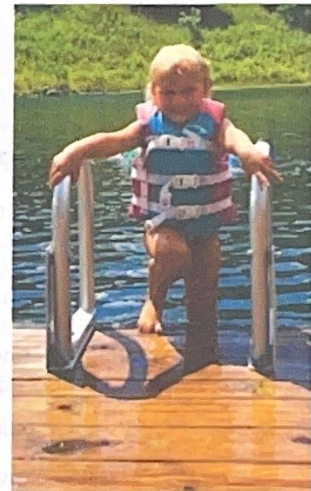




# Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba

AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER SUMMER CAMP EDITION



## CREATION SPEAKS

After a very lonely 2020, it was a prayer answered to have PSL Living River Campers, Counselors, Leaders and Health Care Professionals on-site for 5 weeks this summer.

Every day of camp mirrored a day of creation as we studied and pondered God's good gifts of light, water, earth, sun, moon, and stars; animals, and human beings.

..and God said, IT IS GOOD!







## GROWING IN OUR FAITH AT CAMP

Days at camp are full of opportunities to grow in our faith. Mornings begin with singing *Going Down to the River to Pray* as we walk down the hill to the Charlie and Sandy Durham Chapel on the banks of the Cahaba. Keynote presentations by pastors and elders help us to focus on the day's scriptures. Small group time with our amazing counselors help us to dig deeper into scripture by reading, wondering and engaging in activities and crafts tied to the day's theme. Campers work on earning Bible Beads by learning Bible verses, prayers, creeds and other worship elements. Meals begin with thanking God for our food by singing fun blessings. Every day closes with an evening devotion around the campfire. Campers are encouraged to ask questions and wonder about God's work in the world and in their lives.

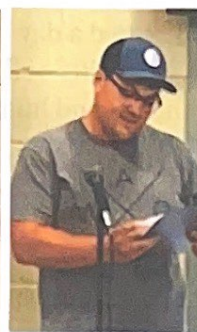
Parent email: "I just want to let you know how much Alice enjoyed camp last week. She always has such a wonderful time at Living River. She told me this morning that it is her absolute favorite thing she's done this summer (which includes weeks at Space Camp, Disney World, and Turks and Caicos islands), and she wants to come back every year "forever" and be a counselor when she is old enough."

## KEEPING OUR CAMPERS HEALTHY

The health and safety of our campers is important. We are pleased to report that we had no reports of COVID infections in any of our campers, counselors, or staff this summer. We are so thankful for our health care providers that did health checks on each of our campers, administered rapid COVID tests on any unvaccinated counselors, administered medications, treated minor injuries, and provided us with peace of mind. We are also thankful for Dr. Carolyn Ashworth (South Highland Pres.) and Dr. Judy Reed (Southminster Pres.) for reviewing and approving our health and safety guidelines regarding infectious diseases. We are also thankful for Nurse Practitioner, Jody Gilchrist from South Highland Presbyterian for conducting the CPR training for our counselors.

The following health care providers made camp possible this summer:

- Nurse, Shirley Finley, Westminster Presbyterian (Coordinated Health Care Provider Recruitment)
- Nurse, Lauren Curtner-Smith, First, Tuscaloosa
- Nurse, Paula Neighbors, First, Tuscaloosa
- EMT Firefighter, Ben Flowers
- Nurse, Lorino Hendricks, Westminster Presbyterian







## LIVING RIVER COUNSELORS

These incredible young adults chose to spend their summer leading and mentoring our campers. (Left to right)

**Kat Brockmann** is a rising sophomore at The University of Alabama studying Educational Neuroscience. Kat is a member of Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC and is the incoming president of Bama UKirk, the PCUSA campus ministry.

**Jenna Winter** is a rising sophomore at Auburn University studying Human Development and Family Studies. Jenna's home church is Southminster Presbyterian. Jenna is the granddaughter of Patti and Tom Winter.

**Xander Nowell** is a rising freshman at Mississippi State University and will be a member of the Famous Maroon Band this fall. Xander is majoring in Music Education and is a member of First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa.

**Maslin Brown** is a rising senior at The University of Alabama majoring in Marketing. Maslin is a graduate of Marion Military Institute and has been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Alabama National Guard. Maslin is a member of Creola First Baptist Church.

**Greg Byrd** served as a counselor in 2018. Greg currently serves as the Youth Director for Shades Valley Presbyterian Church.

**Katelyn Schlotzhauer** is a rising sophomore at The University of Alabama studying Kinesiology. Katelyn's home church is First Baptist Church, Pelham. Katelyn and Jenna are cousins.

**Abby Bunn** has been a long-time camper at Living River and served as a CIT in 2019. Abby is a rising sophomore at Marymount Manhattan College in New York City majoring in Modern Dance. Abby is a member of Covenant Presbyterian in Anniston.

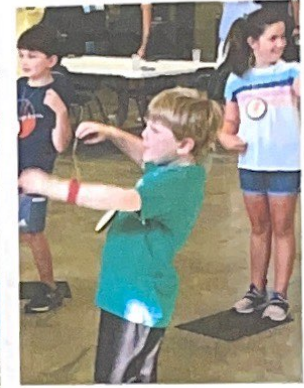
**Maria Potts** served as a counselor in 2019. Maria is a rising senior at BSC majoring in Psychology. She is the current president of the BSC Choir and was president of Panhellenic her junior year. Maria is a member of First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa.

**Head Counselor, Annabelle Beavers** served as a counselor in 2019. She is a rising senior at UA and plans to attend a PCUSA seminary fall of 2022. Annabelle is a member of First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa.

**(Not pictured) Madi Bell-Colpack** served as our Outdoor Specialist. Madi was a counselor in 2018, has worked as an Environmental Educator at Camp McDowell and is returning to The University of Montevallo this fall. Madi currently serves as the Youth Director of both Oakmont Chapel and First, Birmingham Presbyterian Churches.







## LIVING RIVER PROJECTS TO BE DEDICATED AND CELEBRATED

The Living River Board has been busy identifying projects that were promised in the early days of fund raising, that have not been completed. Thanks to a generous donation from the trust of Alice McSpadden Williams, of Independent Presbyterian Church we are able to fulfill some of these early promises. We are hoping to dedicate and celebrate these projects early in October



Katherine Binford Ennis Labyrinth at Living River, built by Senior High Work and Mission Campers and made possible by a gift from Caryl Privett of Independent Presbyterian Church.



Parks' Park Pavilion being constructed with volunteer labor coordinated by Charlie Durham. This pavilion was made possible by a gift from Sam and Virginia Parks of First, Tuscaloosa.

*Save the Date*

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON,**

**OCTOBER 3RD**

**DEDICATION / CELEBRATION FOR THE COMPLETION OF MULTIPLE  
PROJECTS AT LIVING RIVER**

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON ON the LIVING RIVER WEBSITE**

[www.livingriver.org](http://www.livingriver.org)



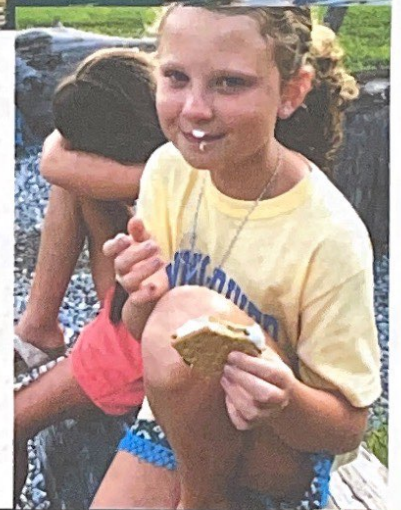
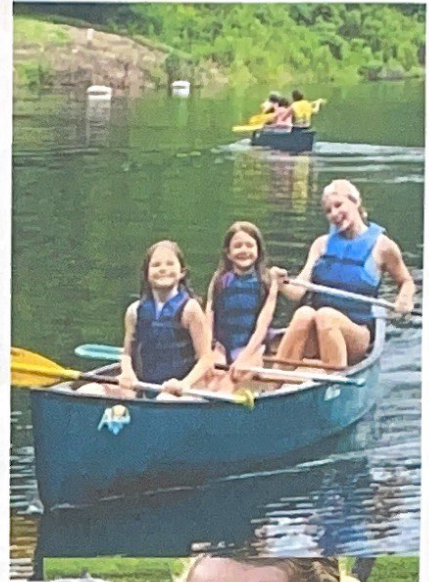
## FACEBOOK POST FROM COUNSELOR, ABBY BUNN

...and it was evening, and it was morning, the bittersweet end of Living River Summer Camp 2021...

Within these past five weeks our theme for the summer has been the creation story. Reading the same scripture over and over each day, every week, has really opened my eyes to a new understanding of these passages. You learn from the Bible every day. You grow and experience new things when you hear scripture so often as we heard it. I've also learned that children allow you to feel creative again, and they bring in and ask big questions and are so unapologetic with what they have to say and ask about God. This summer has been filled with the most joy I've strictly felt from serving God and serving others. God has provided so much love into this camp this summer! I've been so blessed to be able to impact children, and then for most of the time those children impact me right back.

God, You have created all. You made everything from nothing. And now, I take nothing for granted, even the little things. For there is a God who has focused on the tiniest details...like the delicate colors of each and every butterfly, and yet, He calls us all individually by our names.

Thank you, "Miss" Jenny for making this place so special for children to come spend their summer and for caring for each and every human that comes into camp. And,



## OTHER GROUPS USING LIVING RIVER THIS SUMMER

Living River has been rented by 3 other organizations for their summer camps this year. If you know of any organization looking for accommodations for 2022, have them email [office@livingriver.org](mailto:office@livingriver.org).

- June 1-5, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Regional Girls' Camp
- July 19-23, Tuscaloosa Christian School Football Camp
- July 25-30, YouthServe Birmingham, Urban Rural Exchange Camp

These rentals generated \$12,390 in income for Living River.





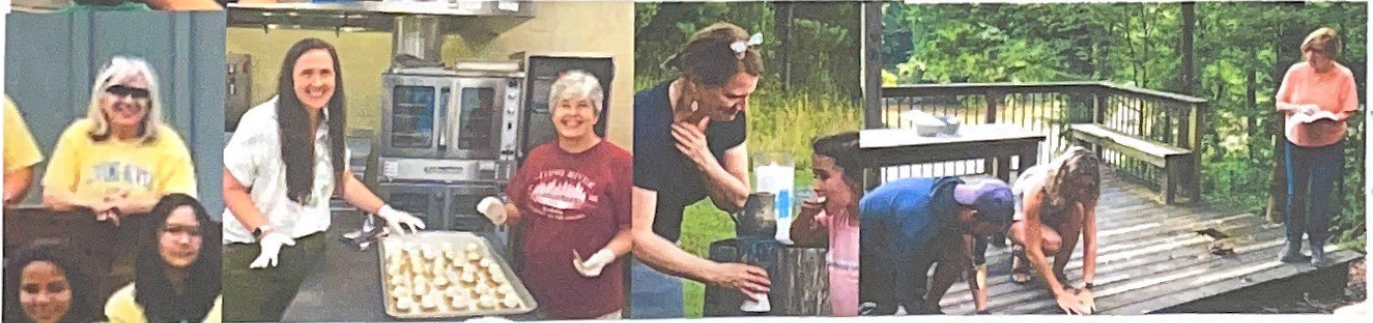
## LIVING RIVER SUMMER CAMP LEADERSHIP

**KEYNOTERS** Living River Summer Camp would not be possible without our volunteer leadership. The following folks helped as Keynoters this summer providing a Keynote address each day along with morning chapel and evening devotions.

- **High School Work and Mission Camp:** **Robert Newman**, Program Director at Southminster Presbyterian and **Andy Spaulding**, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry, First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa.
- **Night Owl Middle School Camp:** **Emily Roberts**, Chair of Living River Board Program Committee and Elder at First, Birmingham; **Betsy Murphy**, Chair of Summer Camp Subcommittee for Living River Board, Church Administrator and Elder at Southminster Presbyterian; **Joe Genau**, Pastor at Edgewood Presbyterian and member of Living River Board's Camp Committee.
- **You and Me Camp:** **Patrick Riley**, Member of Living River Board and Elder at Southminster Presbyterian. **Lou Ann Sellers**, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa.
- **Creative Elementary:** **Robert Hay**, Honorably Retired PCUSA Pastor currently living in Peachtree City, GA. **Cathy Hoop**, Pastor of Grace Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa. **Jane Shipley**, Elder from Grace Presbyterian and Music Specialist with the Tuscaloosa City Schools. **Maria Potts**, Living River Counselor and Elder from First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa.
- **Elementary Camp:** **Jenny Thagard**, Executive Director of Living River, Certified Christian Educator in the PCUSA, Elder and member of Southminster Presbyterian. **Neeley Lane**, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Covington, GA.

**OFFICE ADMINS** These individuals provided invaluable help holding down the office and doing what needed to be done to run Summer Camp.

- **High School Work and Mission Camp:** **Emily Roberts** (see above)
- **Night Owl Middle School Camp:** **Karin Bell**, Elder from Edgewood Presbyterian.
- **Creative Elementary:** **Anne Franklin Lamar**, member from First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa
- **Elementary:** **Karin Bell** (see above) and **Betsy Murphy** (see above)

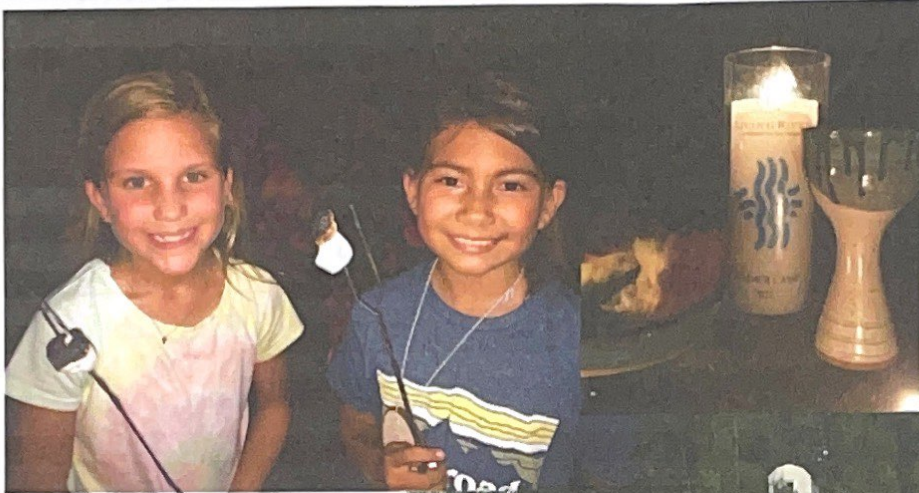




SHARED  
BY

LIVING RIVER WATER RECREATION

The Living River Water Recreation Center is a premier destination for family fun and outdoor adventures.





## LIVING RIVER FINANCIALS

The Living River Board of Directors continues to be committed to transparency in all financial matters. If you would like more detailed information, email [office@livingriver.org](mailto:office@livingriver.org)

	Summer Camp YTD 7/31/21	Total Year to Date 7/31/21	%	2021 Annual Budget
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>				
Program	28,375	37,725	62%	61,000
PSL-Trinity Property		19,550	58%	33,504
Donations	1,500	33,829	19%	175,000
PPP Loan		50,035	96%	52,035
Other		2,235	149%	1,500
	\$29,875	\$143,374	44%	\$323,039
<b>USES OF FUNDS</b>				
Personnel & Fees for Services	13,450	83,678	52%	160,324
Program Expenses	23,995	24,145	73%	33,250
Facilities	590	47,312	59%	80,274
Mortgage Payments		17,591	53%	33,504
Administration	709	5,828	47%	12,387
	\$38,744	\$178,554	56%	\$319,739

The summer camp figures are direct expenses only. They do not include the increased cost of utilities or Jenny and Paul's salaries. The revenue line includes \$7,125 in scholarships provided by the Presbytery.

### NEED FOR SUPPORT

As you can see above, we have received 19% of the donations that were budgeted for this year. Living River needs monthly, sustaining donations to cover the cost of operations (power, water, salaries, maintenance, insurance, etc.). Please consider a recurring monthly donation. Go to the "donate now" button on our website, [www.livingriver.org](http://www.livingriver.org), to set up a recurring donation.

### CONTACT LIVING RIVER

Contact me, Executive Director, Jenny Thagard ([office@livingriver.org](mailto:office@livingriver.org)), to speak to a Sunday School class, PW group, participate in worship, or do a mid-week program.

Like our Facebook page and check out our website, [www.livingriver.org](http://www.livingriver.org).

## SUMMER CAMP NUMBERS

Campers	83
Counselors	10
Leadership	12
Health Care	5
Admins	4

## RETREATS BOOKED FOR THE FALL

The following groups are on Living River's calendar for the fall:

- Iron City Church
- Alabama Sustainable Agricultural Network
- UAB Honors Program
- Vestavia Hills First Responders
- Auburn UKirk
- Vestavia Baptist Church
- Anchor Church of Tuscaloosa
- Alabaster Community Baptist Church
- Presbytery of Shepards and Lapsley Fall Youth Retreat
- Quilters Retreat from Mobile

