

TRANSFORMED



Many thanks to Joyce Clemmons, Dr. Philip Taylor, Bon Air Baptist Church, and my Hatcher Church family for making our RCFN Installation Service and Mission Gathering a very special event! I am grateful that you have called me to serve as your Executive Director Mission Strategist, humbled by your affirmation and challenged by the task to which God has called us.

Two words mark this transition in the life of the River City Faith Network – Install and Instill. Install means “to place, to attach or fix in position ready for use.” In John 1:14, The Message, we find God installing his Son in the world: “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son; Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.”

In the last four months, I’ve seen how well positioned the RCFN Center and Camp Directors are for their ministry in and beyond the city. Each has shared their story of being called to minister among the families and neighborhoods of Richmond. Their call runs deep as God has gifted them with compassion, kindness, open-hearted service, and love for others. They are joined by a host of hands and feet as volunteers join them in this work. I’m amazed at their longevity and adaptability. Serving decades in our city and adapting to the changes in their communities with flexibility and grace.

Instill means “to gradually establish an idea or attitude in a person, group, or organization’s mind.” Jeremiah 29: 5-7 describes a theme instilled in God’s people throughout scripture.

“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

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Noteworthy Dates

RCFN Offering and Week of Prayer May 7-14

CAST Meeting
May 9- RCFN 265 6pm

OHBC Movie Night
May 12 & 26 at Pine St Baptist

Camp Alkulana Workdays
May 13 & 27

RCFN Board Meeting
May 16- RCFN 265 3:30 pm

OHBC Support Team Meeting
May 23- Pine Street Baptist

Spring Into Camp Picnic
May 28- Bryan Park 2 pm

Memorial Day
May 29- Office Closed



MINISTRY OF THE WEEK MAY 2023

5/7- RCFN Week of Prayer
5/14– Ginter Park Baptist
5/21– Grace Baptist
5/28– Gravel Hill Baptist

Welcome Celebration for Maria Lynn

On Sunday, March 19th, 2023 the River City Faith Network welcomed the community to join in the Installation and Celebration of our new Executive Director Mission Strategist, Rev. Maria Lynn.

The ceremony was held at Bon Air Baptist Church and included beautiful words from friends and colleagues, in coordination with inspirational music and prayer. In addition, the theme and introductory video for the RCFN Week of Prayer "Into the Neighborhood" was shared with the group. Thank you to all who were able to attend this Celebration!

Clockwise from left: Mr. Wayne Duke with supportive words, Above left: Guests attend from around the RCFN, Upper right and below right: RCFN members enjoying fellowship.



Meet the Intern– Kate Wakeland!

Please tell us how you first learned about Camp Alkulana/RCFN?

I was born into a family of Camp Alkulana alumni! My grandparents worked at Alkulana when they were young, my mom and uncle were both Alkulana counselors, and from the time I was young, I spent a week almost every summer at camp. It was instilled in me from a young age that camp was a safe and joyful place. As my relationship with camp grew, I learned more about the RCFN. Eventually, as I accepted the job of intern, I was able to get a closer look at all of the work the RCFN does!

What are you currently studying and what are you looking forward to doing when you graduate? I am currently studying social work. I would love to continue my relationship with Alkulana once I graduate. I would also like to work with foster kids and low-income families, like we do at Alkulana. I am still pretty early on in my social work educational path, so I'm sure that answer will grow and take a little more shape as I continue to learn!

What activities are you working on right now?

Currently in my program, the Alkulana Peer Program, we are wrapping up our year! We have one more meeting this year, in May. In addition to that, I have already begun planning for the next school year for this program! There's definitely some exciting things to look forward to! In my personal life, I am preparing to go to work at camp for the summer! I am excited to be able to take part in both lifeguard training, and an in-depth training on our

climbing tower and ropes course.

What has been the most enjoyable part of being a CA Intern?

I love being able to think and talk about Camp Alkulana all year (which I admittedly did anyway before I had this internship). It is wonderful to be able to see and learn about the things that happen during the school year to prepare for the summer. I have also loved the work environment, especially getting to work alongside Beth and SaraAnne. Lastly, I of course love my program!! It has been so great getting to know the members of the Alkulana Peer Program better, and I've really learned a lot about leadership and community from them.

What has been the most challenging? What advice would you offer future interns for CA/RCFN? The most challenging aspect of this position has been trying to be a leader for people who are relatively close to my own age, and who I've worked alongside at camp. The people in my program are my peers, so at times it feels like I don't have the qualifications to lead them! If I could offer future interns one piece of advice, it would be to trust your instincts, but to ask for help when you need it! I had to learn to trust my leadership skills and know that if I made a misstep, I had the ability to work through it.



Into the Neighborhood *(continued)*

In other words, establish yourself, ground your faith in Christ, plant yourself in good soil, produce fruit of the spirit, build relationships, generate new relationships, create community, invite others to join you and make disciples, don't quit, seek to love, and serve our neighbors and help build God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Richmond Baptists have had these ideas instilled in them for generations. More than 100 years ago the women's mission societies began the work of Good Will centers to meet the needs of the underserved in Richmond – food insecurity, the unhoused, and the other needs mentioned in Isaiah 58. You can find this love in action around our city:

In the fall, on the fairways of neighborhood golf courses you will find Bill, Wayne, Beth and SaraAnne with church people avid about golf and sponsoring children to attend summer camp in the mountains.

In South Richmond, at the corner of Hull Street and East Belt Boulevard Ms. Annie, Ms. Hamlett, Ms. Beaver are helping Rev. Garrett carefully prepare gifts, backpacks, clothing, and food boxes for their neighbors.

In the heart of Oregon Hill where Pine and Albemarle streets meet is a place where Richmond's unhoused people, Mr. Horace, and Doc, can find a place like home. A hot meal, a locker to store belongings, a place to receive mail, get a health check, find access to laundry, get a haircut, and have Rev. Jennifer walk alongside them.

At the intersections of Fairmount Avenue and N. 20th and 21st streets in Church Hill, you will find Mr. Robert and Miss Debbie helping Rev. Ford with the food pantry and clothes closet. On Fridays, you will find Mr. Nathan, Ms. Pam, Ms. Monica, and Mr. John studying the Kingdom of Heaven parables and passionately discussing grace.

Behind these images are dozens and dozens of WMU ladies and River City Faith Network churches providing the hands and resources to minister in our neighborhoods.

As we begin the season of prayer for our Associational Mission Offering in May, I want to invite you Into the Neighborhood where you can see the glory of God with your own eyes, generous, true from start to finish. Thank you. Thank you for your generosity and for being present at the intersection of love and faith, where grace can be found.

--- Maria

INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD MAY 2023

OREGON HILL

Movie Nights

2nd & 4th Fridays
Starting May 12
at dusk

Please review these upcoming events where we could use your help! Call the RCFN for more information about needs for each opportunity. 804-329-1701

CHURCH HILL

Fairmount Fun Day

at Bethlehem
Fairmount May 27

CAMP ALKULANA

Camp Cleanup

Workdays on
May 13 and May 27

CAMP ALKULANA

Camper Family Spring Picnic

May 28
Bryan Park

CAMP ALKULANA

Bus Stop Send Off

June 16, July 1,
July 15 & July 30

River City Faith Network
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Richmond, VA 23294
Phone: 804-329-1701
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www.richmond baptist.org

Electronic Service Requested

*Working together until
Metro Richmond is...*

TRANSFORMED

May 2023



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OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RCFN

Please be sure to check out these upcoming events!

Oregon Hill Baptist Center is organizing a community VBS and is looking for volunteers and materials for this session. If you are interested in supporting this activity or have any questions, please contact Jennifer Turner at 804-648-1353 or 804-908-6905, or at Jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org.

A BAPTIST FUTURE:

CLASSIC TRADITIONS,
NEW PATHS?



VBHS ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 9, 2023, 7:15 PM



BILL J. LEONARD

Second Baptist Church
9614 River Road, Richmond, VA

REGISTER FOR DINNER (6 pm) @ baptistheritage.org

REGISTER NOW: BGAV.org/DigitalProficiencyWorkshop

DIGITAL CHURCH PROFICIENCY WORKSHOP

LEADING A CHURCH IS HARD.
INCORPORATING DIGITAL CAN BE OVERWHELMING.

Learn the latest trends, get easy and affordable tips,
and all participants will receive a free Digital
Snapshot personalized for your church!

Register by June 9 to be guaranteed a personalized Digital
Snapshot.

JUNE 20, 2023
HENRICO, VA
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Hosted by BGAV and
River City Faith Network