



LIVING RIVER
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

August 2022
Newsletter



Summer Camp 2022 Memories
Thanks be to God for a great Summer!



Summer 2022 Camp Statistics

- 4 weeks of kids and youth camp
- 104 campers
- 8 awesome counselors
- 16 adult volunteers
- 14 Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley churches represented



From our Counselors

"This past June was one of the best months of my life! All of these children mean so much to me. Being around them and being in nature and being connected to God meant so much to me. Living River will always hold a very special place in my heart." - Alison Jenkins

"This summer as a camp counselor meant putting others before yourself and serving God through shared moments of laughter and love. The memories and experiences that I made will stay with me for a lifetime, and I am so beyond blessed to have gotten the opportunity to meet so many wonderful and kind people through this process. This summer has been one of the most memorable gifts that I have received, and for that, I am so thankful." - Abby Boldy



Upcoming at Living River

Fall PSL Youth Retreat

Save the Date: Oct. 15-16. All 6th-12th graders are welcome to the Fall Presbytery Youth Retreat! More details to come from the Presbytery's Youth Council.

October Open House

Join us on Oct. 23 from 2-5 pm for an afternoon of Fall activities and volunteer opportunities at Living River including a Great Pumpkin trail chase, Living River trunk-or-treat, and bonfire with hotdogs and smores. If you or a group you know are interested in doing a small volunteer job that afternoon, email rvmathews@livingriver.org. We hope you'll plan to join us!

Fall Elementary Retreat

Save the Date: Veterans Day Weekend. All 1st-5th graders are welcome to the Fall Presbytery Elementary Retreat.

Clean Out the Closets Christmas Sale

Over the years, beautiful pottery and art have been donated to Living River. This Christmas, we want to honor those gifts with a Christmas sale! All of the proceeds will go towards the ministry of Living River.

Do you have art you'd like to donate to the Christmas sale fundraiser? Email rvmathews@livingriver.org by October 1st. Sale will begin November 1st with details in our November newsletter and website.

Financial Health and How You Can Help

| Living River Budget Report | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Year-to-date 06/30/2022 | | | | |
| | Summer Camp YTD 06/30/22 | Total YTD 06/30/22 | | 2022 Annual Budget |
| Sources of Funds | | | | |
| Programs | 28,870 | 46,975 | 77% | 61,000 |
| PSL- Trinity Property | | 16,757 | 50% | 33,504 |
| Donations | | 86,808 | 35% | 250,000 |
| Grants | | 36,000 | 100% | 36,000 |
| Other | 308 | 2,783 | 186% | 1,500 |
| | \$ 29,178 | \$ 189,323 | 50% | \$ 382,004 |
| Uses of Funds | | | | |
| Personnel & Fees | 12,428 | 91,453 | 44% | 208,709 |
| Program Expenses | 22,184 | 23,828 | 82% | 29,033 |
| Facilities | 465 | 43,030 | 46% | 94,506 |
| Mortgage Payments | | 15,078 | 45% | 33,504 |
| Administration | 879 | 5,367 | 37% | 14,702 |
| | \$ 35,956 | \$ 178,756 | 47% | \$ 380,454 |

Financial Highlights:

- This year, without COVID-related loans, Living River needs to increase its annual donations. We've raised only 35% of our budgeted amount for the year.
- Living River's mortgage sits at just \$317,968.22.

How Can You Help?

Become a Living River
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. Currently, Living River's annual giving covers just 20% of operational costs.

Become a Living River Bedrock donor by giving \$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!

Executive Director's Corner

Looking back at camp this summer, I am amazed at how God works through so many to bring our campers, volunteers, and counselors into a relationship with God and each other. Watching our campers faithfully struggle with this summer's Bible stories was a joy I wish you all could experience. Seeing the relationships that are formed, the tears upon leaving the camp community, the pride of trying something new; creating space for counselors to grow in their faith and their skills; hearing the laughter of kids playing outside, the splash of jumping off the swim dock or wading in the Cahaba River, and the sound of the camp song completely led by campers; tasting the sweetness of that first and last s'more, all of these are gifts from God that carry me through the rest of the year. This summer also brought several large rental groups, for which I am most grateful. Looking forward, there is much good imagining work to be done with our Board and our new Assistant Director for Development, as we plan to sustain Living River's operations and move from surviving to thriving. Look forward with me as we do what we can to realize the dream of the gift that Living River can be to our congregations, our community, our Presbytery, our state, and the world. Join us in this ministry! -Jenny Thagard

Thank you to...

Volunteer Camp Staff: Andy Spaulding, Grace Daniels, Robert Hay, Joe Genau, Laura Bannon, Shirley Finley, Lorino Hendricks, Lili Kane, Nick Reed, Emily Roberts, Patrick Riley, Paula Neighbors, Cathy Hoop, Jane Shipley, Jonathan Yarboro, and Pat Goodman. **Construction and Save-the-Day Volunteers:** Charlie Durham, Mike Henderson, Kyle Neighbors, Shane Elmore, Park Grimmer, Carolyn Ashworth, Lin Veasey, Cahaba Riverkeeper, David Butler, Cahaba River Society staff, Wil Rainer, Gordon Black, and Hunter.

Living River wishes the best for our former Facilities Director, Paul Fancher, as he moves on to a job with the City of Alabaster. Paul has provided a wealth of knowledge and skills as he took great care of the Living River property and facilities. He will be greatly missed.



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