

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
November 2017 Retreat  
Asheville Friends Meetinghouse

***On the weekend of November 10-12, 2017, the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Asheville Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.***

Dear SAYF Community,

This Asheville retreat felt a lot like being in a family. It was a small retreat so that might have been a part of the reason. It seems to me that everyone enjoyed the Asheville tour. There were shared experiences and responsibilities that added to the feeling of being a family. Thank you so much Jonathan and Beth. You were like dad and mom in this retreat (and you are:). Thank you to the Berea YF for planning the retreat. Nurturers for guiding and caring for each member of the family.

Peace and harmony,  
Mari

Dear SAYF,

This retreat has been one of change. With many young new SAYFers coming into the community, it has been unlike any of the other SAYFs I have been to. This is not a bad thing, though - it is wonderful that this place, which has been a place of joy and safety to us, is now bringing smiles to new faces. It can almost seem like an end of an era, but it is also the beginning of a new one. We all shared many laughs, and the downtown scavenger hunt was an amazing experience that I highly enjoyed. Change does happen, and it is important to, rather than try to prevent it, cultivate its growth into something beautiful.

Your friend,  
Oliver

Dear SAYF,

I love you guys so much! I missed Our Missing SAYFers, but loved having so many new faces! The scavenger hunt was fun, and I made some memorable memories. Stay awesome always, or at least until I see you next.

- Marissa Beatty  
P.S. "Can somebody move their purple?" - Jacob Mixson 2017



Dear friends,

*I will miss yahl and hopefully I will be seeing some of you in Atlanta. The hunt in downtown and talent show was pretty lit. I hope everyone gets home safe and till then I see you next time. Sigh: Crazy Mofa Named Crowbar*

I hope everyone stays happy, healthy and cozy in the cold months and I look forward to seeing you all again in January.

With all my love,  
Cora

SAYF is playing an interesting role in my life right now. A lot of big stuff is up in the air right now. My life is morphing into something very different, which is one of the most stressful things I've ever experienced. Totally opposite of all that mess, is the consistency of SAYF. The closest friends I've ever had came from SAYF. Even at this smaller retreat I'm surrounded by my best friends. While I don't know where I'm gonna be going to school, living, etc. I do know I can come here and be with folks who love me. Y'all the best

- Callum

I am very new at this Lead FAN business, so half the time I felt like an elephant stumbling around a mouse maze. But the reason it turned out all right is because of the wise and gentle leading of other FANs, nurturers, and the SAYF community at-large. It is rare to find any community so dedicated to kindness and honesty, and being vulnerable to each other. Treasure it.

Beth Myers, Berea

**Thank you so much SAYF! I really enjoyed this retreat and look forward to many more.**  
- Carlton

It was great to see all the new SAYFers fitting in so well, I'm also really happy that my brother liked it, I'm so happy to share this amazing community with him. Thank you all,

and with much love - David Myers

P.S. Jacob Can you move that purple?

I can't really believe that I'm a senior. I've been a part of this community for five years. It's difficult to accept that my time here is coming to a close. I know that all of this is pretty clichéd, but it's how I feel. I've grown up with this community and everyone within it, and I don't really know what I'll do when I leave. You know how you never fully appreciate what you have until it's gone? I'm glad that I've been able to appreciate this for now, and that I can appreciate what I've had. I love you all, and think of you guys like a family. I just wish I could see my family more often.

- Miles

SAYF,

I just have to say, SAYF is pretty great. There's very little not to like. SAYF is so forcefully welcoming (it's in the guidelines), and that makes every thing just so much closer. Thank you for a great retreat; I look forward to making more memories in this amazing community.

- Maggie

Time is racing towards me as I begin counting down my last retreats. I doesn't feel real yet but I know the day I graduate is coming up fast. Looking around at all of my beautiful newbies reminds me of my first retreats. Those first retreats don't feel that long ago. And looking at all of you makes me so happy that you now have this community that will always be there for you, and friends that you can grow with and share so many memories. The friends you make here can be your friends for life. Know that I wouldn't give up my memories and friends for anything in the world.

Your friend,  
Julia Hudson  
(or Mama SAYF)