

IV. History of Fellowship & Fun

Before the addition of the Family Life Center in 1987, most fellowship events happened in the homes or on the properties of members including Halloween costume parties, Christmas progressive dinners, and New Year's Eve celebrations. After the FLC was constructed, these events became rare at any place other than at the FLC. Other events continued off site: canoe floats on Buffalo River; campouts, boating, and water skiing at various lakes, at Second Creek, and at the Tennessee River in Waterloo AL; and retreats for Families and Ladies. Everyone in the congregation was invited to participate.

During later years, more FLC indoor activities were scheduled: an annual Christmas dinner, a Golden Age banquet hosted by the teen girls, a men's breakfast and "beast feast" to sample harvested game, an annual Saturday ladies' day, and fifth Sunday "Eat-Church-Eat" fellowship meals. The facilities are also used by the ladies for wedding and baby showers, and the gymnasium is available for basketball and volleyball games as well as for exercise. All fellowships include a devotional with Bible reading, songs, and prayer.

Interestingly, as use of the FLC became commonplace, the congregation made a move back to backyards and homes. Beyond These Walls was (and is) hosted by various members outdoors in September and October around swimming pools, on creek banks, at ponds, and under trees with a devotional, a meal, games, and conversation. In the summer, the men form a baseball team in the church league where they are cheered on by family and friends.

Source: Sara Dolly Leighton, *History of the Ethridge Church of Christ*, 22 May 2016, pp. 107-119. Copies available at ECOC office and Lawrence County Archives.