

Working together until Metro Richmond is...

TRANSFORMED



Baptists on Wilkinson Road, Volumes I and II

From the beginning of the Church, Christians have started churches where they find groups of people. More than 300 years ago, Baptists sailed to Virginia and wrote back, "Send preachers." One preacher survived the voyage, and Baptists have continued to share the Gospel and plant churches in Virginia ever since.

No social barrier has prevented Baptists from spreading the Gospel in Virginia. Still, people usually choose to gather for church where they feel comfortable. For most, that means people who have a similar culture, language, or appearance.

Two dynamics shaped the formation of many Baptist churches that started in the years soon after the War Between the States. First, the Gospel had spread and kept on spreading. The other dynamic came from social change. Former slaves now had the liberty to make choices for themselves. They had heard the Gospel and could form their own churches.



Believers planted churches wherever they found groups of people. They planted one in Richmond in 1893 that first met in Sweet Home Alley. A few years later Bethlehem Baptist Church bought a church building on Buchanan Street. In 1963 the congregation bought a bigger church building on Fairmount Avenue. Each location helped the church serve its members and neighbors. Today the church facility is landlocked and its neighborhood has changed.

Chamberlayne Baptist Church did not start until 1953, but the believers who planted it also started it among the people it sought to reach. Following World War II, metro Richmond expanded into what had once been rural spaces. Neighborhoods like Chamberlayne Farms turned into communities of new suburban homes. Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church and Northside Baptist Church saw the need for a new church in this growing community. Chamberlayne started in a tent and the basement of a home. Soon it had property with a house, built a chapel, and started to thrive.

People typically gather where they feel comfortable. That often means they gather with others of similar culture, language, or appearance. They also usually live in the best place they can afford. Over time, demographic changes occur naturally. People age in place. Children grow up and leave home. What was a neighborhood with children turns into a community of older people. When one household moves away, the one that moves in usually moves to the best place they can afford but may have a different culture, language, or appearance. Chamberlayne Baptist Church had served a growing community with children that changed into a community with a mixture of ages and ethnic backgrounds. The houses remained, but the people changed.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTE

RCFN Board Meeting
 July 27, 3:30 p.m.
 Skipwith Baptist Church

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK

July 2021

7/04-- Hatcher Memorial
 7/11-- Huguenot Road
 6/20-- International
 Community Church
 6/27-- Jahnke Road Baptist



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JULY 13 and 14th, 2021

Virginia Baptist Disaster Response Feeding Training in Chesterfield, VA. Please visit the BGAV website for more information on this event or click the link below.

www.bgav.org

Campfires, Cookouts, Creek Exploring, and Cabin Life

Despite COVID-19, Camp Alkulana will host some favorite summer activities. Once again campers will build new friendships, explore the outdoors, learn self-confidence and teamwork, and grow spiritually. Like most of us, children have felt the stress of life in a pandemic. Camp has always provided them something they need, and they may need it more than ever.

We want to keep campers safe and comply with our state regulations. Camp includes a few changes this year while still creating the same “Camp Alkulana magic.”

Pre-screening, Ongoing Screening, and Testing

Campers and staff must present the completed pre-screening tool for review upon arrival. Camp Alkulana has contracted with a testing company to manage any necessary COVID-19 testing this summer. This agreement will include testing within 72 hours of arrival at camp and whenever deemed necessary to assess symptoms or possible spread. We plan daily screenings for symptoms among campers and counselors.

Cabin Cohorts

Cabin life is the heart of any camp experience, and that will not change this summer! Cabins will have fewer campers to allow more space while sleeping. Fans and open windows will keep cabins well-ventilated. Campers will stay in their cabin groups for most of their activities, including meals, adventure activities, Bible study, and more. We plan some larger group activities with additional restrictions.

Wearing Masks

We will not require masks during most events while campers remain within their cohorts. Anyone who has not received a vaccine will be required to wear a mask when interacting outside of their cohort.

Outdoor Activities



Meals and activities will be outdoors whenever possible. Many of our rustic buildings have window screens that provide natural ventilation we will supplement with fans.

Maintaining Physical Distance

We redesigned all of our activities to keep six feet physical distance. For now we have replaced some beloved camp adventures (like caving and rock climbing) with new activities that allow us to maintain adequate distance.

Hand Hygiene

We will practice “wash-in, wash-out” hand-washing this summer. Our trained counselors will guide campers to wash or sanitize their hands before and after every activity.

Outdoor Food Service

Campers and counselors will eat all meals with their cabin cohort. Unless weather prohibits, we will eat outdoors on picnic tables at every meal.

We thank God we get to share life, fun, and faith with our campers! We also thank God for the gifts, prayers, and volunteers who make our ministry possible. This year volunteers from River Road Church, Baptist, installed new ceiling fans in our cabins and dining hall. Fellowship Bible Church in Winchester built and donated 11 new picnic tables for our outdoor meal service. Others have cleaned and prepared the camp facilities and grounds to help us welcome our first group of campers on June 23. Please pray for our campers, their families, and our staff this summer.

—Beth Wright



CAMP ALKULANA

2021 Summer Camp Dates

Older Boys Session: June 23-30
Younger Boys Session: July 3-10
Older Girls Session: July 17-24
Younger Girls Session: July 27-August 3

CAMP ALUKULANA OFFERING GOAL \$125,000

**YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT
THIS SUMMER THAT WILL
LAST A LIFETIME!**

For more information about the camp or to give online, please visit the camp website: www.alkulana.org.

Camp Alkulana is a ministry of the River City Faith Network, and all gifts are tax-deductible.

Baptists on Wilkinson Road *(continued from Page 1)*

Circumstances and people change, but God does not change. God sends messengers to show and tell others about His love. God's people move as God sends us to nearby neighbors and far beyond. That may mean a church moves with the people. It may also mean church people move. Chamberlayne Baptist Church stayed put, and Bethlehem Baptist Church moved several times. Their holy paths have intersected on Wilkinson Road.

The members of Chamberlayne Baptist Church have served faithfully and well for 67 years. They have shared the Gospel and baptized many. The church ordained 24 ministers who have served near and far in God's Kingdom. Before public schools offered kindergarten, Chamberlayne had one. They started a group home and a Friends Class for persons with special needs. They have loved each other like a family, sharing and celebrating life events and supporting each other in times of grief and pain. Members moved. Members died. Pastor Dave Pepler helped the people who remained at Chamberlayne discern God's voice. They understood God saying the time of this church family on Wilkinson Road has come to an end.

What does a church do with the place it called home and all the things in it? They considered their options. The people of Chamberlayne Baptist Church believed that God wants a church on Wilkinson Road, even if they cannot continue to serve there. Giving their church facility and the things in it to keep a Gospel witness on Wilkinson Road would be their last act of faithful service as Chamberlayne Baptist Church.

God has blessed Bethlehem Baptist Church with faithful people too. Like Chamberlayne, the members of Bethlehem love each other like a family, sharing and celebrating life events and supporting each other in times of grief and pain. A few weeks ago, they shared their grief as they celebrated the life and ministry of their beloved, long-time pastor Victor Davis.

Pastor Davis served Bethlehem for more than 30 years. Early in his ministry, he began to share his vision that God had more for Bethlehem to do. The church acquired more property and added to their facility. Like it had done before, the people of Bethlehem spurred one another forward in Kingdom work, following the vision and accomplishing each goal, including paying off the mortgage early.

The demographics of their neighborhood have changed in recent years, and their vision has grown larger. Pastor Davis repeated the message until he died: God has something greater for Bethlehem to do.

What greater things did God want Bethlehem to do? God revealed that to the people of Bethlehem while God was also revealing the future to the people of Chamberlayne. God called them together on Wilkinson Road.

Chamberlayne Baptist Church held a last worship service on June 6. It looked and felt like a kind of family reunion.

The two churches held a joint worship service at the Wilkinson Road site on June 13. This service had the feel of an ending and a beginning, kind of like coming to the end of a favorite book and then opening the first chapter of its sequel.

Some of the Chamberlayne folks may continue there. Many will find new church homes closer to where they live now.

The Bethlehem folks have more to discern too. Will they relocate or operate in two locations? God will reveal that to them when God and the church are ready, perhaps after God leads them to their next pastor.

Whatever God reveals to Bethlehem Baptist Church, it will include discovering how to minister in a new community. The neighbors around Wilkinson Road are a mixture of people from different lands, cultures, and language groups.

The members of Bethlehem Baptist Church have said they will answer God's call to serve on Wilkinson Road. The members of Chamberlayne Baptist Church have answered God's call to bless the members of Bethlehem Baptist Church with resources God had entrusted to them.

Celebrate God's work in both these churches. Remember their faithful examples. Pray with them as they pray, "Lord, what would have me do now?" Pray that prayer for yourself too.

—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
Skipwith 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>

River City Faith Network
Richmond Baptist Association
2828 Emerywood Parkway
Richmond, VA 23294
Phone: 804-329-1701
office@rbaonline.org
www.richmondbaptist.org

Electronic Service Requested

*Working together until
Metro Richmond is...*

TRANSFORMED
July 2021



THE
River
City FAITH
NETWORK
Richmond Baptist Association

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

RICHMOND, VA.

Permit No. 3022

Back to School Celebrations!

All Centers need backpacks and other items (see below). Churches, please contact your assigned Center to verify additional details. More information in August!!

Backpack (large enough for notebooks and textbooks) filled with:

- 1 three-ring binder and divider tabs
- 1 or 2 packs of loose-leaf paper (wide or standard rule)
- 4 black-and-white composition books
- 2 One-subject spiral notebooks
- 1 Three- or five-subject spiral notebook
- 5-8 No. 2 pencils (not mechanical)
- 5-8 Black or blue ink pens (erasable/no gel)

Possible additional items (do not put in backpacks)

- 2" three-ring binders
- Pocket folders (with or without brads) in solid colors
- 3 x 5 lined index cards & file box
- Colored pencils Pencil boxes
- Crayons (pack of 16 or 24)
- Markers (washable, 8-10 pack, wide/thin) & Highlighters
- Pencil sharpeners (small hand-held)
- Rulers (12 inch/metric)
- Elmer's glue-4 oz. and Glue sticks
- Scissors (pointed or blunt, metal) Red pens
- Erasers, pencil top and block style
- Zippered pencil pouches for 3-ring binder
- Hand sanitizer 8oz



CHURCH HILL CHRISTIAN WELLNESS CENTER

Glinda Ford—804-780-0053 ext.101 or 804-399-8846

Store Date: Saturday, August 21, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Delivery at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1920 Fairmount Avenue on August 18 and 19, 10:00-Noon, 1:00-3:00

OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTER

Jennifer Turner—804-648-1353

Store Date: Tuesday, August 24, 6:00-7:45 p.m.

Contact Jennifer for needs and delivery appointments

SOUTH RICHMOND BAPTIST CENTER

Wesley Garrett—804-232-0174 or 804-386-8124

Store Date: Friday, September 3, Times TBA

Please contact Wesley for volunteer needs and details