



Working together until Metro Richmond is...

TRANSFORMED

River City Faith Network 2.0

Last month I wrote about “Moving with God.” Our ministry is on the move. We expect to close the sale of 3111 Moss Side Avenue the week of May 1. By mid-May we plan to relocate our offices to 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Henrico.

Mike Robinson led River City Faith Network for ten years. Now our ministry finds itself between what we have known and what we will discover. Our Board of Directors has engaged the services of Dr. Jim Hamacher to lead a process of discovery. As we assess RCFN’s strengths and limitations, God may lead us to discover potential new ministries while we strengthen our core ministries. The process of discovery will also help our Board of Directors discern God’s direction for RCFN as they prepare to search for RCFN’s next leader.



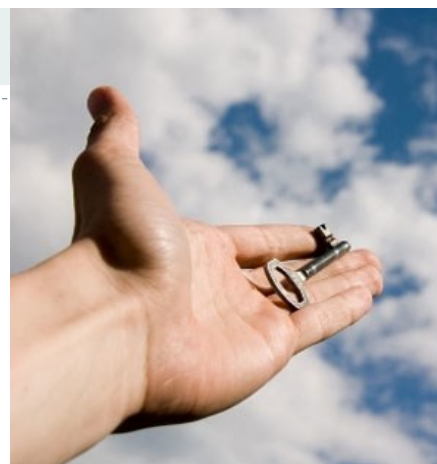
Where will we begin? We will begin with prayer. Dr. Hamacher has asked us to form a team to pray and lead the rest of us to pray for God to reveal what we and our directors need to know as we look to the future. Mary Palmer and our WMU will help us as we support the process of discovery with our prayers.

We will ask questions. As the process develops we will ask you to help answer some of those questions. The process will engage a cross-section of church leaders and church members from RCFN affiliated congregations. Questions will appear in online surveys, and you can help RCFN leaders by completing the survey online.

The process will include virtual and in-person settings where church leaders and church members of RCFN affiliates can share their observations and ideas about RCFN with one another. We also hope to engage other community leaders who may help us see ourselves and those around us differently.

Part of our discovery process will include a review of RCFN’s organization, governance, staff positions, and financial support. Our board will appoint a team to review, refine, or recommend changes in each of these areas. This also highlights a specific area that needs your prayers. Our church leaders can only estimate how our churches will recover as we return to life that looks more normal than it has looked during the pandemic. RCFN leaders rely on our churches for answers to questions about participation and support. We will not know how participation and giving patterns may have changed in time for Dr. Hamacher’s report.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTE

RCFN Board Meeting
 May 25, 3:30 p.m.
 Skipwith Baptist Church

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK May 2021

5/2–Derbyshire Baptist
 5/9–Derbyshire Cambodian
 5/16–First Baptist
 5/23–First Union Baptist
 5/30–Friendship Memorial

Rev. Billy Davis served on our staff. We learned that Billy’s wife Linda died in April. Please remember him and the family in your prayers. You may send a card to Billy and family at:

*322 Monroe Drive
 West Palm Beach, FL 33405*

WMU—Mother and Lifeline of RCFN Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana

The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of Richmond has a long, rich history of organizing, supporting, praying, and volunteering. The women of WMU have promoted the Gospel and served "the least of these" across and beyond the greater Richmond area. Cooperation between the very first Baptist churches in the city started with activities promoted or led by the so-called "weaker sex." From then until now, the women in our churches have shown their true grit, vigor, and strength!!

The WMU of Richmond sprouted as the Richmond Baptist Female Missionary Society in 1813, the first such missionary society among Virginia Baptists and the second among Baptist women in the South. The organization has used different names in its more than 200 years. Today we know it as the WMU of River City Faith Network.

In 1914 Richmond Baptist women were the guiding force in opening the first "Good Will Center." They named it The House of Happiness. Nannie West, a Richmond Baptist and graduate of the WMU Training School served as its first director. Now Community Missionary Glinda Ford serves as the director of the ministry we call the Church Hill Christian Wellness Center. It is the oldest Baptist Center in the Southern Baptist Convention.

West started a ministry program at The House of Happiness in 1915. She took a group of girls on their first camping expedition. That trip planted the seed that grew into Camp Alkulana. A century later Camp Alkulana is the oldest functioning overnight camp in Virginia. About 200 children hear the Gospel, have fun, and discover nature every summer thanks to Richmond Baptist women who had and continue to have a heart for the children of our city! Community Missionary Beth Wright serves as the camp's director.

Until Richmond Baptist Association formed in 1951, the women of Richmond WMU were members of churches in Dover and Middle District Baptist Associations. The Middle District Woman's Missionary Union started the South Richmond Baptist Center in 1937. In 1940, the Richmond City Circle women's group took ownership of the center, and Elizabeth Campbell became its first full-time director. Wesley Garrett directs the center's ministry today.

Richmond Baptist Women led in opening another Good Will Center in 1940. The Cary Street Center served the neighborhood of Oregon Hill. First Minnie Stinnett and later Viola Saunders directed that center's ministry. In 1974 the name was changed to the Oregon Hill Baptist Center where I serve as the Community Missionary.

Richmond Baptists would go on to establish two other Good Will Centers, the Fulton Center in 1945 and the Hillside Center in 1956. Now closed, the missionaries who directed the ministries of these centers served the needs of generations in their communities thanks to the support of the local WMU.



Richmond WMU women have always supported and promoted mission work in their churches, metro Richmond, our state, our nation, and the world. They volunteer, raise funds, share their faith, provide for the lost and less fortunate, and continually share the needs of missionaries. They continue to be a vital factor in the cooperative effort of River City Faith Network churches as we work together in mission endeavors—especially the mission endeavors of our three Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana!



Each month current WMU groups in RCFN churches have Mission Involvement assignments they promote in their churches to benefit the ministries of the centers and camp. You may have collected food for center pantries, packed a backpack with school supplies, or purchased toys and clothes for parents to buy for their children at our Christmas stores. Maybe bought bug spray or sunscreen for camp. If you helped our ministry through donating a sleeping bag or some warm clothes to share with the homeless.

You can thank WMU women—past, present, and future—that your congregation may partner with others in local missions. Hearts and hands together, we help people in some of Richmond's poorest communities experience God's love.

Over the years the form of the WMU in some of our churches has changed. Some WMU groups now include men. Some groups connect virtually. These mission groups may be called by other names (e.g., mission committees). Some have even formed joint groups made up of members from different churches. Most of these groups all trace their mission endeavors to WMU.

Recognize and thank these important female leaders in your church. They have given Christ countless hours of loving, faithful service in support of missions! Those of us who serve at our Baptist centers and Camp Alkulana are forever grateful for all they do!

You and others in your church may get more involved in missions. Mary Palmer leads WMU for River City Faith Network, and she would love to help you learn how. Call Mary at 804-338-7416, and she will be excited to connect you with available opportunities.

—Jennifer Turner

Oregon Hill Baptist Center Opportunities to Help

Can you help? We need • Men's athletic shoes (especially size 10-10½) • Rain ponchos • Pocket-sized bottles of hand sanitizer • Quarters for our Laundry Ministry • Ink for our office printer • Packed snack bags for the homeless • People like you to volunteer

Please call Jennifer Turner, 804-648-1353, for details.

River City Faith Network 2.0 *(continued from Page 1)*

A process like this could take longer, but we want to move quickly. Our board wants Dr. Hamacher to report the results by late summer. We expect to hold our annual meeting on Sunday, October 17. (Mark your calendar!) Dr. Hamacher's report may suggest actions that require our board's approval and/or a vote of messengers at our annual meeting. We will want to share proposed actions in advance of the annual meeting if we can. Also, our board wants to begin the search process as soon as possible after we get the results from our discovery process.

Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." The RCFN directors and staff members ask you to join us as we commit this discovery process to the Lord. God has assigned us the roles and ministries that have brought RCFN this far. We expect God to direct us and to establish the plans God will lead us to discover.

Even though you have enough to fill your hours, please give this discovery process your attention. As an opportunity to take part comes your way, make it a personal priority. Pray, respond, and take part. Together, we will discover God's plans and keep on "working together until Metro Richmond is transformed!"

—Steve
Allsbrook



Worship in Person

Some churches have or plan to have in-person services. The following RCFN churches now offer in-person services:

Carlisle Avenue Baptist
Derbyshire Baptist
First Baptist
Gayton Baptist
Hatcher Memorial Baptist
Pine Street Baptist
River Road (Baptist)
Second Baptist
Stockton Memorial Baptist
Swift Creek Baptist
The Light Community
Westover Baptist
Woodland Heights Baptist

See church websites for specific information about attending



COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The Virginia Department of Health has posted a link to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine.

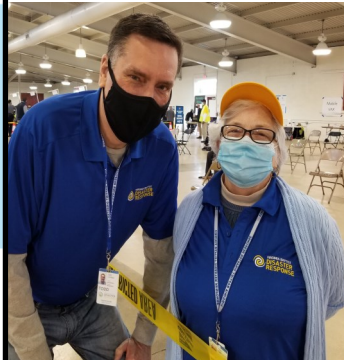
For more information go to:
<https://vaccinate.virginia.gov>

SRBC

South Richmond Baptist Center helps the lost and the least that live in South Richmond.

PANDEMIC

Our neighbors have struggled to put food on their tables. Last month, many lost electricity and had a difficult time replacing the food they lost. Your prayers and gifts help feed them.



SENIORS

Please pray for our Bible Study members. They have missed meeting in person. Few have the tools and skills to meet virtually. Pray God will help them as we try to stay together.

EMPLOYMENT

The youth and young adults of our community need jobs. We have helped with PPE supplies for those working or seeking employment. Ask God to open doors to the work they need.



OUTREACH



Along with your prayers and gifts, we need your time and talents. We have damaged gutters to repair or replace. We have "EXIT" signs to install. We need help with drainage around the ministry center. Can you help?

As at other times, Virginia Baptist Disaster Response volunteers have answered the call to help during COVID-19, even supporting metro Richmond's COVID vaccination events at Richmond Raceway. Keep up the great work!

Follow us on Facebook at River City Faith Network for the latest updates or see our website:
www.richmondbaptist.org

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Richmond, VA 23222
Phone: 804-329-1701
office@rbaonline.org
www.richmondbaptist.org

Electronic Service Requested

*Working together until
Metro Richmond is...*

TRANSFORMED



THE **River**
City FAITH
NETWORK
Richmond Baptist Association

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

RICHMOND, VA.

Permit No. 3022

Church Hill Christian Wellness Center

**We have reopened
our Clothes Closet
and need
men's clothes!**

- Men's pants, sizes 36 to 40 (especially jeans and khakis)
- Men's long-sleeved shirts (not dress shirts or tees at this time)
- Men's shoes, sizes 9 to 11
- Work boots

**Call Glinda Ford
for details,
804-780-0053**

Camp Alkulana—Preparing for Campers, *Safely!*

Campers are Coming! Help Camp Alkulana get ready for this summer!

We need several specialty items to help us run camp with safe COVID practices, and some regular camp items too! We have a full wishlist on Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1L96ZFZBBE0SZ?ref=wl_share) or search online for Camp Alkulana's wishlist.

Some wishlist items include:

- Laundry detergent
- Hand sanitizer (all sizes from 2 ounces to 1 gallon)
- Hand soap (8 oz. pumps or refills)
- Disinfectant wipes
- Disposable face masks
- Face shields
- Citronella candles
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen

