

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." James 1:17 NKJV

Truly, God has been good to Shocco Springs. His provision of resources has enabled us to be a conference and retreat center, intentionally set apart to facilitate life changing events in the lives of the over 40,000 guests we serve each year.

This year we celebrate 75 years of ministry since, under the direction of Dr. George Bagley, Shocco's original 40 acres, 3 hotels and 14 cottages were purchased for \$62,500 in late 1947. The buildings were in a decrepit state, but repairs were made and the first conference was held in 1948. Since that time, Shocco's property has increased to over 900 acres with modern lodging, dining and recreation options that will accommodate up to 1400 people.

Shocco's staff works hard to improve and modernize the buildings and campus in order to meet the changing needs of our guests. This year, following in the footsteps of Bagley Center's 1st and 2nd floors, our 3rd floor has received a facelift. All meeting rooms have new carpet, new lighting and fresh paint. The hallway floors have been refinished in concrete and we've added new updated signage.

Also in Bagley Center, we have completed the improvements to the old bookstore space located to the right of the porch. This large area has been divided into two definitive rooms--a Shocco staff board room and an overflow dining area for guests.

Shocco Inn's renovations are finally completed with all three floors of guest rooms beautifully remodeled to include modernized bathrooms. In the common area, we added a kitchenette with a coffee maker, microwave, cabinets and a refrigerator for guests to use.

The most excitement from guests has been over the new swimming pool. Last summer we became aware of extensive and irreparable damages. Our old pool had to be dug out and we built a new, modernized and extended pool in its place. Our old pipes and filters were replaced with a more efficient, state of the art infrastructure. Our pool deck has increased seating capacity and our old chain link fence has been replaced by a more secure, solid wall enclosure.

We added an entirely new beach front section with zero-entry access, transforming our "L" shaped pool into a larger capacity "U" shape. Guests have enjoyed the addition of two thrilling water slides, along with dump buckets and a spray bar. There are now bubbler and jet features in the walls of the pool, and nighttime swimmers are entranced by the LED colored pool lights.

We are so thankful that God continues to use the ministry of Shocco Springs as He works in the lives of the thousands who come through our campus each year. As always, The Board of Trustees and Shocco staff are deeply appreciative to Alabama Baptists for using our facilities, praying for us, partnering financially, making contributions of time and talent, and especially with gifts through the Cooperative Program. May God be glorified and honored through lives He continues to change on the Shocco campus.

To find out more about how you can experience Shocco, visit our website at <u>www.shocco.org</u>. Call us at 256-761-1100 to schedule a tour and talk with us about bringing your church group for a retreat or conference.