



District IX Enjoys Annual Fish Fry

In June of each year, District IX Disciples gather for their "famous" fish fry, which has been a tradition for over 20 years. The fish fry, hosted annually by Philippi Christian Church in Del-taville, was held this year at the Maritime Museum at Holly Point. The men and women of Philippi have proven over and over that they really know how to fry fish and prepare all the trimmings that make this event an overwhelming success. About 85 folks from 10 of the 11 churches in District IX began gathering about 3 p.m. for games, fun and fellowship and the meal beginning about 5.

The "Craig Springs Commemorative Quilt" was awarded by Ray Gryder, Interim Director for

Men's Ministry, to the men of District IX for their efforts and support in securing the most donations for Special Camp 2008 (\$2,070.00). The quilt was designed and fashioned by Christine Shultz and features many photos from the

historic past of Craig Springs. The men of Zion Christian Church were presented this first annual award because they had the most men in attendance from a District IX church at the 2009 Men's Retreat which was held in April 2009. Zion Christian Church and District IX will have the opportunity to proudly display the quilt at various church and district functions to raise awareness and support of funding for Special Camp.



The Craig Springs Commemorative Quilt, by Christine Shultz, was awarded to the men of District IX at the Men's Retreat.

Ben Saunders, Paul Parker and Ray Gryder, II shared their gifts and led the men in song.

The highlight of the retreat as always was the moving celebration of communion held at the conclusion of Mr. Gulley's last session on Saturday evening. The retreat ended on Sunday morning after an inspiring time of worship.

The 2009 event was one of the best attended in recent memory: 96 individuals represented 9 of 11 districts and 31 different Disciple congregations. District 5's Bedford Christian Church took top honors for best represented church (11 men); District 7 Men was the best represented district (19 men) and was awarded the 2009 Governor's Cup, named in honor of former men's region president (1998-2003) Governor Reid.

The district leadership team met briefly during the retreat, coming together to discuss efforts to continue support of Special Camp and to promote men's ministry growth through the announcement of a young men's representative. It is the hope of the men that this



Paul Parker, Justin Ott and Dwayne Martin

action will work to inform and communicate with active younger men moving from Disciple youth and camp programs into young adulthood and men's ministry participation.

The staff and team of the Airfield 4-H center have hosted the men since 2004 with great hospitality and service, and the group will return to Wakefield for sure, but next year's retreat will be held at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Conference Center in Wirtz, VA, on Smith Mountain Lake. The 2010 speaker will be author and columnist Derek Maul, whose book, *Get Real: A Spiritual Journey for Men*, will be part of the focus for the April 9-11 event. Make plans to attend!

For more information on Disciples Men/CMF check out www.disciplesmena.org.



Record attendance marked the 2009 Disciples Men's Retreat in April

Record Attendance and Speaker Philip Gulley Inspire at Virginia Men's Retreat

Virginia region men and guests were treated to a wonderful week-end of fellowship and spiritual renewal during the Disciples Men of Virginia retreat held April 24-26 at the Airfield 4-H Conference Center in Wakefield.

Regional Minister Lee Parker introduced the retreat guest and resource guide, Quaker minister and author Philip Gulley, who spoke on his upcoming 2010 book, *If the Church Were Christian*. The presentation was a very eye-opening exploration of many questions confronting not only Disciples Men, but the church in general.

Participants were able to talk with Mr. Gulley in small group and individual settings during the various presentation sessions. Mr. Gulley's exceptional storytelling and gentle nature were noted by many who attended. Mr. Gulley indicated that he was honored to be a part of the retreat and felt very much at home with the group. In fact, he remarked soon after the event that he was truly "a wannabe Disciple"! The men of the region



Philip Gulley and Ray Gryder

are to be congratulated on their collective efforts in bringing Mr. Gulley to this year's retreat.

This year marked the first Disciples Men of Virginia Golf Tourney as a weekend kickoff event. Ten men participated in a Captain's

Choice scored event at the Prince George Golf Course near the retreat center. Bob Morris's team took top prize. The afternoon was capped with a BBQ meal provided by Cowlings BBQ of Wakefield and sponsored by the men of District 7. Many thanks to District 7 DM president Ken Arno for his hard work and support.

Musical talents were on display throughout the weekend as Justin Ott, Perry Briggs, Jr., Dwayne Martin,



Actor Jerry Vencil's portrayal of mid-19th century circuit riding preacher "Amos Skillet" was a crowd-pleasing surprise.