

Our Mission: Living River nurtures creation, community and Christian faith for the transformation of the world.



LIVING RIVER
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA



Living River Receives ACA Accreditation



In November Living River became accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA). According to the ACA website, “The main purpose of the ACA accreditation program is to educate camp owners and directors in the administration of key aspects of camp operation, particularly those related to program quality and the health and safety of campers and staff. The standards establish guidelines for needed policies, procedures, and practices.... The second purpose of ACA accreditation is to assist the public in selecting camps that meet industry-accepted and government-recognized standards.”

From its inception Living River’s staff and board have been committed to providing fun, faith-building experiences for campers of all ages in a safe environment. The ACA accreditation underscores that commitment, and gives parents an extra sense of security, knowing health and safety are woven into everything we do.

Program Committee Chair, Pat Goodman, is excited about the opportunities this designation will create. “The staff and the Living River Program Committee put a lot of hard work into this process, and it’s nice to see all that pay off. However, accreditation is an ongoing process, so we have to maintain the standards, policies and procedures we’ve implemented. We can’t rest on our laurels. We want to keep improving everything we do!”

Rev. Betty Angelini Called as New Executive Director



In late December, Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba announced that the Rev. Betty Angelini will be the new Executive Director beginning Feb. 24, 2017. Betty served for twelve years as Executive Director of Crestfield Camp and Conference Center, which is affiliated with Pittsburgh Presbytery. She is a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA), who received her Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and is in the final stages of completing her Doctor of Ministry in Christian spirituality from Columbia Seminary. Betty began her career in nursing, and she maintains her licensure as a registered nurse.

Under Betty's leadership, Crestfield developed an active retreat program and an ACA accredited summer camp that serves 600 children and youth each summer. During her time at Crestfield, Betty helped transition the camp from ownership by the presbytery to being a separate 501(c)3 organization that is closely affiliated with the presbytery. She also led Crestfield through a \$1.8M capital campaign, subsequent renovation and new construction projects.

Some aspects of Betty's ministry at Crestfield that are of particular interest:

- Crestfield was one of the first six Centers of Excellence recognized by the PC(USA)'s Office of Camp and Conference Ministry.
- In addition to its residential summer camping program, Crestfield has a strong ministry offering day camps in partnership with local congregations. In a unique mission outreach, Crestfield also offered day camp experiences to PC(USA) missionary children in South Africa and El Salvador.
- Finally, Crestfield developed an internship program called Confluence that provides intentional Christian community for young adults, who work with retreats at Crestfield as well as in churches in the presbytery.

Betty also shared her own personal mission statement:

“Just as Joshua remained faithful to God’s call, especially during times of change, so do I wish to live my life following and being faithful to Christ while leading others to Jesus. Through gifts given by our triune God, particularly those of laughter, love and creativity, I pray that I may be strong and courageous through words and actions that demonstrate Christ’s grace to my family, my partners in ministry, my friends and the neighbors I know and don’t know, recognizing that a cord of three strands, like the model of the perichoresis, is the strongest.”



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2017 SUMMER CAMPS
Branching Out

Connect | Explore | Grow | Branch Out!



Summer Camp Schedule		
June 2-4	You and Me Camp	Pre K to 2nd Grade
June 4-9	Elementary Camp 1 Middle School Camp	Grade 2-5 Grade 6-8
June 7-9	Senior High Leadership Workshop	Grade 10-12
June 11-16	Elementary Camp 2	Grade 2-5
June 11-14	Mini Camp 1	Grade 1-3
June 14-16	Night Owl	Grade 6-8
June 18-23	Creative Elementary Camp Creative Youth Camp Senior High Mission Camp	Grade 2-5 Grade 6-9 Grade 9-12
June 25-30	Adventure Elementary Camp Adventure Youth Camp	Grade 2-5 Grade 6-9
June 25-28	Mini Camp 2	Grade 1-3

Note: All grade are grade completed

**Learn all about these fun-filled camps on the Cahaba River!
Join us this summer by registering online today!**

www.livingriver.org

SUMMER CAMPS: BRANCHING OUT

Living River’s summer camp schedule has a brand new structure for summer 2017! Instead of offering camping for only one age group each week, camps for a variety of age groups and interests will be offered each week throughout the month of June.

Program Committee Chair, Pat Goodman, believes this is a “family friendly” change that recognizes the needs of families with busy schedules and more than one child. “In the past if you had multiple children, you sent them each to camp for a separate week. Now, parents can send siblings to camp together with age appropriate curriculum and activities for each child. It will really help parents juggling several kids, vacations, work, sports teams, etc.”

Scholarships and tiered fees are available at www.LivingRiver.org.



CEC Receives Grants from North Face Explore Fund and Others

Living River's Cahaba Environmental Center (CEC), in partnership with Canoe the Cahaba, Cahaba Riverkeeper, and the Cahaba River Society, has been selected as recipients of the North Face's Explore Fund for our new program: Sole Sisters! Young women (ages 13-17) from the Birmingham area come out to the Cahaba Environmental Center for a weekend of backpacking and canoeing. They practice the skills that they need to be leaders in the outdoors and in their home communities!

Throughout the weekend, Sole Sisters participants will learn leadership skills and empower each other to face and overcome the challenges that arise, creating a group bond and friendships that will last beyond the weekend. We provide backpacks, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, tents, mess kits, headlamps, food, and snacks for the Sole Sisters weekend. The application includes a packing list, but we offer a variety of clothing and other equipment that we can lend out as needed.

Additionally, a local Birmingham foundation has funded a program called the Cahaba Stewardship Project where CEC staff organize and lead stewardship projects with our partner schools (those who attend a 3-day program), and show students how to implement environmental stewardship into their everyday lives.

For more information about our Sole Sisters program, please contact Mallory Pendleton at mpendleton@livingriver.org.

Living River's attendance numbers continue to climb!

Residential Summer Camps

Year	Children and Youth Served	User Days
2015	144	668
2016	175	815

Satellite Day Camps

Year	Location	Children and Youth served for a week
2015	Montgomery	50
	Livingston	35
2016	Montgomery	50
	Livingston	43

Cahaba Environmental Center

Year	Children and Youth Served	User Days
2015	1,225	1,659
2016	3,146	4,222

Other Guests

Year	Guests	User Days
2015	792	1,242
2016	3,226	5,863

Book your group **NOW** for 2017!
www.livingriver.org