

Riverside Reader

... a biblically-based, cost-compassionate, small-camp experience

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A “New Normal”

By: Darrie Nelson, Executive Director

If there is anything that current events and the past several years have taught us, it's that the paths we walk are often beyond our control. From an unseen virus that randomly selects its targets, to an entire country suffering devastation at the whims of its neighbor, the unexpected has become the “new normal.” I trust we are all praying for the people of Ukraine and those battling the ravages of illness.

Closer to home, a friend and partner in ministry here at Riverside recently lost his short six-month battle with cancer. Seven months before the Lord called him home, our friend was living and enjoying his retirement years hunting, fishing, and serving his Lord. Some of us are blessed to be living our life comfortably while others live in the “new normal,” beset by trials and suffering. As our friend reminded me before he met Jesus, we can be assured that “the Lord is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

Throughout its 88-year history, Riverside has been used by the Lord to encourage and redirect lives toward Him, regardless of the path that attendees find themselves on. Recently, the mother of one of our campers from this past summer relayed how her daughter's life was completely changed by her summer camp experience.

Chapel was her daughter's favorite part of camp as the Lord used the speaker to minister life-altering truth into her life. This eternity-changing impact happens regularly here.

Our friend and ministry partner, whose path led to eternal glory, recognized the impact Riverside has. He graciously left a portion of his earthly resources to be reinvested in the lives of others.

...That is the true beauty of Riverside...

God takes an individual who finds himself navigating an unexpected path through the “new normal” and uses him to generously provide for continued ministry in the lives of others, like our young camper. What a wonderful and powerful impact now, and who knows the lives that this young girl may impact in the future.

We are so thankful for our friend, who is now in God's presence, and for you. Thank you for the time you are taking to be informed about how the Lord is using Riverside. There are many ways you can be involved as we enter another season of ministry. Please consider joining us in prayer, financial support, by filling a volunteer need, or in some other way. You can be a part of the life changing impact that the Lord is orchestrating right here at Riverside. ■



Marriage Café March 1st

By: Elyse Erdahl, Admin. Assistant

Eight couples came to Riverside for a date night filled with encouragement. Jason and Toni Butz graciously spoke to the participants about the struggles they've experienced in their marriage and how God brought them to a place of healing and growth. Together, they overcame addiction and became intentional about raising their children in a Christ-centered home. In addition to receiving advice for how to work through marital struggles in a healthy, Christ-centered way, the couples also giggled their way through a lesson in communication. One spouse received a picture and was tasked with describing it to the other, whose job it was to draw the picture based solely on the verbal description. When it came time to reveal what had been drawn, raucous laughter filled the Retreat Center. As it turns out, quality communication can be more difficult than we often think.

The romantic ambiance, the table for two, the cream puffs and coffee all made this a memorable night out for each of the attending couples. With free childcare also provided on site, what is keeping you from registering for our next Marriage Café on Tuesday, March 29th? ■



New Year's Eve 2021

By: Elyse Erdahl, Admin. Assistant

December 31st is a highly anticipated day for many at Riverside. We cannot imagine a better way to ring in the New Year than by being surrounded with family, friends, games, and fireworks. It truly is a "fun for all ages" evening. Whether you're fond of puzzles, board games, card games or even billiards, Riverside's New Year's Eve party will have something for you to enjoy! Somehow, even with 80+ people coming and going throughout the evening, the whole event exuded the feeling of a fun-filled, family gathering.

The younger children were able to enjoy time at the craft table making colorful party hats and creatively decorating baubles. At ten o'clock, they were treated to a balloon drop which kept them



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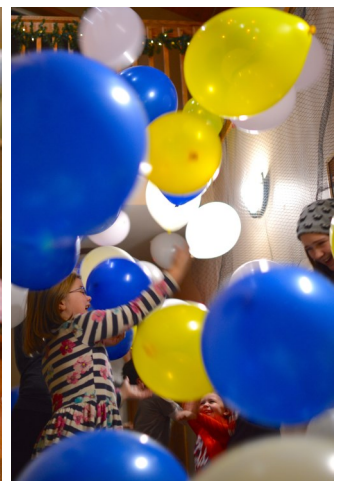
Riverside sends out a monthly update called the Riverside RoundUp. If you're not receiving it, you may need to add office@riversidebiblecamp.org to your contact list. The RoundUp is a great way to see the latest happenings here at camp and also get easy access to online registration and more! We don't want you to miss out, so sign up for the RoundUp on our website, www.riversidebiblecamp.org, and stay in the loop with all things Riverside.



entertained long after the balloons fell. Older kids (and a few adventurous adults) braved the cold and battled on the broomball court, taking breaks to come in and warm up with something tasty from the hot chocolate bar and snack tables.

Everyone who was able to stay awake until midnight was rewarded with a magnificent fireworks show fit to rival a 4th of July display.

This was my first New Year's Eve party at Riverside and I can no longer imagine spending it anywhere else. I learned a new game, met some new friends, and I'm already planning to spend December 31, 2022 at Riverside. Will you join in the fun? ■





RSI Training

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO THIS SUMMER? CHECK OUT OUR RSI PROGRAM AND TRAINING WEEKEND APRIL 1ST-3RD

Infuse/Ignite

By: Lucero Olson, Assistant Program Director

Riverside's winter youth retreats, Ignite and Infuse, were a wonderful time of Christian growth and fellowship for over 80 campers! The speaker for Ignite, Nick Hulce, spoke to the Junior High campers about not compromising with the world. He shared how to live in a world of sin while being a light for Christ and following His direction. Both groups also enjoyed some team competitions including forming a team name along with a cheer and clashing against each other in broomball. Aside from the competition, campers had many opportunities to drink hot chocolate, eat delicious meals and sweet snacks, engage in impromptu games in the loft, and have deep conversations with their cabin leaders and each other. We are confident that campers left feeling refreshed in spirit and renewed in their faith. We hope that God and His love through Jesus' sacrifice was introduced to some who had never heard of His grace. ■



INFUSE attendees in February 2022

Elevate

By: Tessa Olson, Farm Tech.

Elevate 2022 was a success! Elevate, previously known as The LIFT Retreat, was held January 14th to 16th and is our young adult's camp. Although this retreat is usually a smaller group, we were able to have a wonderful time of fellowship and fun. The four sessions throughout the weekend covered the book of Revelations and sparked many conversations and thoughts.

This retreat is programmed in a way to give a lot of free time. Oftentimes, young adults are surrounded by busy schedules and little rest time. By providing an entire afternoon of unstructured time, the young adults were able to relax and connect with one another on Riverside's beautiful property. We are more than happy to provide a space for this to happen.

For some, the broomball rink sounded like the best place to bond with one another so they took to the ice! They formed teams and battled it out for hours - with breaks for hot chocolate and coffee, of course!

For a large group game on Saturday morning, we played a survival scenario game. The goal of the game was to come up with the best plan to survive a ridiculous scenario and present it to the group. The catch was that they had to use three objects (which they raced the other teams to pick out) to help them survive. There was a lot of laughter and a lot of silly stories during that time. It was so fun to see each person's personality come out as they crafted their elaborate stories.

We are truly blessed to be able to learn about and worship God while growing closer together here at Riverside. ■

Did you know?

Our generous donors have the option to designate special gifts directly to our various programs. Would you prayerfully consider supporting our LIFT program? You can help young adults spend part of their summer serving here in full-time ministry. Simply write "LIFT" in the memo line of your gift and you will be helping a mission-minded young adult be a part of our incredible ministry here at Riverside for the months of June and July.



Elevate attendees in January 2022

Stewardship

Sustaining Riverside Financial Report: 2021-2022 (as of March 18, 2022)

YEAR TO DATE | BUDGET

General Fund Income	\$ 198,666.27	\$ 150,000
General Fund Expense	\$ 211,322.32	\$ 150,000
Current Deficit	\$ -12,656.05	

Financial Facts

- ◆ A week of camp at Riverside costs students \$185-\$235.
- ◆ The national average for a week of summer camp is almost \$800.
- ◆ We are blessed with many volunteers whose help keeps Riverside affordable.
- ◆ 75% of Riverside's financial support is provided by our faithful, generous donors.

*"I will give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High."
Psalm 7:17*

A note about the General Fund...

You may be wondering what exactly is included in the 'general fund' displayed above. Our General Fund Income is derived from donors and rental income. Our General Fund Expenses pay for our fixed overhead costs such as insurance, licensing fees, utilities and the like.

God is the Provider

By: Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

God has promised to meet all our needs - in Christ Jesus. We don't **earn** anything in and of ourselves. We, as Christ followers, work as an expression of our desire to do what He wants us to do, and God provides - the strength, the job, the salary, the wisdom, all we need. We share what God is doing in the world, and He provides for His work to be done. He provides the workers to do the work; He provides the resources so that the work can be accomplished. He uses *us*, but it is all about *Him*. ■

What does God say?

Meditate on James 1:17, II Chron. 1:11-12, Proverbs 8:18-22, I Chron. 29:11-16, II Cor. 9:10,11

A Burning Need

By: Elyse Erdahl, Admin. Assistant



When the beautiful Hebron Retreat Center was constructed in 2009, a cost-effective way to heat the building through the winter was necessary. One of Riverside's core values is to provide a cost-compassionate camp experience.

Unfortunately, heating the building exclusively with LP would not allow us to keep our rental fees at the level we'd like. Thankfully, the Lord provided a pre-owned, outdoor wood burning furnace. That trusty furnace has been working tirelessly (as has Brian, our caretaker!), winter after winter, to keep the retreat center nice and cozy. While it has served us faithfully for the past 13 years, in January of this year it sadly broke beyond repair.

We are grateful to have a replacement model ordered, though it is unlikely that it will be delivered by the end of this cold season. God is faithful and has already provided a portion of the cost for the new furnace. We trust that He will raise the remaining \$10,000 still required to fully fund this great need.

Please partner with us in prayer as we await His perfect provision.

*"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."
-Philippians 4:19* ■



Riverside-on-the-Road Kickoff

By: Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

Riverside Bible Camp Connections had its first meeting in Bark River, Michigan in early January. The evening in the UP was spent getting acquainted – or reacquainted – and sharing stories of our times at Riverside. It was a great time of fellowship and encouragement.

RBC Connections is a network of people who have attended Riverside sometime in the past – either as campers, volunteers, or staff. Camping experiences of childhood and youth have proven to be very central to a person’s spiritual development and, often, to the choice of how they then live as adults. These gatherings are designed to bring members together in geographical clusters and to hear these stories.

The purpose of RBC Connections is to reconnect with each other and with the ministry of Riverside. There are several objectives:

- Seeing and interacting with individuals who have a shared experience centered around camping and Riverside;
- Energizing and encouraging attendees by sharing memories of what Riverside meant in their own lives;
- Equipping attendees to feel more confident to share the opportunities available at Riverside with their “circle of influence” by being better informed.

Riverside-on-the-Road, the name for the regional get-togethers, met in the Chicago area in March and will be in Minnesota in April. Check the website tab “RBC Connections” for more information and to keep abreast of new events. If you would like a meeting in your area, or if you have any questions about membership, please contact connections@riversidebiblecamp.org.



Riverside-on-the-Road in Bark River, MI in January 2022



RBC Connections Homecoming Camp

By: Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

We are excited to announce that from July 24-30, 2022, Riverside will be hosting Homecoming Camp. This unique camp is for adults who have experienced Riverside in the past – either as campers, staff, or volunteers – and who may or may not still be currently connected to Riverside.

The focus of the week will be reconnecting with each other and to the ministry of the camp. The programming will be minimal, with much time given to getting reacquainted, sharing memories of the past, and being refreshed. Don Shire will be with us for part of the week, sharing his musical talent and his missionary ministry in Haiti. Matt Rose from Voice of the Martyrs will also be coming to participate. As a former camper and staff member, Matt has a strong personal connection with Riverside. There will be daily devotions led by various Riverside “alumni” and nightly events. Afternoons will be free for fellowship, exploring the camp and the area, or even taking a nap!

We are working on the cost, keeping it minimal. (No one should be kept away because of the cost.) Housing will be limited, so you will want to register early. There will be the option of coming with a camper or RV. Plan to attend. Contact the people you went to camp with and haven’t been able to see; spend the week together here with us at Riverside.

Check out the website and register for Homecoming Camp at www.riversidebiblecamp.org. Still need to register as a member of RBC Connections? Go to the “RBC Connections” tab on the top right to enroll and find updated information about Homecoming Camp and other RBC Connections events.

Contact connections@riversidebiblecamp.org if you have any questions.

GRIT

MENS RETREAT

March 25-26th, 2022

Cost: \$55

Ages: 16+

PERSISTENTLY PURSUING CHRIST



SPRING 2022

MARRIAGE CAFE

March 29th & April 26th



childcare provided

The Heart of a Pioneer Woman

Pursuing the heart of God

Date: April 30th, 2022

8:00am-5:00pm

Cost: \$75

Age: Women of all Ages

Registration opens March 20th



SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Pancake Breakfast

MAY 28TH, 2022

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

- Free Pancakes
- Farm Tours
- Face Painting
- Pony Rides
- Farm Games
- Pet the Animals
- Camp Tours

Events

Mark your calendars...

GRIT Men's Retreat _____ March 25-26th, 2022

Marriage Café _____ March 29th, and April 26th, 2022

RSI Training Camp _____ April 1-3rd, 2022

The Heart of a Pioneer Woman _____ April 30th, 2022

Work Day _____ May 14th, 2022

Spring Open House and Pancake Breakfast _____ May 28th, 2022

VBS and Day Camp _____ June 13-17th, 2022

Family Fun Night _____ June 17th, 2022

Senior High Camp _____ June 19-25th, 2022

RBC Connections Homecoming Camp _____ July 24-30th, 2022

TREK Teen Adventure Camp _____ July 26-31st and August 7-12th, 2022

Adventure Camp _____ July 6-8th, 2022

Junior Camp _____ July 10-15th, 2022

Junior High Camp _____ July 17-22nd, 2022

Summer Family Camp _____ August 19-21st, 2022

Harvest Family Camp _____ September 30-October 2nd, 2022

Fellowship Supper and Celebration Service _____ October 1st, 2022

Lumberjack Day _____ October 15th, 2022

Craft Camp _____ October 14-16th, 2022

Christmas Open House _____ December 1st, 2022

New Year's Eve Party _____ December 31st, 2022



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Riverside Reader

RIVERSIDE'S MOST WANTED LIST

- PTO Driven Generator (35,000 watt)
- Small Kitchen Wash Cloths
- Paint Brushes (Assorted Sizes)
- A Lapel Mic for Guest Speakers
- 1/2 inch Battery Impact Driver
- Funds for Archery Targets & Backstop Netting
- Wooden Bench Swings
- New Box Fans
- Kitchen Oven Mitts
- Electric Upright Piano
- Scuba Tanks for Paintball

Over the years, many in-kind donations have been made to Riverside. These gifts are a wonderful blessing to the ministry and provide needed resources.

Please check our list of current needs, and if you can help with an item or provide funds to purchase it, let us know!