news of Richmond area churches...together...changing lives—January 2013

2012 Christmas Stores at Our Baptist Centers

The Community Missionaries of the RBA Baptist Centers, Glinda Ford, Jennifer Turner and Wesley Garrett express their sincere appreciation to all the WMU members, churches and individuals who contributed to the Christmas Stores this year. The Stores could not have happened without the donations from 45 churches (RBA & others); and the 200+ volunteers who helped set up, registered shoppers, assisted with selecting items and then helped pack up.

The stores blessed 457 children and their families (including 16 children from 6 families from the International Community Church who “shopped” at Church Hill) as you can see from the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Families</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Hill</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Hill</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Richmond</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The surrounding photos are illustrations of the blessings received by both the shoppers, volunteers and children during this year’s Christmas Stores.

The left over items from Church Hill’s Store were picked up and taken to the African Christian Community Church to use at their Christmas Store on December 9 and 10 where more than 50 children and adults were served.

If your church did not participate this year, be on the look-out for the details of the 2013 Christmas Stores beginning in September!
Greetings All:

As I compose my DoM article for the January issue of the “Transformed!” it is NOT January! As a matter of fact, I am in the first third of December and my mind is currently more caught up with Christmas than with the New Year!

One reason for my preoccupation with Christmas is surely that I have already attended eight Christmas celebrations and the December days are not yet numbered in double digits! The month is still very young and will afford me the opportunity to visit about seventeen more churches from among our associational family before Christmas arrives!

I can tell you quite honestly that if the first eight are a sample of what is to come, I can hardly wait! In each of the eight churches the celebration of Christmas has been very distinctly unique. Though dramatically different in size and resources, know that each of them offered equally stirring reminders of the birth of our Savior. Every one of them can be proud of the ways God has used them to proclaim His matchless message of love and His one-of-a-kind invitation to a transformational relationship with the Prince of Peace!

I attend these services to represent the larger Association to each of the churches I visit and in a small way to remind them that they are part of a family greater than themselves but that would not be as great without them. Each church matters whether their contribution is to provide space for one of our centers; volunteer labor cleaning up our camp in readiness for the summer season; groceries bags to feed the homeless and malnourished; new toys and clothing for the Christmas stores; school supplies and backpacks for the centers’ back-to-school celebrations; volunteer hours to plan and execute on our councils, sub-groups and teams and in our partnerships; hours of prayerfulness throughout the year; or financial support to staff our offices, the centers and our camp.

As I go from church to church, I must confess that I wish each of you could be with me! I wish you could see what I see, hear what I hear and share in the moving experiences that are in so many places! The hand of God is moving among us all simultaneously and the immensity of His presence is so evident! Our Association is truly blessed by the depth and the breadth of the talents, abilities and giftedness that He has placed in each of our churches.

I pray that in the new year He will multiply that giftedness as you share Christ and the invitation to relationship with Him. We are surrounded by the untouched of our communities, workplaces and where we do business. I hope that you will allow God to direct you to someone who needs His touch and opportunities to walk more closely with Him. Out of the rich experiences of your own relationship with our Father, I pray that you will help them to follow Him more closely.

Imagine what a difference it would make in our city of each one of us multiplied our faith and faithfulness into the life of just one more person during the upcoming year! We could double the Kingdom here and in the hereafter with such a worthy investment!

That IS what all of us who claim Christ as our Lord and Savior have been commissioned to do! Our marching orders are these: “Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of love and His one-of-a-kind invitation to a transformational relationship. And, be sure that I have already attended eight Christmas celebrations and the December days are not yet numbered in double digits! The month is still very young and will afford me the opportunity to visit about seventeen more churches from among our associational family before Christmas arrives!

I can tell you quite honestly that if the first eight are a sample of what is to come, I can hardly wait! In each of the eight churches the celebration of Christmas has been very distinctly unique. Though dramatically different in size and resources, know that each of them offered equally stirring reminders of the birth of our Savior. Every one of them can be proud of the ways God has used them to proclaim His matchless message of love and His one-of-a-kind invitation to a transformational relationship with the Prince of Peace!

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THREE THINGS...

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back
Time – Words – Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person –
Anger – Pride – Unforgiveness

Three things in life that you should never lose –
Hope – Peace – Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable –
Love – Family & Friends – Kindness

Three things in life that are most expensive –
Someone else’s time – Someone else’s money – The loss of your own good name

Three things in life that are never certain –
Fortune – Success – Dreams

Three things in life that are truly constant –
Father – Son – Holy Spirit

May the Lord bless, guide and protect you throughout the new year!

From your DoM, Mike Robinson

*GREETINGS*

As of 11/30/12
Offering Goal: $114,000
YTD Receipts: $97,215
YTD Expenses: $104,810

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**NOVEMBER 2012 RBA BUDGET REPORT**

- **Budget Amount:** $43,666
- **Budget Receipts:** $39,026
- **Budget Expenses:** $35,224

- **YTD Budget Amt:** $590,304
- **YTD Receipts:** $533,910
- **YTD Expenses:** $547,308

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**2012 Camp Alkulana Offering**

Formerly known as the RBA Week of Prayer for Associational Missions

As of 11/30/12
- **Offering Goal:** $114,000
- **YTD Receipts:** $97,215
- **YTD Expenses:** $104,810

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**Rejoicingly,**

Mike
When Considering Your Charitable Giving…

✓ Human Services ✓ Art Museum
✓ Alma Mater ✓ International Affairs

Consider Making a Gift to the Richmond Baptist Association’s Endowment Fund

For additional information, contact the RBA Office at 804-329-1701 ♦ office@rbaonline.org
Or check out the E-giving option on our website: www.rbaonline.org. This option allows you to make a donation by credit card or bank transfer anytime of day and up until the last seconds of 2012.

The Ministries of the Richmond Baptist Association:
Together… Transforming Lives Since 1951.
Want to do Something BIG?

Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days
At Camp Alkulana
May 18 and June 1, 2013

HELP US GET READY FOR THE SUMMER SEASON!
PLENTY TO DO:
• Yard Work
• Spring Cleaning
• Light Carpentry
• General Repair

GREAT BONDING OPPORTUNITY FOR CHURCH GROUPS*
Leave Richmond early, eat breakfast on the way. Arrive at camp by 10:00 and work until 4:00 with a lunch break. Stop in Staunton on the way home for dinner.

*Okay for youth to come with your adult group; however, youth should understand that “normal” camp activities will not be available, as the goal is to fix up camp.

For more information and to let us know that we can count on you, call or email Beth Wright, Camp Director: 329-1701, ext. 206 or campalkulana@gmail.com.

A Compassion Revolution is sweeping Virginia in 2014 thru hands on mission projects to your community helping people who need help in hundreds of different ways.

It’s a movement
• From 1 church to more than 2,000 churches in 20 states
• 50% of a church’s average attendance gets involved
• Hundreds of thousands of volunteers have served millions!

Lives and churches have been changed, for now and forever, and more will be in 2014.

Anyone can be a part!
JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries, Inc.
 Presents the:

2013 PASTOR-DEACON CONFERENCE

“Serve Well”
(1 Timothy 3:13)

MARCH 18, 2013

Ridge Baptist Church
1515 Eastridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229

SCHEDULE:
5:45 p.m. Registration and Refreshments
6:30 p.m. Opening Remarks
6:45 p.m. Session 1
7:45 p.m. Break
8:00 p.m. Session 2

CONFERENCE CHOICES, select two:

• Church Change and Grief, Travis Collins & Bob Lee
• Deacons Spiritual Leaders in the 21st Century, Ken Kessler
• Self Care For Deacons & Ministers Caring For Others, Dan Bagby
• Teaching Families How to Fight, John Tadlock
• Pastor Sabbaticals, Brian Hughes
• Deacon Team Ministry: A Better Approach to Family Ministry, Tom Stocks
• Worship and Reconciliation, David Bailey
• Ministry of Hospitality, Dennis Green
• Pastors and Deacons: Partners in Meeting Needs/Deacons Protecting the Pastor, Todd Combee
• The day I confessed “I love money more than my relationship with God!,” Nelson Parker

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED.
There is a $5.00 fee for this Conference to be paid at the door.

Questions? Contact Richmond Baptist Association at 804-329-1701 or office@rbaonline.org.
Virginia Baptist Mission Board
2013 TAX & COMPENSATION PLANNING SEMINARS

To help church staff and church lay leaders understand and comply with the tax laws a series of seminars sponsored by the Financial Support Planning Ministry of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board will be held across the state in February-March 2013. The seminar in Richmond will be held on February 12, 2013, at the Virginia Baptist Resource Center. The seminar will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 noon.

The seminars are designed for church staff and lay leaders who handle taxes and compensation at BGAV churches. Attendees will get help with financial support planning for church staff, including retirement and insurance, handling minister’s taxes and federal reporting requirements for churches.

The most important federal reporting obligation for most churches is withholding and reporting employee income taxes and Social Security (FICA) taxes. A number of unique rules apply to churches and “ministers for tax purposes.”

The seminars are provided free of charge by the generous Cooperative Missions gifts of Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

For information on the date and location of other seminars, or to register for the Richmond seminar or to secure a post-seminar appointment, please contact Angela House, GuideStone Administrative Assistant at 1-800-255-2428 X5293 or by email to angela.house@vbmb.org

Virginia Baptist Ministers' DISCUSSION GROUP

www.vabaptistdiscuss.org

“Setting Good Emotional, Physical, and Spiritual Boundaries in Ministry”

Facilitator: Rev. Bill Wilson, President Center For Congregational Health Winston-Salem, NC

Monday, February 25 and Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Recommended Reading
Safe Sanctuaries for Ministers: Reducing The Risk of Abuse in the Church
By: Joy Melton

ROSILYN RETREAT CENTER
8727 River Road Richmond, VA 23229

Reservations Due: January 28, 2013

For more details and to Register:
www.vabaptistdiscuss.org

It’s Time to Make your Reservations For the:

2013 SPECIAL EDUCATION VALENTINE SOCIAL

Friday, February 8
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

MONUMENT HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond

Featuring: Square Dancing and Refreshments!

Once again there is no charge to attend!

RSVP by February 1
To Amy Sowder
Richmond Baptist Association
329-1701 ext. 208;
amy.sowder@rbaonline.org

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries presents

2013 VBS DIRECTOR’S WORKSHOP
Begin planning for the largest Outreach Event of the year

Monday, January 21, 2013
7:00 p.m.

=========================================================================

Arrive at 6:30 p.m. for Pizza
(RSVP for Pizza to gaylebradley1@comcast.net)
=========================================================================

MONUMENT HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
5716 Monument Avenue

For VBS Directors, Children’s Ministers,
Sunday School Directors, and VBS Representatives

Discussion Topics:
• The Director’s responsibilities.
• A time-line to help start the planning/prep process.
• A question and answer time for open discussion.

Plus:
VBS materials from Lifeway, Gospel Light, Group and Cokesbury will be available for review. Resource persons will be on-site to discuss the pros and cons of each.

For questions or more details, contact Gayle Bradley at gaylebradley1@comcast.net.
CHURCH NEWS

CARLISLE AVENUE’s Children’s Mission Group sponsored an art show and silent auction to benefit the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s Global Missions. DERBYSHIRE will host CARITAS (Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter) December 29 – January 5. FIRST provided shelter and other essential needs for 80 men through CARITAS November 17-24. GAYTON’s Kid’s Ministry partnered with Soles4Souls to make a difference around the globe by collecting new and gently used shoes (of any size) December 2-23. OAKWOOD MEMORIAL’s Youth Sunday School Class sponsored a mission project, “Socks for Soldiers,” of collecting white, heavy duty athletic socks for our troops in the Middle East from October through November. PINE STREET is participating in the “Martin’s Cash for Causes” program as a means to build the general fund of the church. The program involves specially designed Martin’s cards to be used when shopping at Martin’s. The church receives 5% of the card’s value for participating in the program. SECOND hosted 40 homeless men through CARITAS December 14-21. STAPLES MILL ROAD’s members collected many practical items for their Homeless Ministry throughout the year and were able to fill over 200 backpacks to be taken to Monroe Park and were given out on Saturday, December 22. For some of these homeless people, this may be the only thing they get for Christmas. The church will begin a new Women’s Bible Study, “To Live is Christ”, by Beth Moore on Thursday, January 10, with morning & evening classes. TABERNACLE’s annual Fan Feast, a Thanksgiving meal for the church family and extended family from food pantry patrons, was a tremendous success as they fed over 240 neighbors as well as provided warm clothing for those in need. The church served as a hospitality center for the 50th Annual Holiday House Tour, which featured an array of fabulously-decorated homes in the Fan District in December. WEBBER MEMORIAL’s High School Youth Sunday School Class and the WebberKids, mission-minded children and youth, co-sponsored the making and selling “Break the Chain Bracelets” to raise money for the Alma Hunt Offering to help break the chain of slavery. WESTOVER was awarded a $1000 grant from the Virginia Baptist Mission Board to help expand the 2013 Hospitality Garden to provide more fresh produce to their Food Pantry. WESTHAMPION will begin “Knitting a Fellowship” on Monday, January 7, at 7:00 pm and continuing on the first Monday of each month to share patterns and knit prayer lap robes for church shut-ins.

STAFF NEWS

FAIRMOUNT MEMORIAL has welcomed Jeff Poythress as their new Minister of Outreach and Discipleship. He is serving a one-year internship.

RICHMOND AREA CHURCH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

For boys and girls from age six to eighteen years from the churches in the Dover, Middle District, and Richmond Baptist Associations.

Come learn the game, have fun, learn teamwork, participate in Bible study, and meet other area youth!

THE SEASON BEGINS JANUARY 12, 2013!


REGISTRATION FOR SEASON BEGINS SOON!

For registration fees and dates, rules and schedules, visit the Richmond Baptist Association website at www.rbaonline.org, RACBL section.

Interested churches and youth should contact Darius Webster, League Director, at websterservicesllc@yahoo.com

IRS ANNOUNCES THE 2013 STANDARD MILEAGE RATES

WASHINGTON — Beginning on January 1, 2013, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 56.5 cents per mile for business miles driven.
- 24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The rate for business miles driven during 2013 increases 1 cent from the 2012 rate. The medical and moving rate is also up 1 cent per mile from the 2012 rate.

2012 FINANCIAL BOOKS CLOSING

We will be closing the 2012 financial books on Wednesday, January 15, 2013 Any contributions that you desire to be included in 2012 need to be sent in and postmarked by December 31, 2012. Thanks!

2013 RBA CHURCH SUPPORT/MONTHLY REMITTANCE FORMS DISTRIBUTED

On December 4, the RBA mailed 2013 CHURCH SUPPORT/MONTHLY REMITTANCE FORMS to the attention of the Finance Office of each RBA church If your finance persons did not receive the 2013 forms or needs more forms, they can call the RBA Finance Office or download the form from the RBA website www.rbaonline.org.
All classes meet at Second Baptist Church, 3200 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23223. Applicants must be a Christian and spirit-filled; must possess very strong keyboard skills on both piano and organ. Applicants should be able to read music and be able to work with all age groups of the church. Interested applicants should submit resumes to: The Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Committee, 3200 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23222 or Fax to 804-226-4634. Resumes accepted until December 31, 2012.

John Leland Center for Theological Studies
Offering Courses in the Richmond Area

- Do you need more education and training for ministry?
- Would you like to gain a fuller knowledge of the Bible and the Christian faith?

Then consider The John Leland Center for Theological Studies. We are offering courses in the Richmond area this coming winter/spring semester. Classes begin January 28. Credit may be earned toward a Diploma in Theology, and also toward a bachelor’s degree.

**Spiritual Formation**
Tuesday, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Christian Ethics**
Thursday, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Intro to New Testament**
Thursday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**SPANISH-SPEAKING COURSES**

**Historia y Creencias Bautistas**
(Baptist History and Beliefs)
Monday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**Literatura Juanina**
(Johannine Literature)
Thursday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

All classes meet at Second Baptist Church, 9614 River Road, Richmond, VA.

For more information, contact Keith Smith, Director of the Leland School of Ministry, ksmith@leland.edu, 804-747-1380, (Leland website: http://leland.edu).

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**R A T C H E L D Y**
Kick off the new year with better finances! Entrust Financial Credit Union Money Coaches are standing by to help you offensively tackle your debt and develop a budget for a winning season in 2013. The team at EFCU is here for you long-term. Make the call to EFCU and get started today at (804) 353-8012 or email loans@entrustfcu.com. Entrust Financial Credit Union

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**R A N G E**

**Saturday, January 19**
**10:00 AM**
**2012 RBA Pre-Assembly Meeting**

**January 28 @ 12:00 noon**
Centers Support Group Meeting, RBA
(Note: this date is moved from normal third Monday meeting date due to MLK Holiday.)
The RBA SAVES POSTAGE COSTS. GIVE US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

If you are on our newsletter mailing list and will be moving—please let Frances Jones know your Change of Address in advance! You will be helping us to direct $0.45 “postage due” to more important missions efforts. Thanks!!

TRANSFORMED! is published monthly by the Richmond Baptist Association, 3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222, 804-329-1701.

Contact Frances Jones via email or snail mail at the addresses listed below:

- To submit an article—must be received by the 7th of each month.
- To be added or deleted from the mailing list.
- To submit a change of address in a timely manner so the RBA will not incur postage due costs for returned newsletters that cannot be forwarded.

2013 VBS CURRICULUM FAIR
February 5-7, 2013
1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday

VIRGINIA HALL (Turnbull Room)
on the campus of
Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond
Located on Brook Road between Westwood & Palmyra;
Enter from the Lamont Street parking lot

MAKING A DELIVERY TO THE RBA OFFICE?
Please call before you plan to arrive to make sure someone will be at the office. There are times, during the day, when everyone may be away, so it will save time and gas if you call ahead. The RBA Office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday—Friday.

HELP THE RBA SAVE RETURN POSTAGE COSTS
GIVE US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS!
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Dated material — do not delay

Ten Steps to Financial Freedom in the New Year*

This time of year, we’re all thinking about how we can better our lives and improve over last year’s performance. Here’s a quick list of ways you can work toward financial freedom in 2013.

1. Build a budget
2. Give to God’s work
3. Reduce your use of credit cards
4. Get a grip on spending
5. Spend less that you earn
6. Cook more
7. Localize your vacations
8. Don’t try to keep up with the Joneses
9. Do keep the car that’s paid off
10. Pray for God’s guidance

Want to know more? Visit www.crown.org/personalfinance for tools and other resources to help you budget better, understand your finances and realize God’s plan for your financial future. And contact me to help you get Crown started in your church. Happy New Year!

Randy Rowekamp, Area Manager, VA & WV
804-683-1595; RRowekamp@crown.org;
www.rrowekamp.crown.org

* Reprinted with permission from Do Well, a quarterly magazine from Crown Financial Ministries.