

# TRANSFORMED

January 2024



## CHRISTMAS WISH

The River City Faith Network saw tremendous support this past month in preparation for this year's Christmas Wish programs at our Centers! Nearly 500 children from the communities of our Centers and who participate in Camp Alkulana were beneficiaries of the generous gifts from our churches, WMUs and individuals who gathered together to provide joy for these children during this season of hope and love.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped prepare and distribute the gifts at our Centers, some of which are pictured above from First Baptist, Bethlehem Baptist, Bon Air Baptist, River Road, Ginter Park, New Bethesda Baptist, and St. Paul Baptist. In addition, we received contributions of gifts from Stockton Memorial, Jahnke Road Baptist, Gravel Hill Baptist, River Road Church, Bon Air Baptist, Friendship Memorial Baptist, Grace Baptist, Huguenot Road Baptist, Bethlehem Baptist (Penick Rd.), Ginter Park Baptist, New Bethesda, New Community Church, Pine Street Baptist, Rising Liberty, Second Baptist, Skipwith Baptist, Webber Memorial and Woodland Heights Baptist Church.

## Ministry of the Week

Please pray for our churches and the activities providing ministry around the RCFN each week. Each week we focus on a different church or program here in Richmond.

**January 2024**

- 1/7- RCFN Board of Directors
- 1/14- RCFN Support Teams
- 1/21- RCFN Staff
- 1/28- RCFN Ministries

## Upcoming Events

Please be sure to check for all the happenings on the RCFN website for the most up to date information and to register for certain events!

- 1/3- RCFN Stewardship Meeting- 3 p.m.
- 1/9- RCFN Staff Meeting- 10-12pm
- 1/9- CAST meeting- 6 pm
- 1/16 - OHBC Support Team Meeting
- 1/20- CHCWC Support Team Meeting
- 1/23- RCFN Board Meeting- 3:30-5 pm
- 1/27- SRBC Support Team Meeting



## Camp Alkulana Team

As pictured right: Beth Wright and SaraAnne Burgess look forward to hearing from you!

The Alkulana Office can be reached at:

[bwright@alkulana.org](mailto:bwright@alkulana.org)

[saburgess@alkulana.org](mailto:saburgess@alkulana.org)

(804) 329-1701 ext. 112

[www.alkulana.org](http://www.alkulana.org)

Donations can be mailed or brought to our office located at 2828 Emerywood Parkway Richmond, VA 23294

[Look for Camp Alkulana on Facebook!](#)



## CAMP ALKULANA IS ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET...

The Camp Alkulana Support Team is hard at work planning the Camp Alkulana Auction for this coming March! Please **SAVE THE DATE** for **March 16th, 2024** to attend and be on the lookout for more information regarding tickets very soon. The auction and dinner will be held at Derbyshire Baptist Church at 8800 Derbyshire Rd, Richmond, VA.

The support team is currently looking for partners to donate services, gift certificates, destinations, experiences, gift baskets, and handmade goods. Because our campers are local to Richmond, we are hoping that you will see that supporting Camp Alkulana benefits not only our campers, but their families, and the community.

Camp Alkulana provides a summer camp experience for children and youth, ages nine to fourteen, from the Richmond area. We strive to create a space for our campers that is safe—emotionally and physically. One of our campers told us “This place makes me feel safe, loved, and important.”

Some of our campers may be your neighbors. They live in 41 ZIP codes in and around Richmond. Over 75% of our campers are eligible for free or reduced lunch. And amazingly 72% of our counselors were campers. In addition to our summer sessions, we offer year-round programming for our campers, and ongoing leadership training and mentorship for campers who have aged out of our regular camp sessions.

Camp Alkulana is a ministry of the River City Faith Network, which means your donation is tax exempt. Your donation will help us continue to create life-changing summer camp experiences for campers for decades to come. Thank you in advance for considering how you might contribute and contact our office for more information.

## CARE AND CONCERN

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



**Taj Gregory** - Camp Alkulana Counselor and former Camper.

**Dr. Elmer West, Jr.** - Minister and mentor to many Richmond Baptist Clergy. Memorial Service will be held January 13, 2024 at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church.



## UPDATES FROM AROUND THE RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK



The River City Faith Network would like to thank Rev. Herbert Ponder on his hard work and dedication in his role as the BGAV President this past year. The 200th Anniversary session was a successful gathering and celebration of Baptists in Virginia.

We would also like to congratulate RCFN members who have been elected to serve on a BGAV committee, agency, board or as an officer.

Nathan Taylor of River Road Church, Baptist  
Rev. Keith Robinson- Mt. Tabor Baptist Church  
Christian Esleck- Second Baptist Church  
Sylvia Hobgood- Gayton Baptist Church  
Nettie Stokes- Mt. Tabor Baptist Church  
Rev. Horace Wade- Rising Liberty Baptist Church  
Rev. Eldridge Smith, Jr.- Mt. Tabor Baptist Church  
Janet Garrett- Gayton Baptist Church  
Rev. John Upton, Jr.- Bon Air Baptist Church  
Rose Hinnant- Bethlehem Baptist Church

A special worship service was held to conclude the 200th anniversary celebration and kick off BGAV's 201st year as a network of churches for missions and ministry, a place where like-hearted Baptists can come together to do Kingdom work.

BGAV's 201st Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 11-13, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, VA.

*Pictured Right, Nathan Taylor, RRCB participates in the program. Far Right, Rev. Herbert Ponder, Mt. Tabor Baptist signs the BGAV bible to conclude his term.*



# Children Acting & Singing Together

## HUGUENOT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH INTRODUCES NEW MUSIC PROGRAM

Now announcing a Brand-New Community Children's Chorus called the C.A.S.T.! This stands for Children Acting & Singing Together! If you have a child who is in Kindergarten - 5th Grad and loves to Sing and Act - this is the Chorus for them. And guess what? We're doing a Musical!

In the spring we will perform "Not Your Average Joe." This is the story of Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors - except this version is set for children, in the 1950's, at the beach! Imagine 50's sounding music, leather jackets, poodle skirts, and surf boards! Tons of fun!

This 10-week session culminating in the musical performance begins January 7 - but registration is happening now and closes December 15! Don't delay! Check out our webpage [www.castrva.com](http://www.castrva.com). Come join the C.A.S.T.! Your questions are welcome and we hope you will consider this activity for your children. Contact: Phillip Brown, Founding Director for more information. Email: [phillip@hrbcrichmond.org](mailto:phillip@hrbcrichmond.org) Phone: 804-833-6855

**River City Faith Network**  
**Richmond Baptist Association**  
**2828 Emerywood Parkway**  
**Richmond, VA 23294**  
**Phone: 804-329-1701**  
**[office@rbaonline.org](mailto:office@rbaonline.org)**  
**[www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org)**

**Electronic Service Requested**

*Working together until  
Metro Richmond is...*

**TRANSFORMED**

**January 2024**

**RIVER CITY  
FAITH NETWORK**



**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**RICHMOND, VA.**  
**Permit No. 3022**

## **RCFN CENTER CORNER**

Our Centers are currently looking for assistance with the following items:

**Oregon Hill-** Snack bags and men's winter coats, clothes and shoes for the Homeless.

**South Richmond-** canned food items are always appreciated for the urgent food insecurity in South Richmond.

Please contact the following for more information: Rev. Jennifer Turner- OHBC  
[jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org](mailto:jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org)

or Rev. Wesley Garrett- SRBC  
[wesley.garrett@rbaonline.org](mailto:wesley.garrett@rbaonline.org)



**NEW YEAR..**

**..NEW PHONE NUMBER!!**

Please be advised that you can now contact our ministry centers by dialing the main contact number of 804-329-1701. If you have questions for Church Hill Wellness or Oregon Hill Center, you can simply call the main number to reach them with your questions. Please choose the extension for them and you will be routed to their attention.

**804-329-1701**