



February 2023

Working together until Metro Richmond is...

TRANSFORMED



A NOW FAITH VERSES A RESOLUTION

With the entrance of every new year, people start making New Year's resolutions. Friends, the media, newspapers and magazine articles, commercials, etc. freely offer their wonderful suggestions for New Year's resolutions such as weight loss programs, committing to healthy eating habits, daily exercising, regular meditation, and these are only a few of the popular ones but the list goes on and on. For me, making resolutions seems futile especially when ten times out of ten, I have never completed one and many times I don't even attempt to begin one. So as for me, I refuse to go through the process of coming up with resolutions, but I do consider thoughtfully that God has allowed

me to enter into a new year that can be a blessing or a curse. The year will be a curse if I choose to continue to remain in a slump and do ministry the same old way or a blessing by bringing about positive changes in the Well's ministries and in myself. Change can be frightening because the outcome cannot be predicted and doing something differently is not a comfortable feeling. However, to bring about a positive change that will be effective for the community and in myself, I realize that I must walk in a Now Faith.



We know what faith is because the Bible teaches us that "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen." This is a familiar scripture. Every Christian knows it. Every Christian quotes it. Every Christian claims to have it. Yet, many do not exercise it. It amazed me as I began to study about Faith that it is a noun. The dictionary definition is "the allegiance to duty or a person; belief and trust; loyalty to God; firm belief in something for which there is no proof; complete confidence; believe, trust." However, to live by faith is action showing faith as a verb. It is not just quoting scripture but walking it out. If I say that I trust in God, believe in God's Word; then I must also live it out.

The study also reveals that Faith is the substance. Substance is defined as "essential nature; essence; physical material from which something is made or which has discrete existence; matter of particular or definite chemical constitution." This substance called faith can't be seen with the naked eye. This substance doesn't fit the definition because physical things can be seen but faith gives us evidence of the unseen, the invisible.

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Noteworthy Dates

Darkness to Light
February 7, 2023
BGAV Chapel

**CAMP ALKULANA
APPLICATIONS OPEN**
February 13, 2023

RCFN Office Closed
February 20, 2023



MINISTRY OF THE WEEK
February 2023
2/5– Bethlehem Chamberlayne
2/12– Bethlehem Penick Rd
2/19– Bon Air Baptist
2/26– Carlisle Ave

**Lord, may your Kingdom
come in metropolitan
Richmond as it is in Heaven.
Help us be a part of Its
coming; help us minister
to others in Your Spirit,
and help us accept
Your ministry for ourselves.
We ask this in the Name of
Jesus. Amen.**

A Now Faith (cont.)

Faith is the substance that causes us to see into the supernatural. Faith is the stuff that make that which is unseen materialize from just a hope.

Yet, when it comes to taking a step onto an unknown path, knowing that God is leading; I still may hesitate/procrastinate in taking the step. I ask myself, "Is that faith?" MY answer is "No, that isn't a NOW FAITH."

A NOW FAITH is founded on an expectant

HOPE. Hope is a desire with expectation; to long for with expectation; to expect with desire. Hope is not a wish. I did not make a resolution, but I am determined to bring about changes. Therefore, I will embrace this opportunity that God has presented to me in this New Year to bring about positive change, I will improve those ministries that can be improved upon, to always be conscious of my self development as I walk in Now Faith and accepting whatever outcome that God orchestrates.

- Rev. Glinda Ford

Camp Alkulana Corner

In the summer camp world, January begins the process of hurdling us back toward summer! Even as we experience cold, dreary weather, all of our preparation picks up pace and we are excitedly planning for and dreaming about our cabins being full of campers again.

Here are a few ways you can engage now to make summer 2023 magical for our campers:

1. Join us as a summer staff member or a volunteer in the kitchen, craft shack, or infirmary. Or if you're unable to, pass the word along to someone else who can! We love hiring youth from our RCFN churches!
2. Connect us with potential campers! Let families connected to your church community know about this summer camp opportunity.
3. Sign up to join us at one of our May volunteer work days to get our camp ground ready. Bring a large group from your church, your Sunday school class, or your family!

We look forward to partnering with you in 2023! Contact Beth Wright about any of the above opportunities: bwright@alkulana.org.



CAMP ALKULANA 2023 Summer Camp Dates

Older Boys Session: June 16-27

Younger Boys Session: July 1-July 8

Older Girls Session: July 15-July 26

Younger Girls Session: July 30-Aug 6

Need a summer job?
WE ARE HIRING!



Camp Alkulana is seeking active, creative, and enthusiastic young adults to serve as summer camp counselors for children and youth from the Richmond, Virginia area. Camp counselors are at least 18 years old.

Contact:
bwright@alkulana.org

Apply now at alkulana.org



**CAMP ALKULANA
WORK DAYS**
MAY 13 & MAY 27



Training Opportunities

One of my goals in the new year is to get acquainted with our pastors, River City Faith Network churches, and visit your worship services one day soon. Each month or so, I'm hoping to offer a variety of gathering opportunities for pastors, ministry staff or volunteers. These opportunities may take different forms with different intentions and the hope of learning more about the needs of your churches and staff.

Our first gathering was a Pastor's Luncheon in January. Our speaker was Dr. Wayne Faison, Executive Director of the BGAV. Dr. Faison shared about himself, his hopes for the BGAV and more details regarding the Ascent movement that is emerging among the BGAV and its ministry partners.

Upcoming opportunities:

Stewards of Children Training

For Children and Youth Ministers, Day Care Directors and those who work with children.

February 7th 9:30am – 12:30 pm
RCFN Office 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA

Stewards of Children® is an award-winning training that teaches adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Through interviews with child sexual abuse survivors, experts, and treatment providers, Stewards of Children® teaches you practical steps you can take to protect the kids in your life. Register to attend my upcoming training: http://support.d2l.org/site/TR?fr_id=28667

Church Accounting Seminars

For church bookkeepers, treasurers, and ministry staff

Monthly:
10am – Noon
beginning
January 26th

Located at the
Dover Baptist
Association Office

11006 Lakeridge Parkway Ashland, VA 23005

Learn essential skills specific to church finance. Invite your church treasurer, bookkeeper, ministry staff!

Classes taught by Steve Law, Founder of Finance for Churches, LLC

Find more information and register: <https://www.doverbaptist.org/church-accounting>

PREACH 2023 Conference

For pastors

March 14-16 Eagle Eyrie Conference Center

Join us for a few days in the mountains to worship and reflect on the important work of proclaiming the gospel. www.preach2023.org

Please watch for more information on upcoming opportunities on the website and be sure that we have your email for communication and easy registration for these events. Please call the office with any questions. 804-329-1701.

- Maria Lynn



Center Needs for the Winter

Please share any winter clothing and shoe items for men with our Oregon Hill and Church Hill Wellness Centers. Any and all sizes are needed. Please contact Glinda at 804-234-3549 and Jennifer at 804-648-1353 for more information and to arrange delivery.

PREACH 2023

A QR code is located to the right of the text "PREACH 2023". The QR code is black and white and is used for quick access to the event information.

PREACH invites pastors across the commonwealth to join us for March 14-16, 2023 in the mountain in worship and reflection about the important work of proclaiming the gospel. www.preach2023.org

River City Faith Network
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www.richmondbaptist.org

Electronic Service Requested

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Metro Richmond is...*

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

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The River City Faith Network expresses their sincere condolences to the families, friends, and congregations on the passing of:

Mrs. Pat Patterson, wife of Dr. John Patterson, former pastor of Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church. Mrs. Patterson's memorial service was held Thursday, January 12, 2023, 3pm at Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church.

Dr. Ray Spence, Pastor Emeritus of Second Baptist Church. Dr. Spence's memorial service was held Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Second Baptist Church.

Dr. Louis Blakey, Pastor Emeritus of New Canaan Baptist Church. Dr. Blakey's service was held Saturday, January 14, 2023, at New Canaan Worship Center 4712 Forest Hill Avenue

Please be in prayer for the families and congregations as they grieve the loss of these remarkable people.

Congratulations to Dr. Jim Slatton, Pastor Emeritus of River Road Church, Baptist on the occasion of his 90th Birthday!

RCFN Calendar Highlights

www.RichmondBaptist.org for the latest updates

March 2023

3/14- CAST Meeting

3/14-3/16- PREACH 2023

3/28- RCFN Board Meeting

Maria Lynn Installation Event will be in March 2023!

April 2023

4/10- Easter Monday- Office Closed

4/11- CAST Meeting

4/29- SRBC Support Team Meeting

May 2023

5/7-5/14- **RCFN Offering and Week of Prayer**

5/9- CAST Meeting

5/23- RCFN Board Meeting

5/29- Memorial Day- Office Closed

