



AROUND THE BEND

Riverbend

a place of refuge



Mission Statement Clarifies Ministry

A year ago, this past January, the Board and Staff developed a new mission statement that has brought clarity and focus to the ministry of Riverbend. We have been studying and praying over what this means to Riverbend and would now like to share it with you:

"Riverbend provides a place of refuge where people experience Christ."

As we spent time thinking and praying about Riverbend's role in the body of Christ, we realized that God has given us a special place with a special purpose. We recognized how desperately we all need a place of rest, a place of renewal, a place of hope. We considered all the life stories of how time spent here has provided this kind of experience for so many over the years.

The following verses spoke to us about the need, and the invitation to take refuge in God:



2 Samuel 22:33 "This God is my strong refuge and has made my way blameless. He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights."

Psalms 34:22 "The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned."

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Alton Belew
Executive Director

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Our prayer is that this statement will mean more than words on our new logo (**shown above**) to you. We hope that you will experience the Lord here at Riverbend and know the rest, renewal and hope that we have in Christ!

Resting in Him,
Alton

We love our Volunteer Groups!

We could not serve in the way we do without the willingness of volunteers to give of their time to work at Riverbend. We want to thank the following people for helping in 2014:

"Alliance Christian Academy, Baylor Religious Hour Choir, Betty Dovers, Builders for Christ, FBC Arlington, FBC Glen Rose, FBC Grapevine, FBC Rockwall, FBC White Settlement, Girometta Family, North Fort Worth Baptist Church, Oldham Family, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Rodriguez Family, South Oaks Baptist Church, Templeton Family, Texas Baptist Men Furniture Builders, Texas Baptist Men Camp Builders,



Smith Family, S.O.W.E.R.'s, Troop 1228, Travis Ave Baptist Church, Velma Edwards, Vilott Baptist Church, and Volunteer Christian Builders. Thanks also to our regular ongoing volunteers Helen and Thurman Oldham and Marvin and Dianna Stewart."



Become a Bend Staff

Enjoy an opportunity to serve God and campers this Summer!

Make friends and memories to last a lifetime!

For more information go to www.bendstaff.org or email bendstaff@riverbendretreat.org

Update on G. Rollie White Lodge

Texas Baptist Men, Volunteer Christian Builders, Builders for Christ and S.O.W.E.R.'s have done a great job getting the lodge in the dry. This 4 bedroom, 5 bath guest lodge is expected to be completed January 2016.



Tom Howe presents a \$40,000 check to Alton Belew.

Special Gift Given

Birdville Baptist Church, Tom Howe pastor, has given a special gift in honor of longtime pastor Dwaine Greene. This gift will go to building the Greene Cabin. This cabin will be a condo-style facility with a bedroom, living room, kitchen, and loft bedroom. Alton Belew said, "We are very thankful for Birdville and for Tom's leadership in this effort to honor Dwaine Greene. Birdville, under Dwaine's leadership, was instrumental in the camp's beginning almost 50 years ago."

Join Us for Our 5th Annual



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF
THESE EVENTS OR TO REGISTER,
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

www.riverbendretreat.org

or call

888-269-2363

or email

info@riverbendretreat.org

2015 Senior Adult Retreat

"GOD'S GREAT CREATION"

April 14, 2015

Guest Speaker



Carl Baugh
Founder and Director
of the
Creation Evidence Museum



www.riverbendretreat.org
888.269.2363

Music By



Mark Huitt

Host of
"The Saturday Morning
Gospel Music Show"



Put these on your calendar today!



Featuring Dreds & Company

MOTHER & DAUGHTER

RETREAT

September 25-26



ANNUAL MEN'S

Fish Fry &
Golf Tournament

Tuesday, October 6

(sign up for any event online)



FATHER & SON

**OUTPOST
ADVENTURE**

December 4-5

Hiking, campfire, archery
hearty meals & more!

SAVE THE DATE!

January 19, 2016

Ladies' Nite Out

Thank you to all who gave over \$249,000 to the ministry at the bend!

Individual Gifts

Dunni & Olayinka Adeyemo
Patrick & Julie Apperson
Steve & Rhonda Armstong
Corey Ash
Gloria Ayoade
Jeffrey & Julie Ball
Robert & Mildred Bartlett, Sr
Alton & Joy Belew
Jesse Benson
Stacey Brumm
Rex & Janice Bruton
Gerald & Joanna Cangemi
Perry Clark
Todd & Belinda Clift
Chuck & Sue Cospers
Joey & Leann Cruse
Homer & Toni Cuellar
Michael & Nan Dean
Emmett & Nancy Esters
Larry & Peggy Ferguson
Stanley & Norma Foskett
Wanda Fuller
Lamar & Barabra Griggs
Jim Groce
Michael & Deborah Hargis
Mark Harris
Glenn & Carol Hedgpeth
Karen Hise
Philip Holt
Thomas & Betty Hudgins
Danny Jones
Larry Jones
Harell & Vandaly Josey
Andrew Keeler
Sam & Kathy Kinnamon
Richard & Alice LaFlamme
Paul & D'Ann Laywell
Joe & Patricia Majors
Joe Martin
Ross Martin
Sharon Mayo
Dr. Calvin McKaig
David and Marcia McQuitty

Weldon James Moody
Joe Myers
Wesley & Cheryl Neely
Angela Nicholson
Tommy Ortiz
Ray & Sandra Parish
J. L. Parsons
Kenneth & Helen Patterson
Luke & Darby Pilgrim
Steve Pockluda
Allen & Greta Pullin
Troy & Rosa Ratteree
Darryl & Tracy Reeves
Rick Robb
Dick & Lynn Roberts
Don & Peggy Sharp
Allen Stahl
John & Ruth Ann Stalder
John Stanley
Nathan & Beth Stearns
Evan & Traci Stewart
Bobby & Glenda Strebeck
James Strong
William & Barbara Swank
Garry & Deborah Taylor
Regina Taylor
Jim Templeton
Jeff & Anita Threadgill
F. P. & Nancy Tohill
Rev. & Mrs. Charles Wade
George & Helen Waldrop
David White
Cal Williams
DeWayne & Freddie Williams
Doyle Winegeart
Ben & Marilyn Woolery
John & Leta Wright
Paul & Melanie Wright

Church Gifts

Ash Creek Baptist
Bear Valley Community
Birchman Baptist
Birdville Baptist

Bisbee Baptist
Calvary Baptist
Eagle Mountain Baptist
Eagle's Wing Baptist
FBC Arlington
FBC Benbrook
FBC Crowley
FBC Forest Hill
FBC Fort Worth
FBC Grapevine
FBC Hurst
FBC Keller
FBC Kennedale
FBC Lakeside
FBC Rockwall
FBC Saginaw
FBC Watauga
FBC White Settlement
Fellowship of Elite Worship
Garden Acres Baptist
Handley Baptist
Hope Community
Iglesia Bautista Getsemani
Lake Arlington Baptist
Lakeview Fellowship
Laotian Baptist
Mayfield Road Baptist
Meadow Lane Baptist
New Hope Baptist
North Euless Baptist
North Richland Hills Baptist
Oak Knoll Baptist
Primera Iglesia Bautista Azle
Richland Hills Baptist

Ridglea Baptist
River Oaks Baptist
Rose of Sharon Ministries
Saginaw Park Baptist
South Oaks Baptist
Springdale Baptist
Straight Street
Tate Springs Baptist
Terrace Acres Baptist
The Mount
Travis Avenue Baptist
University Baptist Arlington
University Baptist Fort Worth
Wedgwood Baptist
Williams Road Baptist
Woodland Heights Baptist
Woods Chapel Baptist
Connect
Connell Baptist

Corporate Gifts

Ben E. Keith Company
Christ for the Nations
G. Rollie White Foundation
Hibbs-Hallmark
MKS Natural Gas Co.
Philippe Lalonde
Pickens, Snodgrass, Koch & Co.
Quiksilver Resources Inc
Riverbend Preteens
Tarrant Baptist Association
Texas Baptist Men Volunteers
Trinity HPSI

Our Wish List

Overlook Decks • Rocking Chairs
Scripture Stones
Benches & Seating around Camp
Scissor Lift • Back Hoe
Ditch Witch or other trencher
Generators • Fire Hoses

*If you would like to make a Gift-in-kind donation,
contact Evan Stewart.*

The Riverbend Board of Directors is announcing a staff transition plan to begin in May.

Alton Belew, Executive Director of Riverbend for 20 years, will assume the role of Interim Advancement Director.



Brad Lambert, currently Operations Director, and on staff at Riverbend for 11 years, will assume the role of Interim Executive Director.

The plan also involves **Joy Belew** moving from Director to Administrative Director and **Evan Stewart** moving from

Administrative Director to the position of Operations Director.

The board and staff feel that this approach will put Riverbend in a position to further strengthen the ministry to over 27,000 campers and guests each year.

Brian Sepulveda, Board Chair, said, "We are indebted to Alton and Joy for their faithful and impactful service to our Lord at Riverbend these last 20 years. During their tenure one of the many ways they have impacted the ministry is by assembling and training up a wonderfully skilled leadership team that desires to serve people through camps and retreats. We are confident that this transition plan will utilize the gifts and experience of each of these individuals in a marvelous way and position Riverbend to continue to provide a place of refuge

where people can experience Christ for many more years!"

Alton and Joy Belew began their ministry here in 1994 with three full time staff members and 11,000 guests per year. God has blessed over the years as there are currently 18 full time staff members, 100+ summer staff and over 27,000 in annual attendance. In the role of Advancement Director, Alton will have the opportunity to advance Riverbend's ministry in the areas of fundraising, site and facilities design, staff development and mission camp support. Joy has served in virtually every position in her 20 years at Riverbend with the past 15 years serving as Administrative Director and Director. Joy's leadership in the administrative and business practices has been instrumental as Riverbend has grown.

Evan Stewart came on staff in 2007 as Accommodations Coordinator and has served as Reservations Coordinator and Food Service Director and most recently Administrative Director. His servant's heart and desire to see every area of ministry exceed guest's expectations will be wonderful assets as he serves as Operations Director. Evan is married to Traci and they have a two-year old son, Jordan.

Brad graduated from Wayland Baptist University and began his camp ministry career at Riverbend in 2000. He has served in the role of Guest Services Director and Operations Director. His leadership, passion for serving guests with excellence and desire to see people come to Christ is evident to all who know him. Brad and his wife, Nadia, have two sons, Ben (10) and Ethan (8).

Staff Update



We would like to welcome back to Riverbend **Kris Hodges**. Kris has served as summer staff and retreat intern in the past but is returning full-time as Grounds Coordinator. Kris is engaged to Taylor Shutter, another former summer staffer whom he met at Riverbend. They will wed April 11th at the bend!

We also would like to welcome **Blythe Smith**, (not pictured) who is joining the team as Reservation Assistant. Blythe has worked for The Colony Parks department since 2006. Blythe is married to Tony and has four children: Danilee 25, Leilani 22, Shawn 19, and Noel 18. Her daughter Noel has served as summer and retreat staff for the past two years.

We want to thank **Nick Ferguson**, (not pictured) for his service to Riverbend. Nick is moving to ministry in the local church and we wish he and his family the best.



We also would like to welcome back **Thomas & Emily Lyons**. Thomas and Emily are also former summer staff who met at Riverbend! Thomas will serve as Maintenance Assistant and Emily as Reservation Assistant. Thomas has a degree from Liberty University and Emily has degrees from Hardin Simmons University and Liberty University. They have been married for two years.

We also want to welcome to the Riverbend team **Chris Dague** as Maintenance Director. Chris has served as Facility Director at El Porvenir Camp in New Mexico for the past 7 years. He is married to Cari and they have three daughters: Madison 9, Morgan 7, and Makenzie 5.



We want to announce **Lucas Bishop**, (not pictured) will be assuming the role of Program Director and Summer Staff Coordinator. Lucas has worked at Riverbend for the past four years and most recently in the role of Maintenance Director.



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email the staff by:
firstname@riverbendretreat.org

riverbendretreat.org



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Riverbend provides a place of refuge where people experience Christ.

2015 Summer Camps

JUNE 4-8

First Baptist Church Arlington Preteens

JUNE 8-12

First Baptist Church Arlington Youth

JUNE 12-16

Kidz @ Kamp 1 Preteens

JUNE 16-20

Tarrant Youth hosted by Ash Creek BC Youth

JUNE 22-26

NRHBC (Kids Camp) Preteens

JUNE 26-30

Faith Baptist Church Youth

JULY 1-5

Metro Preteens

JULY 5-9

IN the ZONE Youth

JULY 9-13

Wired Middle School

Kidz @ Kamp 3 Preteens

JULY 13-17

Riverbend Preteens

JULY 17-21

Lake Pointe Church Preteens

JULY 21-25

Tarrant G.A.'s Girl's Camp Girls

JULY 21-25

R.A.'s Boys' Camp Boys

JULY 26-30

Kidz @ Kamp 2 Preteens

JULY 30-AUGUST 3

M.A.D. Camp Preteens

AUGUST 3-7

Lake Arlington Baptist Church Preteens