



LIVING RIVER
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

August 2023
Newsletter



Summer Camp 2023 Memories

Thanks be to God for another great Summer at Living River!



Summer 2023 Camp Summary

- 5 Summer Camp Sessions
- 112 campers
- 9 awesome counselors
- 21 adult volunteers
- 13 Presbytery of Shepperds and Lapsley churches represented
- 26 first-time at Living River Summer Camp campers plus 16 campers for a partner camp with Mentoring in New Dimensions (Wilcox Co.) and the Presbyterian Home for Children





From our Counselors

"Living River has held a special place in my heart for many years. I grew up going to Summer Camp and then transitioned into a counselor of soon-to-be four years. I have seen every inch of the meaningful work Living River does to inspire and nurture children and youth inside of God's creation at Living River. My experiences of being inspired in my faith as a young camper by the counselors and then inspiring campers myself have shaped who I am! **I count all of my experiences at Living River as a blessing to be shared with others.** The love of God is clearest for me at Living River. **I will always carry the leadership lessons, humility, independence, and faithfulness that I've learned, as well as the beautiful scenery of the Cahaba River that flows by the camp we love, with me forever!"** -Abby Bunn, Head Counselor

"Being a counselor at Living River is a rewarding experience. **Not only did I find friends, but I got to create bonds with the campers that I hope helped them grow closer to God.** During our small group time on the last day of Elementary Camp, the kids were asking all sorts of deep, interesting questions. I was amazed that they were so interested in understanding what we were talking about. **Being a Summer Camp counselor at Living River helped me confirm for myself that I'm meant to work with children.**" -Bel Marshal, First-time Counselor

Environmental Partners & Outreach

Living River Continues Environmental Education through Partners

A huge thank you to our environmental partners, especially Cahaba Riverkeeper, the Cahaba River Society, and the Alabama Forestry Commission for all their help in redeveloping our mission and providing environmental programs for field trips and Summer Camp this year! We look forward to hosting more groups of children and youth at Living River to learn from our partners.

Living River joins the Alabama Rivers Alliance!

The Alabama Rivers Alliance says, "Membership in the Alliance means being part of a statewide network of organizations that are all working toward the common goals of protecting Alabama's rivers, environment, and communities." It is important because of our location on the Cahaba River that we are participating in environmental work in our state and are a good resource for individuals and groups wanting to engage, too. As just one example of the many current, exciting projects relevant to the Cahaba, the Corp of Engineers and Nature Conservancy are working to reconnect the Cahaba, Coosa, and Alabama Rivers to the Gulf! This could be the, "most ecologically significant river reconnection project in the history of the United States," says the conservancy. We hope you'll want to learn and be a part of stewarding the Cahaba and our state of Alabama well with us!





Upcoming at Living River

Fall Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Youth Retreat, Oct. 7-8

All 6th-12th graders are welcome! More details will come from the Presbytery's Youth Council.

October Open House, Oct. 22, 2-5 pm

We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of Fall activities and fellowship at Living River including a pumpkin trail, live music, and environmental partners.

Fall Elementary Retreat, Veterans Day Weekend, Nov. 9-11

All K-5th graders are welcome to Living River's Fall Elementary Retreat. Bring a friend! It'll be a weekend packed with camp fun. Stay tuned for details and registration.

Financial Health and How You Can Help

Budget Report			
Sources of Funds	Year-to-date 06/30/2023		2023 Annual Budget
Program	51,340	84%	61,000
PSL - Trinity Property	16,757	50%	33,504
Donations	39,770	16%	250,000
Grants	48,000	100%	48,000
Other	2,236	149%	1,500
Total	\$ 158,103	40%	\$ 394,004
Uses of Funds			
Personnel & Fees for Services	106,776	49%	219,813
Program Expenses	25,156	75%	33,451
Facilities	50,146	58%	86,285
Mortgage Payments	15,078	45%	33,504
Administration	6,148	39%	15,809
Total	\$ 203,304	52%	\$ 388,862

Statement of Financial Position		
	6/30/2023	12/31/2022
Assets		
Operating Account	\$ 119,541	\$ 247,098
Capital Account	232,293	234,082
Other Current Assets	312	7,067
New Covenant Endowment Fund	398,862	362,358
New Covenant Scholarship Fund	7,422	6,743
Fixed Assets - Net	7,043,547	6,939,245
Total Assets	\$ 7,801,977	\$ 7,796,593
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 23,106	\$ (1,632)
Program Deposits	4,300	6,700
Payroll Liabilities	5,068	4,503
Oakworth Mortgage	142,997	158,048
Total Liabilities	175,471	167,619
Net Assets		
Net Assets	7,626,506	7,628,974
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,801,977	\$ 7,796,593

Financial Highlights:

- The biggest need at Living River continues to be regular, annual donors. Right now, just 4% of Presbyterians in Central Alabama support Living River. Your support is necessary for the ministry of Living River to continue.
- Living River's mortgage sits at just \$142,997.

Become a Bedrock Sustaining Donor



Living River's Bedrock of Sustaining Donors give to cover operational costs so other revenue sources are freed to grow its ministry. **Become a Living River Bedrock donor by giving a minimum of \$25 a month or \$300 annually, strengthening Living River's foundation!** Donations can be made online or by mailing a check to the camp. Sustaining Donors will be recognized annually. Thank you!

Other ways to support Living River:

- Volunteer or organize a group to volunteer.
- Share about Living River with families you know.
- **Buy/dedicate a new campfire bench for just \$60!**

Executive Director's Corner

The Fruit of the Spirit's not a Coconut! ...or a banana, or a watermelon, or a lemon, or a cherry, or a grape! That was the soundtrack of our summer camping season as our campers, counselors, and leaders explored the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is a unique privilege to witness our counselors and campers grow in faith, lead worship, set and achieve goals, swim, canoe, form community, learn about our unique biodiversity, play, laugh, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

We have a quality summer camping program at Living River, and we need your help for more lives to be touched. Here are a few concrete things you can do to support the summer camping program at Living River: reach out to a college-age young adult and let them know that you think they have the gifts to be a summer camp counselor; reach out to parents of children and youth and encourage them to register for summer camp, and bring a friend.

“Come then wherever you may be. Come to the river that’s flowing free. The three in one is calling you and me to the banks of the river that’s flowing free.” -Jenny Thagard

Thank you to...

Camp Support and Leadership: Grace Daniels, Joe Genau, Robert Newman, Robert Hay, Ben Flowers, Karin Bell, Joan and Ed Reisinger, Kathy Wolf Reed, Emily Fransden, Lauren Curtner-Smith, Jill Hightower, Patrick Riley, Meagan Westbrook, Kyle Henderson, Nicole Newton, Lois Palecek, Laura Bannon, Pat Goodman, Melanie Jourdan, Charlie Durham, Mike Henderson, and our Facilities Director, Brett Melton. **And special thanks to our chefs, Jeff Wilson and Becky Price.**



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