

Working together until Metro Richmond is...

TRANSFORMED



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Noteworthy Dates

Camp Alkulana Peer Program
December 5, 2021 3– 4:30 pm

CAST Meeting
December 14, 2021
RCFN Office 3 p.m.

RCFN Office Closed
December 24-31, 2021

Christmas Store Sharing Day
Church Hill–12/4/21
Oregon Hill BC–12/3-12/4/21
South Richmond–12/2-12/3/21

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK

December 2021
12/5–Saint Paul's Elm St.
12/12–Shalom Fellowship
12/19–Skipwith Baptist
12/26–All RCFN Churches



Check out the RCFN Annual Meeting reports and photos
www.richmondbaptist.org

Unto Us
a Child is Born



Isaiah announced God's promise to people walking in darkness

That promise rose like the sun
on people living in the land of the shadow of death

When God fulfilled that promise,
God's Word came as a child in the flesh,
a child in whom was Life
that was the Light for all people,
for us and for others

As you go, tell that Good News to everyone!
Tell them Jesus Christ is born!

God bless you this Christmas and in the year to come!

Jennifer, Glinda, Wesley, Beth, SaraAnne, Jo Ellen and Steve

'Tis the Season, Every Season

At the publishing of this "Transformed," Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Christmas is fast approaching! Especially around these holidays it feels so good to gather with family and friends. Thank goodness, now that many have been vaccinated against COVID-19, we may once again enjoy the company of others and with less fear that we might spread the virus to them or catch it from them.

I feel fortunate that all my siblings and their families live in the Richmond area. But, even living so close, it is hard for us all to find the time to get together amidst our busy schedules. My husband Philip's family all live in North Carolina. The distance presents even more of a challenge to spending time together. Still, at Thanksgiving and Christmas we all put in the extra effort so we can enjoy two separate, very large family gatherings! Of course, there is lots of food to enjoy and gifts exchanged, but the real joy comes in being together!

After my mother passed away in 2015, my siblings and I decided it was more important than ever for us to make the effort to see each other on a regular basis. We do not want to drift apart. Every month we have sibling-and-spouse gatherings. It might involve a meal or a game night, but whatever we do the real joy comes from being together! We enjoy our larger family gatherings around the holidays, but, for me, the monthly time we spend with each other is where the real work of relationship building and relationship keeping takes place.

In River City Faith Network we have another kind of family that comes together. Around this time especially, the hearts of this family's members swell with generosity and the desire to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

We come together as volunteers. We donate food and gifts. Maybe the needs seem more obvious around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Wesley Garrett, Glinda Ford, and I see many of our neighbors who need food, clothing, shelter, and more year after year.

There are many people in need, and it does all our hearts good to know that we might have a part in making their lives a bit better in some way. This time of year the requests for assistance increase significantly. We who serve as your community missionaries thank you for your help. Together, we are the hands and feet of Jesus touching our neighbors, putting things they need into their hands, and feeding their souls.

Glinda, Wesley, and I can tell you some of their stories. As our world reopens, we might even get to introduce you to some of the people God sends our way.

Paul told the Christians in Ephesus that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). I hope every one who gives something—food, clothing, money, or any other thing—knows the blessing of giving.

Without doubt, we depend on your donations. We also depend on the other gifts every volunteer puts in the hands of Jesus when they donate their time and other resources. Some use their vehicle to deliver donated things or give

their time at our ministry centers serving alongside me or Glinda or Wesley in a variety of ways. Wesley said, "Volunteers are the backbone of the South Richmond Center's ministry (as well as the other centers' ministries)."

I would not want to overlook those who devote themselves to praying for us and the people to whom we minister. Thank you for your prayers! Whatever one gives, we want each giver to receive the blessing that comes with their giving.

Wesley, Glinda, and I have served as your community missionaries for years. Each of us has heard over and over how our volunteers know the blessings of giving. They say things like "It did my heart good" or "It was such a blessing!" Time and again volunteers say, "I think I got more out of it than those we served."

The giver also receives. That is one of God's miracles. We give, and we get too.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we discontinued our in-person volunteer help at our centers. Those we serve

Volunteers gave time and talents to sew Nativity Play costumes (below)



This volunteer installs an Exit sign



Two of the costumes for the Nativity

missed the smiling faces, encouraging words, hugs, and prayers they received from our volunteers! Now we are finally turning a corner. As things open up, we look forward to welcoming the past volunteers and hope to meet new volunteers too.

We anticipate meeting more people and learning about their needs in the year to come. We

pray God will also send volunteers and donors to help meet the needs.

The Bible says we should work together. "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor" (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

What might you share this year? Do you have some time you could give? Whatever your talents or skill level, one of our community ministry centers or Camp Alkulana might have a need you could help fill. (FYI, the camp has started a local program this year that works with campers and their families.)

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Do you have resources? That could mean using your vehicle to help deliver things, giving money to buy things, or even connecting to a church or civic group that could help with food, clothing, or monetary gifts.

Would you pray for us and those we serve? I know you can. Would you? That takes some time. It also takes some awareness. Any of your River City Faith Network missionaries would welcome your questions about how you might support our work through *your* prayers.

The new year will bring us in contact with more people. As we learn about them we will learn about their needs. We pray God will also bring the donors and volunteers who, with us, touch our neighbors, put the things they need into their hands, and feed their souls.

I remember old saying, "Many hands make light work." We are better together, and, working together, we make everyone's burden lighter. Whatever the season, the joy comes in being together!

—Rev. Jennifer Turner, Community Missionary
Oregon Hill Baptist Center



Executive Search Begins—Call to Prayer

The Chairperson of River City Faith Network's Board of Directors has the responsibility to appoint an Executive Search Committee. At the Annual Meeting, Robert Thompson announced the following current and former Board members will serve on that committee:

- David Bailey, Minister (Grace)
- Phyllis Baskerville, Laywoman (Friendship Memorial)
- Joyce Clemmons, Laywoman (First)
- Bill Duganne, Minister (Stockton Memorial)
- Louis Jones, Minister (Gravel Hill)
- Richard Martin, Layman (Huguenot Road)
- Mary Palmer, Laywoman (First)
- Bill Rusher, Layman (River Road)
- Philip Turner, Minister (Pine Street)

The committee will have an orientation meeting on December 9. Pray for them, one and all, as they seek the leadership God will reveal to them and, through them, to the churches of River City Faith Network. Pray for the person God has already started to prepare and will call to serve here.



Volunteers deliver and share food with neighbors in need at the Centers



Dedication Service
at 3 p.m.
in the Chapel

2828 EMERYWOOD PKWY
RICHMOND, VA 23294

OPEN HOUSE & DEDICATION


JAN 30, 2022
2:30-4 P.M.

NOW HIRING

PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT OPENINGS IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY.
WWW.RICHMONDBAPTIST.ORG
CONTACT US TO SHARE YOUR OPENINGS WITH RCFN!



Deadline for 2021 Contributions

Thank you for your gifts to RCFN and its ministries! For 2021, contributions must be in the RCFN office not later than Wednesday, January 13, 2022. Checks must be dated no later than December 31, 2021. If mailed, envelopes must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2021.

River City Faith Network
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Electronic Service Requested

*Working together until
Metro Richmond is...*

TRANSFORMED
December 2021



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Richmond Baptist Association

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2022 RCFN Calendar Highlights– view www.RichmondBaptist.org for the latest information

January 2022

1/11/22–CAST Meeting
1/17/22–Martin Luther King, Jr. Day–Closed
1/18/22–OHST Meeting
1/20/22–Document Review Group
1/25/22–RCFN Board Meeting
1/30/22–RCFN Open House

February 2022

2/8/22–CAST Meeting
2/14/22–Camper Registration Opens
2/21/22–Presidents Day–Closed

March 2022

3/8/22–CAST Meeting
2/17/22–Document Review Group

April 2022

4/12/21–CAST Meeting
4/18/22–Easter Monday–Closed

May 2022

5/3/22–Endowment/Stewardship
Committees Joint Meeting
5/8-15/22–Week of Prayer
5/10/22–CAST Meeting
5/17/22–OHST Meeting
5/21/22–Camp Alkulana Workday
5/24/22–RCFN Board Meeting
5/30/22–Memorial Day–Closed

June 2022

6/4/22–Camp Alkulana Workday

