



LIVING RIVER  
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

May 2023  
Newsletter

# A New Season of Growth

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance..."-Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

Like a young child learning to walk, Living River as a young nonprofit has found its balance with financial stability in sight. Living River is curious about what it sees up ahead. We're listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit like a parent encouraging us to, "go on!" And like a young child, we are surrounded by community that supports us. It's a time of experimentation, creativity, vulnerability, seeking, and learning. It's a season of depending on our volunteers, donors, and partners and understanding our own unique strengths. We are eager to, "do it ourselves," too, and welcome you and the young people in your life to Living River for retreat.

It is a season of growth. We need your support, ideas, enthusiasm, and wisdom in caring for the gift of Living River. And we hope you take the opportunity to have retreat (nearness with God and escape from life's complexity) with us. We all need retreat.

## Join us for our first-ever Cahaba Lily Adult Retreat

Come for the peace of Living River, fellowship, and unique retreat experiences. Please join us for either the retreat or Saturday's Open-house (May 20, 2-6 pm).

### Keynote speakers:

Beth Stewart,  
Executive Director,  
Cahaba River Society  
(Friday Evening)



Scot Duncan,  
Executive Director,  
AL Adudobon  
(Saturday's Open-house)



### Optional Sessions:

Beginner Birding and a Cahaba Lillies Fieldtrip



ALABAMA  
AUDUBON



Do you have ideas for future Living River adult programming? Email [office@livingriver.org](mailto:office@livingriver.org).

# Sign your youth or child up for Summer Camp!

## Share about Living River Summer Camp with your grandchildren, neighbors, friends, and family.

Summer Camp uniquely offers fun, outdoor experiences, faith foundation, ritual and tradition, independence, and skill building in a compact, memorable way.

Living River is a safe space that becomes a home for children and youth where they can explore and grow.

Only **five more weeks** until camp!  
Find more details, dates, and register online.



**Young adults, graduated high school senior to age 22, be a Summer Camp Counselor!** Being a counselor is a great way to gain skills, self-confidence, lifelong friendships, and find clarity about future your direction. It's a paid position from May 30-July 1. Apply online!

**Rising high school juniors or seniors, be a Counselor in Training (CIT)!** High schoolers can be CITs at any elementary camp. It's a great opportunity to learn and build friendships!

**Do you have administrative skills?** We're a small staff! Living River can always use help with mailings, organization, or administrative tasks.

Over the last few months, Living River hosted many rental groups, a fieldtrip for the Presbyterian Home for Children, a You & Me Retreat, and more! We also met with the Cahaba Riverkeeper about an upcoming project and partnered with the Cahaba River Society. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or sign up for our emails to keep up!



# Living River's Financial Health

## Expenses and Revenue Year-to-Date

Budget Report				Statement of Financial Position		
	Year-to-date		2023 Annual		3/31/2023	12/31/2022
Sources of Funds	03/31/2023	%	Budget	<b>Assets</b>		
Program	16,690	27%	61,000	Operating Account	\$ 202,028	\$ 247,098
PSL - Trinity Property	8,379	25%	33,504	Capital Account	234,733	234,082
Donations	23,997	10%	250,000	Pledges Receivable	9,334	9,334
Grants	48,000	100%	48,000	Other Current Assets	364	7,067
Other	1,083	72%	1,500	New Covenant Endowment Fund	381,230	362,358
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 98,149</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>\$ 394,004</b>	New Covenant Scholarship Fund	7,094	6,743
				Fixed Assets - Net	7,003,864	6,939,245
				<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,838,647</b>	<b>\$ 7,805,927</b>
Uses of Funds				<b>Liabilities</b>		
Personnel & Fees for Services	48,159	22%	219,813	Accounts Payable	\$ 4,092	\$ (2,488)
Program Expenses	891	3%	33,451	Program Deposits	1,800	6,900
Facilities	24,823	29%	86,285	Payroll Liabilities	3,542	4,503
Mortgage Payments	7,539	23%	33,504	Oakworth Mortgage	152,227	158,048
Administration	3,229	20%	15,809	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>161,661</b>	<b>166,963</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 84,641</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>\$ 388,862</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>		
				Net Assets	7,676,986	7,638,964
				<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,838,647</b>	<b>\$ 7,805,927</b>

### Notes:

- We have collected \$12,250 in registration fees for camp; on 03/31/22 we had collected \$800.
- Rental revenue is way ahead of where we were last year.

### Most Important:

- "Donations" is Living River's Annual Fund. In this season of growth, we are working hard to rebuild relationships with donors, foundations, and partners. We know it will take time to grow towards raising as much as our paired-down budget requires for maintaining growing programs and facilities. Please join us on this journey!
- "Oakworth Mortgage" is Living River's remaining debt on the property and facilities, down to a little over \$150k.

## 2023 Calendar

For more details about a specific event,  
visit our website!

**May 19-21** Adult Cahaba Lily Retreat

**May 20** [Living River Spring Open-house](#)

**All are welcome to the Spring Open-house  
with keynote speaker, Scot Duncan,  
refreshments, fellowship, and time enjoying  
the beauty of Living River.  
Please sign up on our website.**

**May 30-June 9** Counselor Training

**June 11-16** Youth Work and Mission Camp

**June 18-22** Elementary Camp

**June 23-25** You & Me Camp

**June 26-July 1** Creative Elem./Middle Camp

**July 6-9** PHFC/Wilcox Co. Partner Camp

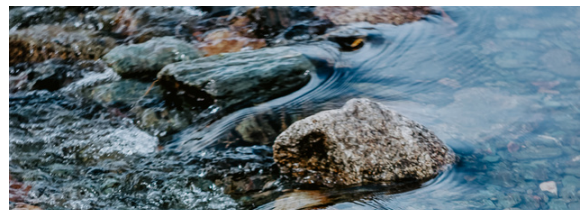
**September 9** Fall Volunteer Work Day

**October 22** Living River Day

**November 9-11** Elementary Retreat

## Be a Bedrock Sustaining Donor

### How can you best support Living River's growth and mission?



Living River's Bedrock of Sustaining Donors give to cover operational costs so other revenue sources are freed to grow its ministry. Currently, Living River's annual giving covers just 20% of its operational costs. We need your support! Become a 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. Sustaining Donors will be recognized annually.

## Executive Director's Corner

Summer Camp registrations, hiring counselors, recruiting volunteers, preparing for retreats, forging relationships with community partners, finding ways to partner with congregations and related agencies, renovating the Shades Valley Lodge...whew! Spring is a busy time at Living River. I cannot thank you enough for your support of the ministry that is Living River. If you have not been to camp recently, come for the Cahaba Lily weekend retreat. If you can't make it that weekend, contact Rachel or me to give you a tour, and bring a friend. We love sharing the incredible gift that is Living River. -Jenny Thagard



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