



LIVING RIVER  
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

December 2019

Dear Friends of Living River,

We have exciting news to share!

**Financial News**

- Living River's line of credit has been replaced with a mortgage.
- A mortgage for **\$498,000** has been obtained from Oakworth Capital Bank. (This is compared to a line of credit for \$849,000 this time last year.)
- Our monthly mortgage payments are **\$2,513**. This fall the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley sold the property that housed the former Trinity Presbyterian Church. Ninety percent of the proceeds from that sale are designated for Living River. The Presbytery will forward **\$2,792** per month to Living River which will cover our monthly mortgage payments.
- Now that a plan is in place to eliminate our debt, our next step toward financial stability is covering our operational costs with sustained monthly giving from those interested in the future of Living River.

**Summer Camp News**

Summer Camp 2020 plans are being made and counselors are being hired. We are excited to share next summer's schedule. Registration will open in January.

- June 7-12--Senior High Work and Mission      Rising 9- Rising College Freshmen
- June 10-12--Mini      Rising K-3
- June 14-19--Elementary      Rising 2-6
- June 21-24--Night Owl      Rising 6-9
- June 26-28--You and Me      Rising Pre-K-3
- July 5-10--Creative Rising 2-5 (Elementary) Rising 6-9 (Middle)
- July 12-17--Gross Out--Fresh Air Family (This is an outside group and registration is at [www.grossoutcamp.org](http://www.grossoutcamp.org))

**Retreat News**

Thanks to a trained group of volunteer hosts, we have welcomed a variety of groups. This fall we have hosted South Highland Presbyterian Confirmation Retreat, Alberta Baptist Church UA Campus Ministry, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Youth Retreat, Vestavia Hills Baptist Youth Retreat, St. Andrew School of Sevierville, TN and Fresh Air Family fossil hunts. In the spring we are looking forward to hosting the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Elementary Retreat, Spring Youth Retreat and Small Church Retreat, Chi Alpha UA Campus Ministry, and Michigan State University Biology students.

**Development News**

Living River has partnered with Hope Manifest, a non-profit development consulting firm, who has worked with Rick and Kitty Ufford-Chase at Stony Point PC(USA) Conference Center, Habitat Birmingham, The Community Kitchens of Birmingham, and Windermere Baptist Conference Center to name a few of their clients. We look forward to their direction in fund and board development.

Join us in the ministry that is Living River and consider sustained giving in 2020!

*Jenny Thagard*  
Executive Director

## LIVING RIVER OPPORTUNITIES

### Work Projects

- Adopt a cabin to stain and seal the porch and steps. Deck stain and supplies are provided. Get a small team together and come to Living River on a clear day that is over 50 degrees to protect the wooden porches and steps.
- Adopt a room or rooms in the new small group lodge to decorate. There are 8 bedrooms with 2 twin beds in each that are in need of comforters, window toppers, shower curtains and pictures.
- The small group lodge needs painting. This is a great service opportunity for an older youth or UKirk group to spruce up our new small group lodge.
- Work in the Betty Wilson native plant garden.
- Clear trails.

### Items Needed

- Full-size pick-up truck—Our current camp truck is no longer capable of making a trip to Lowe's.
- Small (10'x12') storage shed at lake for life jackets and fishing equipment

### Volunteer

- Become a Volunteer Host for retreat groups. Contact Jenny to set up a training.
- Create a Living River display for your church.
- Be a camp recruiter.
- Be a retreat recruiter.
- Be a member of a cooking team for one of the Presbytery retreats.
- Help with the Living River web page.
- Organize a Living River presentation for your Sunday School class, PW Circle, or group of friends.

### Use Living River for

- An officer training retreat
- A choir retreat
- A Sunday School retreat
- A confirmation retreat
- A business meeting
- A reunion
- A scout camping trip—primitive tent camping or in cabins
- A birthday party
- A church picnic
- A sports team retreat/training
- A band camp
- A staff retreat

### Living River Camp Song

(Tune: Simple Gifts)

The Cahaba is flowing by the camp we love. Living River draws us to our God above.  
And when we find ourselves in this place just right, we pray and we sing and we seek the light.

(Chorus) 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.

The water of creation is in this place. God's word is spoken receive God's grace. Faith, hope and love are  
God's gifts for you. At Living River we are renewed.

(Chorus)