

TRANSFORMED

MAY 2024

2024 RCFN WEEK OF PRAYER & MISSION OFFERING



City Lights Shine Bright Week of Prayer & Mission Offering May 5-12, 2024

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another." 1 John 1:7

If you've ever been alone in the pitch dark, you know how comforting one speck of light may be. Nightlights, porchlights, and searchlights illuminate our space, provide us with a sense of peace and guide us with their glow. Matthew 5:14 tells believers that we are the "light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden". Our collective light, the fellowship among our RCFN churches, is a witness to our city and shines through our ministry centers, camp and congregational connections that transform our city. This year our Week of Prayer requests and offering allocations will shine the light in our camp, centers, congregations, clergy and community. Your prayer and gifts will support:

Camp Alkulana -

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training - Camp Alkulana Summer Program Staff
- Youth Leadership Development - Camp Alkulana LEADS

Ministry Centers -

- Furniture and Clothing Evangelism (FACE) Ministry Resources - SRBC
- Encouraging Financial Literacy - Church Hill Christian Wellness Center
- Loads of Love Unhoused Laundry Ministry Expansion - OHBC

Congregational Connections -

- Ministry Leadership Gatherings
- Clergy Pastoral Intelligence book discussion

Community Collaboration -

- Creating a Reconciling Community Cohort
- Domestic Missions Partnership Development

(continued on page 3)

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.

MAY 2024

5/5- Church Hill CWC

5/12- Oregon Hill Baptist Ctr.

5/19- South Richmond Baptist Ctr.

5/26- Camp Alkulana

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!

5/5-12- RCFN Week of Prayer

5/6- CVBM Meeting

5/7- RCFN Staff Meeting

5/14- CAST Meeting

5/16- CHCWC & SRBC Food Pantry Thursday

5/18- Camp Alkulana Work Day

5/19- Camp Alkulana Picnic

5/21- OHBC Support Team Mtg

5/27- Memorial Day Holiday-
RCFN Office Closed

6/1- Camp Alkulana Workday



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK



CAMP ALKULANA WORK DAY OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for our 2024 spring work days on May 18 & June 1. We depend heavily on volunteers to get camp ready each spring after dust has settled in our cabins and leaves have collected on pathways. Tasks could include anything from cleaning and yard work to painting and light construction. Our work days are staffed by church groups, camp alumni, camper families, and more. All groups and individuals are welcome, but must sign up here before hand so that appropriate jobs can be assigned and prepared. Volunteers should arrive around 10 am and depart by 4 pm and bring a bag lunch. Bottled water is provided by the camp.

CAMP ALKULANA STAFF AND VOLUNTEER NEEDS

We are seeking summer camp counselors for summer 2024. Counselors are generally between the age of 18 and 25. They're active, creative, and enthusiastic about working with children and youth ages 9-14. Contracts are negotiated for full or partial summer commitments. More information is available [on our website](#). In addition, Camp Alkulana depends on volunteers to staff our support roles during the summer. Each session we have a new team of volunteers who cook, staff the camp infirmary, lead arts & crafts for campers and help with yard work, maintenance, and repairs. You can even make it an experience for your whole family. [Contact Beth](#) if you have interest in volunteering at camp this summer.



PINE STREET BAPTIST PASTOR IN THE NEWS

Channel 6 News recently had a feature about Pine Street Baptist Church Pastor, Rev. Dr. Philip Turner. As North Carolina State's magical ride to their first Final Four in 41 years was celebrated, Dr. Turner's excitement echoed many here in the Richmond area that are NC State fans. For the last 34 years Turner has served as pastor, he has not been shy about his love for his beloved Wolfpack. He shared his recent experience with Channel 6 regarding the attention he was getting from his clothing and his collection of NC State items. Dr. Turner has memorabilia that dates back to his childhood. "It's just something I enjoy and brings me joy brings me joy to share with other people," Turner said. "And in the midst of life with so many other things going on, it's just an outlet for me to find some fun and joy in life." Several pieces Dr. Turner has collected over the years are from the 1983 team, which also had a magical run to a National Title, led by the late Head Coach Jim Valvano. "He had much more influence on my life after his days at state as he battled his adversity with cancer," Turner said. "Some of the lessons he taught about living about laughing and crying and thinking every day You know, that's important lessons for just living in the world. And I've applied some of those things to my own pastoral ministry." Dr. Turner doesn't have an exact number on how large his collection is, but a few pieces stand out more than others. "When I see that ball that says to fill up David Thompson, it's not about seeing David Thompson's signature on that ball as much as that knowing that my dad stood in line to get that ball for me," Turner said. "And that's what means so much to me." That 1983 Wolfpack has a special place in Dr. Turner's heart, but this year's team could be a close second. Thank you for sharing your passion for your team and that inspirational message with all of Richmond!



Pictured from the top: The Wolfpack Room, Rev. Dr. Philip Turner with his NC State plate.

RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK IN THE COMMUNITY

CAMP ALKULANA HONORED AT THE VALENTINE

Camp Alkulana is reportedly the oldest summer camp in Virginia and has been named a "Richmond History Maker" by the Valentine Museum. The camp will be celebrating its 110th year of summer camp this year, beginning in June. According to the camp's director, Beth Wright, it has hosted overnight summer camps for families in the Richmond area since 1915.

"This summer there will be campers at Camp Alkulana who are the fourth generation of their family to join the Alkulana family," said SaraAnne Burgess, the Alkulana's Camper & Family Liaison. "Seventy percent of the current counselors were campers themselves. The ways that the Richmond community is changed by Camp Alkulana will continue into the next generation." Even though a majority of Camp Alkulana's campers are from Richmond, its location setting is in Millboro Springs, which sits deep in the Alleghenies Mountains.

According to camp officials, Alkulana allows young people to learn friendship skills, teamwork and connection with others. In addition, the campers are taught problem-solving and decision-making skills, how to interact with nature and their spirituality, independence and responsibility.

"The most beautiful thing about Camp Alkulana is that we've found that we lower the price of camp, and make it accessible to all, we have a beautifully diverse cross-section of our greater Richmond community," Wright said. "When cost isn't a factor, we don't have to exist in separate silos. We get to be one community. One family. That's what we expect of our campers."



Pictured above: Beth Wright accepts award from the Valentine Museum. Below: Camp Alkulana at the event, from left, Kate Wakeland, SaraAnne Burgess, Wayne Davis, Beth Wright, Maria Lynn and Barbara Davis.

(Week of Prayer 2024 cont. from Page 1)

Resources available to assist you in praying and promotion include:

Prayer Guide, Prayer Meeting Discussion Guide, Children's Curriculum and VBS Drop In Mission emphasis (DiMe), Promotional Video, Guest Speakers and Mission Engagement Opportunities.

We look forward to fellowshiping with you as we shine the light of Christ throughout Richmond in the months ahead. There will be many opportunities for you to join us this Spring and Summer!

I invite you to learn more about our RCFN ministries by visiting our website at www.richmondbaptist.org and watching our ministry videos found on YouTube River City Faith Network. Thank you again for your generosity!

THANK YOU BON AIR BAPTIST!

RCFN recently gained a "new to us" Bus! Bon Air Baptist Church recently shared a bus that will now get a new life at Camp Alkulana; the camp in Bath County that provides a week of summer camp for Richmond area children whose families are at the poverty level. "It's great to know that a tool that has served BABC for decades will now be used to help children from the concrete urban areas experience the woods and hills of western Virginia. It's a very cool thing that we can partner with this ministry to help "even the least of these." **Thank you, Bon Air Baptist Church!!**



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*Working together until
Metro Richmond is...*

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May 2024



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RCFN CENTER CORNER

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

Church Hill CWC- is working to assist a family with the following needs: a living room set, kitchenette, twin beds with mattresses and a mattress topper.

Oregon Hill- Now collecting spring and summer men's clothes for the unhoused in Oregon Hill. Help serve a Thursday meal to the Oregon Hill Community!! Available dates are: **July 18, Aug 15, Sept 5 & 19th**

South Richmond- is doing a clothing drive for clothes for children 0-18. Also accepting gently used or new children's shoes. Youth clothes only at this time please.

Please contact our Center Directors for more information and to make an appointment to deliver your items. Thank you for your support of our Centers!

804-329-1701

RCFN CARE AND CONGRATULATIONS

The River City Faith Network would like to share congratulations to:



Rev. Dr. Jim Sommerville of Richmond's First Baptist Church on his Pastor Anniversary this month!

The River City Faith Network extends prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of:

Rev. Cecil Chambers- former Pastor of Skipwith Baptist Church and RCFN Board member on his recent illness. Best wishes on a speedy recovery.

To the family of **Sue Hall**, Ministry Assistant of the Dover Association, on the recent loss of her son-in-law.

www.richmondbaptist.org