

Living Waters Camp and Conference Center

As most people are aware, Joni Hufford stepped down as administrator of the camp, after serving for nineteen years. We reached a point where it was not sustainable to afford employing both an administrator and a caretaker. It is very important to have someone living on site and we had gone for a year without a fulltime caretaker. Joni and her husband Rob were trying to do the caretaker work and handle the office duties. They realized they could not continue this long term and since they did not live on site we had no security or facility supervision.

Joni suggested that we make a change and hire a fulltime caretaker and that she would resign her position as she felt it was time for her to move on. On November 1, 2019 Mr. Nick Burkett, from Martinsburg, became our new caretaker and moved into the red house. He has quickly learned the facilities and the operation of Living Waters. We appreciate that Joni and Rob volunteered their time in making this a very smooth transition.

With Joni's departure the board of directors have become more involved and taken on the responsibilities of the day to day operation. Administration of the camp is being handled by Rev. Jay Shaffer, Board Chair from Shanksville, and Chelsea Neatrou, Board Secretary, from Imler. Chelsea also oversees the Program Committee. Larry Hay, Vice Chair, from Berlin, heads the Property Committee and is working with Nick on long range plans. Erin Brouse, from Bedford, handles the kitchen staff and schedule. Jeff Brumbaugh, from Martinsburg is working on upgrades to signage and grounds. Other Board members are volunteering time and talent where needed.

Our future looks very bright with more user groups coming to Living Waters. This year we have four weeks of camp instead of three. To save money we are using more technology to inform of activities and handle camp registrations. Of course, paper registrations are available upon request. In addition to our regular camp schedule we will be hosting Bedford Camp Cadet, The Presbyterian TYC Camp, the New Testament Church Camp, Bedford Relay for Life, and The Pennsylvania Game Commission South Central Training Conference. We continue to host Treas Dias four weekends a year, the quilters group three weekends a year and many church retreats, picnics, and family reunions.

This summer will be very busy, and we are now working with the Bedford Chamber of Commerce, who are interested in using Living Waters for events. Our financial situation is very good thanks to the many churches who have sent donations. Of course, we are always in need of volunteers to help with grounds keeping and in the kitchen. Those coming to camp will notice changes in the lodge and dining hall. We are working hard at upgrading the facilities and plan on building a new retreat center in the next year to replace cabins one and two which are deteriorating.

Please take time to visit Living Waters. You can help by encouraging children and youth to attend a camp. Our fees are reasonable and there is scholarship money available through the Deaner, Westcoat, Thomas, and Wagner scholarship accounts. We have a bright future ahead and appreciate the support of everyone in the Penn West Conference.

Living Waters Supporters

These donors will be recognized in the Dining Hall this summer

Brush Creek Salem	St. John's – Mount Pleasant
Denmark Manor – Export	St. Paul's – Somerset
First Ebensburg	St. Peter's – Pittsburgh
First Millvale	Trinity – Berlin
Grace – Jeanette	Trinity – Friend's Cove
Penn West Conference	Trinity – Greenfield, Imler
St. John's – Evan City	Trinity – Greensburg
St. John's Harrold	Trinity – Manns Choice
St. John's Laughlintown	Unity – Shanksville
St. Paul's – Imler	

Living Waters Board of Directors

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If you are interested in helping Living Waters in any way contact Rev. Shaffer