

# GOOD NEWS FROM LIVING RIVER

FALL 2020

## FINANCIAL NEWS: A big thank you!

The following individuals have supported Living River financially from December 1, 2019 to November 17, 2020)(If you have donated through your church, thank you. Most of the churches do not send us the names of the individual donors.) ***Those individuals with an asterisk\* are sustaining givers making regularly scheduled, automatic donations. Please consider becoming a Living River Sustainer!***

Steve and Carolyn Ashworth  
Jonathan and Heather Benoit  
Don and Mary Blakeley  
Will and Virginia Booker  
Vernon S. Broyles, III  
David Bryson  
Tom and Ashley Bryson  
Mark and Leigh Ellyn Byars  
Linda Cicero  
Colquitt Clark  
Joanne Conklin  
Martha and Sydney Cook  
Ralls and Denise Coston  
Pat and Annabel Stephens Dunbar  
Robert and Nancy Dupree  
Charlie and Sandy Durham  
Larry and Kathleen Dutton  
First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham  
First Presbyterian Church of Talladega  
First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa  
First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka  
**\*Yvonne Gauntt**  
Michael and Gillian Goodrich  
Miller and Frances Gorrie  
Susan Grimmer  
Wade and Pam Haddock  
**\*Teresa Halley**  
**\*Benga Harrison**  
Susan Haskell  
Julie Hay  
Robert and Janice Hay  
Robert and Morgan Hay  
Scott Hayes  
**\*Mike and Cindy Henderson**  
Thomas and Peggy Hill  
Kent and Lisa Howard

Kerri Hughes  
Steve and Stephanie Hunt  
Frank and Jothany James  
Jean Jones  
Helen Keller  
Sara Anne and Jay Lester  
Terry and Mari Ley  
Bruce Ludwig  
Virginia MacRae  
Marilyn and Ken Marek  
Brian and Chris Anne Massengale  
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Olympia McCrackin  
David McGiffert  
Henry McPherson  
Kathryn and Larry Michael  
Carolyn D. "Faye" Mills  
Ira and Anne Mitchell  
Montevallo Presbyterian Church  
Mt. Brook Presbyterian Church  
McKittrick Moss  
Al and Janet Nebrig  
Sue Newton  
Ives B. Ort  
Janet Ort  
Ed and Gail Parrish  
Jay Patton  
Willard Peebles  
**\*Lee Ann and Preston Peyton**  
**\*Ellen and Danny Potts**  
Presbyterian Women of the  
Presbytery--Grace Tuscaloosa and  
Brown Memorial PWs  
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley  
Charlie and Lil Pritchett  
Caryl Privett  
Kathy and Nick Reed  
**\*Leanne Reed**  
Rick and Judy Reed

Patrick Riley  
Elizabeth P. Roberts  
Emily Roberts  
Alfred Rose  
Jim and Patty Rudolph  
John and Carol Rylee  
Catherine Sabines  
Denise and Steve Salo  
Ron and Judith Sawyer  
William Scott  
Ed Senter and Jessica Germany  
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Ron and Susan Snell  
**\*Anita Sherman**  
Jack Smalley  
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Alan and Linda Speaker  
James and Flora Speed  
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Deborah Stegall  
Bill and Jera Stribling  
**\*Allen M. Tartt**  
George and Jenny Thagard  
Sharon and Les Thagard  
W. Lee Thuston  
Wendy and James Tucker  
Forrest Walker  
Jim and Ellen Walker  
Myrna Walker  
Howard Walthall, Sr. and family  
Dana G. Waters  
Harry and Nancy Watkins  
Thomas Watkins  
John David and Stacey Wheeler  
Janet Widell  
Alice McSpadden Williams Trust  
Bill and Fran Woodruff

## FINANCIAL NEWS: Financial Report--Operating Funds

### Highlights:

- Living River has been able to make all monthly mortgage payments thanks to the diligence of the Presbytery Trustees in working out an agreement for the purchase of the former Trinity Church property. Living River has **retired its line of credit** and **our only debt is the mortgage** which is covered by the payments on the Trinity property.
- 2020 donations to Living River are down \$30,000 from 2019.
- Due to the receipt of a PPP loan, Living River has been able to make payroll for 2020.
- Because of the inability to generate revenue from retreat rentals and camp, Living River's expenses exceed our revenue. End-of-year gifts could reverse this.
- We have cut expenses in personnel, utilities, and services.
- If you would like a digital copy of our latest financials, email [office@livingriver.org](mailto:office@livingriver.org). The Living River Board is committed to being transparent in all financial and operational matters.

## FINANCIAL NEWS: Living River establishes an Endowment Fund with proceeds from Alice McSpadden Williams Trust

Living River was the recipient of \$478,789 from the Alice McSpadden Williams Trust. Mrs. Williams was a member of Independent Presbyterian Church and a long-time supporter of the mission of Living River. The Living River Board voted to use these funds to honor past promises and prepare for the future. The first and largest portion of this donation was used to establish an endowment with the Presbyterian Foundation's New Covenant Mutual Funds. The proceeds from this endowment will support operations and a camp scholarship fund. An amount of \$100,000 from these funds will be to complete projects promised during earlier fundraising campaigns. The third use of the funds is to set aside a contingency fund of \$50,000 for unexpected and necessary expenses which have not been budgeted. Living River is indebted to the Williams family and the early development team for Living River.

If you would like to contribute to the Living River Endowment, send a check to Living River, 2000 Living River Parkway, Montevallo, AL 35115, marked endowment.

## PROGRAM NEWS: Camp in a Box 2020, Summer Camp 2021, Retreats

- Camp in a Box When it became clear that Summer Camp 2020 was not possible in person, *Camp in a Box 2020* was born. Over 200 boxes were mailed or delivered to 2019 campers and other youth and children. Each box contained a guide for a week's worth of camp activities based on 5 Bible stories, craft kits, and camp swag...t-shirt, sunglasses, sticker. Many thanks to the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley for a grant that made this possible.
- Summer Camp 2021 The Program Committee of the Living River Board is making plans for Summer Camp 2021. Our Curriculum will be **Creation Speaks**. Each day will be focused on a different passage of the creation story paired with New Testament, Psalms, and other Old Testament passages. We are preparing policies and procedures to comply with best practice in a COVID world to keep our campers and staff healthy. If you know of someone college-age who would be interested in applying for a counselor position, please send them to



our website for an application. We also are looking for volunteer leadership teams for each camp session as well as health-care providers for each session. The Summer 2021 postcards will be mailed out in January.

- Tentative Summer Camp 2021 Schedule
  - June 13-18 Senior High Work Camp--Rising 9th - College Freshman
  - June 16-18 Mini Camp--Rising K-3rd
  - June 20-23 Middle School Night Owl Camp--Rising 6th-9th
  - June 25-27 You and Me Camp--Rising Pre-K-3rd with parent/grandparent
  - July 5-10 Creative Elementary and Middle School Camp--Rising 2nd-9th
  - July 11-16 Elementary Camp--Rising 2nd-6th
- Retreats and Day Use While almost all of our retreats cancelled for 2020, we have hosted a few scout troops for primitive camping, a private school football camp and many family groups seeking to enjoy the outdoors. We also hosted a wedding in November. (Look for pictures soon on our website.)

## FACILITIES NEWS: Projects

- IPC Chapel Completed The Independent Presbyterian Outdoor Chapel was completed this fall by IPC volunteers, Frank Sutherland, Curtis Williams and others. It is located off of the Main Road trail on a bluff overlooking the river.
- Increased Security and power to maintenance shed--Donors provided funds to increase security and provide power to the maintenance shed after Living River had a break-in. More security cameras were purchased and a power line was run from the road to the maintenance shed. This will serve to protect our property and camp equipment.
- Vegetable Garden A donor wished to honor long-time Living River Board Member and member of Montevallo Presbyterian Church, Judy Rogers, by designating that the donation be spent on a project that would involve children. We chose to build a raised-bed vegetable garden that will provide gardening opportunities and vegetables for summer campers for years to come. Volunteers from South Highland Presbyterian Church planted the garden this summer.
- New doors for bathrooms and showers in cabins-- It was discovered that the prior doors were too heavy for the frames. Thanks to the leadership of Bill Stribling and the hard work of his ecumenical Habitat friends, new doors were made, painted and hung in all of the cabins. Bill's donation of his time and all the supplies for this project are very much appreciated.
- Williams Take Out/Launch Overlook Paul has worked hard to clear out the picnic area at the Williams Canoe Take Out/Launch. There is now a clear view of the river at this picnic/campsite.
- Camp Truck Living River received a generous donation of a used truck this year just as our prior truck was dying. Our "new" truck has over 250,000 miles and we hope it will last many more years. Being realistic, please remember Living River if you hear of anyone wanting to donate a used, full-size pick-up truck.

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS: Seeking Partners

- Research
  - This past spring and summer found students from Furman University, The University of the South at Sewanee, and St. Louis University participating in undergraduate research projects. These students were recruited by our Environmental Committee Chair, Janet Ort.
  - This fall brought researchers from The University of Alabama, US Geological Survey and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to Living River to continue the research on mussels that has been going on since the slab was removed in 2004.

- UA undergraduate students visited Living River for a Saturday field experience in November.
- The Environmental Committee continues to explore opportunities for Secondary Research Weekends and the possibility of Living River being a data gathering/clearing house site.
- Higher Education Consortium
  - Living River continues to seek Higher Education partners who wish to conduct research at Living River and provide a way back for the Cahaba Environmental Center.

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS: Pottery, LR Awareness bullets and articles, Christmas

- Pottery Donation--Living River is the recipient of a donation of over 60 pieces of pottery, by award-winning Marietta, GA potter, Mariella Owens. Go to this website to access examples of her work: <https://mariellaspottery.com/artwork-pictures>. We are hoping to offer these pieces in an on-line auction. Anyone with experience with on-line auctions, please contact Living River at [office@livingriver.org](mailto:office@livingriver.org).
- Church Bulletin and Newsletter info about Living River: Living River will be sending to all Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley churches 52 *Living River facts* for weekly church bulletins and 12 *newsletter articles* for monthly newsletters to be used in 2021. Please encourage the person at your church in charge of bulletins and newsletters to include this information in your 2021 publications.
- Christmas Gifts:
  - If you would like to give someone a donation made in their honor, Living River will mail them a Christmas card with this information.
  - Also, if you would like to go ahead and pay for a week of summer camp for a child or youth, we can send you a card to put in their stocking.

## WHY YOU AND YOUR CHURCH SHOULD SUPPORT LIVING RIVER

- You want there to be a Christian Summer Camp available for children and youth in Central Alabama with a Bible-based, Reformed-theology curriculum.
- You care about the environment and want there to be a place in Central Alabama that is available for Environmental Education including teaching and research from Kindergarten to Post-Graduate.
- You want there to be a place in Central Alabama for individuals, families and groups to retreat to God's Creation for respite, renewal, study and contemplation.
- You care about the future of our church's leaders and agree that camp is one place that God's call is heard.
- You want to protect the 440 acres of land and 4 ½ miles of the Cahaba River from commercial development.
- You believe that there is a purpose for Living River and understand that Living River is in its infancy and needs support to grow into its potential.

Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba 2000 Living River Parkway Montevallo, AL 35115

Voice Mail: 205-208-0035

Email: [office@livingriver.org](mailto:office@livingriver.org)

Website: [www.livingriver.org](http://www.livingriver.org)

Rev. Jonathan Yarboro, Board Chair Jenny Thagard, Executive Director Paul Fancher, Facilities Director