages that house up to 37 people. Each room has two full size beds with a bathroom. A porch overlooks the forest. Each cottage contains a large meeting room. The Lodge contains the dining room, library and living room area, all of which are available for meetings. This is an upscale facility. Recreation: walking, relaxing and meditation

Kirkwood Camp & Conference Center

2015 Camp Kirkwood Road
Watha, NC 28478

Contact; Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
807 West King Street
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-862-8300 or 800-277-7479 www.presbycc-camps.org

Facilities; The Dining Hall seats between 150-175 people and has two break out rooms that hold 10-20 people for meetings. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner service provided for groups of 30 or more. The Unit Lodge has seating for 25-30 for meetings and has a full kitchen. Both facilities have heat and A/C. The 8 Bunkhouse Cabins sleep 12 each. All cabins have a bath with 2 showers, 2 stalls and 2 sinks. The Rustic Village is available for cabins, bring your own tent or use the rustic cabins. Two fire circles are available for use. Kirkwood has a 8 acre lake and amphitheater.

Recreation and activities include fishing (bring your own equipment), hiking, canoeing, and swimming.

Kirkwood Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association

RETREAT FACILITIES – CENTRAL & WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Facility fees are subject to change. Be sure to ask for the current pricing.

Camp Caraway

4756 Caraway Mountain Road
Sophia, NC 27350

Mailing address; P.O. Box 36
Asheboro, NC 27204
1-888-899-2374 in NC 1-336-629-2374 elsewhere
www.caraway.org

Facilities: Camp Caraway offers a variety of modern cabins and lodges and can host groups of 5 to 175. Rye Lodge and the Camp Dining Hall offer meeting areas with wireless internet. A covered basketball court, lake, swimming pool, outdoor chapel and the beautiful natural landscape help make Camp Caraway a special place. A dedicated food service team prepares excellent meals.

Recreation and activities include canoeing, fishing, hiking or walking, sports field, archery, outdoor challenge activities, and indoor games.

Camp Caraway is owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of NC.

Ridgecrest Conference Center

PO Box 128
Ridgecrest, NC 28770
www.lifeway.com
1-800-588-7222

Facilities; Operated by Lifeway, Ridgecrest has the facilities to handle any sized group. With over 80,000 square feet of meeting space and four auditoriums along with a variety of housing, Ridgecrest can provide a small intimate setting for small groups or provide for large groups of almost any size. Located near Black Mountain, NC Ridgecrest provides a beautiful setting in which to grow closer to God.

Recreation; Recreation opportunities are plentiful on the Ridgecrest campus with more available in the nearby mountains. Hiking, miniature golf, disc golf, volleyball, softball, basketball, tennis, skiing, fishing, laser tag challenge course, adventure recreation and team initiatives are some of the activities available. Some have a cost and require reservations.

Quail Hollow

Casar, NC
www.quail-hollow.net
704-538-7109 or 704-473-3833

Facilities; Quail Hollow is a beautiful Christian camp located near Casar in Cleveland County at the base of the South Mountains. They have small log cabins holding 6-8 adults at a time. Many camping sites are available. A large picnic shelter can hold about 100 at a time. Quail Hollow also has an outdoor stage for music and presentations.

Recreation; Quail Hollow offers archery, hiking, skeet shooting, a fishing pond and hunting in season (Quail Hollow is a state licensed hunting preserve). Nearby South Mountain has fly fishing and hiking. Costs; from \$25 to \$125 per day depending on activities and meals.

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

3872 Dillard Road
PO Box 1299
Highlands, NC 28741
www.mountaincenters.org
828-526-5838

Facilities; The Lodge has 10 double occupancy and two triple occupancy rooms with twin beds and private baths. Many of the rooms have spectacular views of Blue Valley. The Lodge's Great Room seats 75 for meetings & conferences. The cabins hold up to 85 people with a bedroom and bath on each side. Heritage Hall holds up to 60 for workshops & meetings. The Tree House has a stage, grand piano and a great view. The Tree House is great for concerts, lectures and meetings. The Lower Rec Hall has meeting space and a game room. The dining hall serves delicious meals buffet style. An outside fire ring for campfire programs is available.

Activities; The Mountain is located in the Nantahala National Forest with hiking, fly fishing and whitewater opportunities nearby. Team building activities are provided through their high ropes and low ropes courses.

Sugar Hollow Retreat Center

197 Elk Ridge
Butler, Tenn. 37640 (4.5 miles from NC line 25 miles from Boone)
1-800-957-1776
www.sugarhollowretreat.com

Facilities; The Mountain Lodge has 10 individual guest rooms, living room with fireplace, and dining hall. The Hemlock House has 3 guest rooms and can accommodate 10. The Chestnut Farmhouse has a red tin roof, wrap around porch, 5 guest rooms, 3 full baths and a full kitchen. The Cherokee House and Sequoia Cottage offer more accommodations.

Activities; Antiquing, biking, crafts, fishing (rainbow, lake trout, & small mouth bass), hiking, gem mining and golf are some of the nearby activities.

Cedar Grove Retreat

3350 Camp Julia Rd.

Kannapolis, NC 28083

www.cedargroveretreat.com 704-938-1314 (9-5 Tue – Fri)

Facilities; Red Cedar Lodge sleeps 24 people on wood bunk beds. Restrooms are located inside with 2 stalls and 2 showers. Screened porch with a view of the lake is part of the lodge. Yellow Pine Lodge sleeps 16 on bunk beds with a nearby bath house. The Guest House has 6 bunks and a queen bed in a private room. It also has a full kitchen, bath, dining and living rooms. There are seven cabins with bunks using a nearby bath house. Lakeview Hall holds about 70 for meals & meetings. A large plasma tv, projector and full sound system are available in the hall. Serving as a chapel and meeting place is the Tent, a 30x60 frame tent that holds 120 people. All facilities have heat and a/c.

Activities; The high and low ropes courses, paintball, basketball, sand volleyball, paddleboats, canoes and the water park or some of the activities available.

The camp is operated by the First Assembly of God.

Center at Rose Creek

258 Blue Ridge Drive

Franklin, NC 28734

www.centeratrosecreek.com 1-828-369-8811

Facilities; The Conference Center can hold up to 150 people and has a dance floor, sound system and stage. The Small Meeting Place is great for small group meetings and nearby is several small break out rooms, a kitchen and bathrooms. The Lodge House a home like setting for small groups wanting a more intimate setting. It has a living room, two dining rooms, kitchen and restroom facilities and a library. The Wild Rose Café prepares gourmet meals. Lodging facilities include one bedroom studios and two bedroom apartments.

The Gazebo and the Labyrinth at Rose Creek add to the spiritual atmosphere for your group.

Activities; Antique shopping, canoeing, tubing, whitewater rafting, gem mining, fishing, Appalachian Trail, nearby golf courses and area waterfalls give a lot of options.

Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove

P.O. Box 19223

Asheville, NC 28815

www.bgtc.info

1-800-950-2092

1-828-298-2092

Facilities; The Billy Graham Training Center has eleven breakout meeting rooms and a 480 seat auditorium. The Shepard's Inn and Pilgrim's Inn have queen size beds in each room with bentwood

rockers. The Chapel has seating for 54 theater style. The Cove has complete meeting packages designed for groups.

Activities; Walk the many trails through the forests that are part of the facility. Mediate, pray and fellowship in one of the many quiet spots on the property. Shop in Asheville, visit Biltmore House, enjoy the Blue Ridge Mountains or play golf on one of the nearby courses.

Bend of Ivy Lodge

3717 Bend of Ivy Rd.

Marshall, NC 28753

www.bendofivylodge.com

1-828-645-505

1-888-658-0505

Facilities; A tobacco barn over 50 years old was renovated into a beautiful lodge in Madison County. A grand window provides a beautiful skyline view. The main floor has a full kitchen dining hall and bathroom. Five double bedrooms on the second floor open into the balcony. There are two baths located upstairs. The basement contains two double bedrooms, two singles, bathroom and a spacious living room. A porch overlooks the pond, swimming dock, gardens, waterfall and benches. The Boathouse and Pavilion provide additional meeting space.

Activities; Hiking and nature watching on the 63 acres, swimming and feeding the fish along with just sitting and enjoying the beauty.

South Mountain Baptist Camp

3558 Baptist Camp Road

Connellys Springs, NC 28612

www.southmountainbaptistcamp.com

828-437-8788

Facilities; South Mountain has a variety of cabins that will house from 10 to 35 people. Many of the cabins have meeting rooms/space and have kitchens where your group can prepare their own meals if you choose. The main building has rooms and a dining hall and camp staff can prepare excellent meals for your group.

Activities; Hiking and enjoying the outdoors on the camp property. The nearby South Mountain State Park provides fishing, hiking, waterfalls and wildlife. A golf course is nearby.

Camp Dogwood

P.O. Box 39

Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

704-478-2135

800-662-7401

http://members.tripod.com/lions31cO/nclf/cdw_hp.htm

Owned and operated by the North Carolina Lions Foundation

Facilities; Dorm style rooms, motel like rooms and family cottages are available. Meeting rooms are available. A facilities are modern and attractive.

Activities; Located on Lake Norman with fishing, swimming, boating and nature trails.

Valle Crucis Conference Center

P.O. Box 654

Valle Crucis, NC 28691

828-963-4453

www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis

Facilities; The Inn has 20 mission style bedrooms and 52 beds sleeping a maximum of 68 (35 minimum). Sixteen rooms have private bathrooms and 3 rooms share 2 bathrooms. The Farm House and Mission House house smaller groups up to 27. The Annex and Bunkhouse are dorm style accommodations with up to 32 beds. Johnson Hall provides meeting areas on two floors. Crab Orchard Hall

houses the library and a meeting room. Rates range from \$55 to \$70 per person per night meals included.

Activities; Skiing, volleyball, hiking, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, Tweetsie Railroad, Grandfather Mountain and the Blue Ridge Parkway are possible activities and attractions.

The Vineyard Camp and Conference Center

1945 Vineyard Road

Westfield, NC 27053

www.vineyardcamp.com

1-336-756-1018 (Susan Carpenter, Retreat Services)

Facilities; The Cabins sleep 8 each and are professionally built with heat and ac. Up to 300 people can be accommodated. The Guest Lodge, Whitfield Lodge (dining hall), gym, amphitheatre, prayer chapel and Guest Apartments make this a quality location for retreats.

Activities include the Adventure tower, high ropes, rifle & pistol range, archery range, tennis courts, table tennis center, skeet shooting range and other activities give your group plenty of recreation opportunities.

Black Lake Retreat Center

4657 New Hope Church Road

Asheboro, NC 27205

336-381-2572

blrcucc@yahoo.com

www.blacklakeretreatcenter.org

Facilities; Leonard Lodge seats 200 at tables for meetings and has two break out rooms that hold 50 people. The two room cottage is great for smaller groups and is equipped with a full kitchen. Four cabins sleep 6 people each and is close to the bathhouse. A multi-purpose shelter has a commercial kitchen, fireplace and 2 outdoor grills.

Recreation and activities include walking trails, volleyball, basketball, obstacle course, swings, fishing, canoes, peddle boats, horseshoes and plenty of room for outdoor games. A self guided meditative Cross + Walk depicting the 14 stations of the Cross representing the last day of Jesus' life is very spiritually moving.

Prices; cottage \$60 per night, cabins \$20 per night, Leonard Lodge main room less than 2 hours \$175, 2-4 hours \$300, 4-8 hours \$500 more than 8 hours \$50 per hour. User kitchen fee \$100.

Many thanks to NCBM Men's Ministry Advisory Team for contributing to the compilation of this manual:

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