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 and been a success without the donations of money and items; and the many volunteers who helped set up, registered shoppers, assisted with selecting items and then helped pack up.

The stores blessed 548 children and their families 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>111</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Hill</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Richmond</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>548</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 3 and 4. See page 3 for pictures of the ACCC Store.

If your church did not participate this year, be on the look-out for the details of the 2012 Christmas Stores beginning in September!
FROM YOUR DOM, MIKE ROBINSON

A NEW YEAR OR ANOTHER YEAR?

At this time last year Mrs. Greta Kidd, Vice-President of Entrust Financial Credit Union, informed us that the National Foundation for Credit Counseling had 3,200 people complete a survey to find out the #1 New Year’s Resolution for 2011. The following were their results:

- Decrease debt – 69%
- Improve credit scores – 18%
- Increase savings – 7%
- Decrease dependence on credit cards – 7%

For those who personally acted upon any one of these resolutions, 2011 was not just another year but truly a new year!

In recent weeks we have celebrated the season when God did not just another thing but something new by incarnating Himself in human flesh to enter our everyday world as the newborn babe of Bethlehem! The new thing that He did has brought new life to millions who have appropriated the Christ-gift through repentance and a life-changing commitment to His lordship.

It is my prayer that for each of our sixty-nine sister churches of the Richmond Baptist Association 2012 will not be just another year but a significantly new year!

Like the new thing that God did in sending His Son into our everyday world, most of us will certainly benefit immeasurably by doing some new things this year!

Certainly not everyone is adept at generating new ideas, regardless of how crucial or helpful that exercise might be. But there are resources that can stimulate the process. One is a respectful atmosphere for brainstorming within your church where all ideas are accepted as of equal value and without criticism until a later time of evaluating each of them for their appropriateness.

Group Publishers has given us several resources by Tim Stevens and Tony Morgan that are excellent for stimulating the creative process: Simply Strategic Growth, Attracting a Crowd to Your Church; Simply Strategic Volunteers, Empowering People for Ministry and Simply Strategic Stuff: Help for Leaders Drowning in the Details of Running a Church. These are resources to be used by laity and clergy alike to help one another think in new ways about the tasks and ministries that your church is being called to accomplish. Presented in a very inviting and readable fashion, Tim and Tony have found many of these ideas personally helpful in moving their church of 400 with 5 staff members to a congregation of more than 5,000 weekly worshippers and a staff of 70. I strongly commend their trilogy.

With this recommendation comes my best wishes for you and your church for not just a Happy Another Year but an exciting, fulfilling and Happy New Year!!!

Rejoicingly,

Mike

THE RBA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012
For the NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAY
and on
MONDAY, JANUARY, 16, 2012
for the
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
HOLIDAY

Postal Service Adjusts Mailing Service Prices for 2012

WASHINGTON—Effective January 22, 2012 it will cost just a penny more to mail letters to any location in the United States, the first price change for First-Class Mail stamps (Forever stamps) in more than two and a half years. The new 45-cent price for Forever stamps is among price changes filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission.

First Class Mail Highlights:
- Letter (1 oz) - 1-cent increase to 45 cents.
- Letters additional ounces—unchanged at 20 cents.
- Postcards—3-cent increase to 32 cents.
- Letters to Canada or Mexico (1 oz) - 5 cent increase to 85 cents.
- Letters to other international destinations—7 cent increase to $1.05.

Prices also will change for other mailing services, including Standard Mail, Periodicals, Package Services and Extra Services. This price adjustment does not affect Express Mail and Priority Mail prices. More information on the new pricing is available at: http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2011/pr11_factsht_pricechng_1018.pdf.

“The overall average price increase is small and is needed to help address our current financial crisis,” said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe.

November 2011 RBA Budget Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Amount:</th>
<th>$46,208.33</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget Receipts:</td>
<td>$31,228.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Expenses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD Amount:</td>
<td>$508,291.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD Receipts:</td>
<td>$415,879.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Expenses:</td>
<td>$442,069.22</td>
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</table>

2011 Camp Alkulana Offering

Formerly known as the RBA Week of Prayer for Associational Missions

As of 11/30/11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering Goal:</th>
<th>$116,000.00</th>
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<tr>
<td>YTD Receipts:</td>
<td>$142,034.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Expenses:</td>
<td>$107,430.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS REPORT**

**ACCC CHRISTMAS STORE WONDERFULLY RECEIVED!**

Mrs. Ruth Guill, Partnership Missions Team Leader, reported that the much anticipated Christmas Store at the African Christian Community Church was held on Saturday, December 3 and continued on Sunday afternoon December 4, 2011. 25 families shopped at the Store on Saturday with an additional 8 families shopping on Sunday. The three photos below show a number of interested shoppers.

This was the second year for the Christmas store at ACCC which was stocked from items left over from the Christmas Store at the Church Hill Christian Wellness Center. Shoppers paid $10 for the opportunity to visit the Store. Positive comments were received from shoppers who were impressed with items available. Most of the shoppers are part-time workers who would not be able to provide many Christmas gifts, toys or clothing, for their children if they didn’t have this opportunity to shop at this Store.

Ruth and Maynard Guill, Kathleen (RBA WMU Missions Involvement Coordinator) and Clarence Coxon, along with several other volunteers from RBA churches set up the Store. Several members of the ACCC congregation assisted with the set-up as well as with helping shoppers make their selections.

Ruth and Kathleen sincerely thank all those from RBA Churches who provided items for the Christmas Stores this year. ACCC Pastor Calvin Birch sincerely thanks the RBA Family for blessing his congregation with your generous gifts!

Items left over from the ACCC Christmas Store were passed onto a member of River Road, Andrea Frayser who is Guidance Counselor at G. H. Reid Elementary School. Many of the children she works with at the school are considered “homeless” (living in a shelter) and will not be receiving any Christmas gifts, except for these items we have passed on. Mrs. Frayser and the G. H. Reid Students send their heartfelt appreciation to the RBA Family!
Central Virginia Baptist Ministries presents

2012
VBS DIRECTOR’S WORKSHOP
Begin planning for the largest Outreach Event of the year

Tuesday, January 3, 2012
7:00 p.m.
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
1510 Courthouse Road
Chesterfield, VA

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

Discussion Topics:
- Involving the Entire Church in VBS
- Suggestions on What to Look for When selecting VBS Literature
- Recruiting Leaders and Teacher Training
- You Tell Us - How can the Associational Teacher Workshop (March 5th) best serve you and your VBS Leadership.

There is No Charge for this Workshop
Registration is not required, but helpful
To Register or have questions, contact Gayle Bradley
Email: gaylebradley1@comcast.net.
Call: 804-748-2749

SAVE THIS DATE
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012
8:45 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

PREPARE ENRICH

CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP
Offered by
First Things First of Greater Richmond

At Richmond Baptist Association
3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond

Cost: $175 by April 13 ($185 After)
Some partial scholarships available.

Note: Lunch included in price.
Spouse may attend for $10 w/shared materials.
CE Credits (7 hours) available; form provided in class.

Send Registration & payment to: First Things First, 5200 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226
Or Register on-line at:
http://www.firstthingsrichmond.org/topic/article/29422

The PREPARE/ENRICH Certification Workshop is designed to help facilitators learn how to administer PREPARE/ENRICH and provide feedback to premarital and married couples using six core and over 20 supplemental exercises. Learn to help couples identify their strengths and growth areas in categories such as Communication, Conflict Resolution, Spiritual Beliefs & Financial Management.

SAVE THE DATE
March 16—17, 2012
First Baptist Church of Alexandria
2932 King Street, Alexandria, VA

The 21-C Conference is Virginia Baptists’ premier vision-casting, evangelism, and leadership-equipping conference for church staff and lay leaders.

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries, Inc. Presents the:

2012
Pastor-Deacon Conference
“Keeping the Main Thing, The Main Thing”
(Ephesians 2:10)

MARCH 19, 2012
Branch’s Baptist Church
3400 Broad Rock Blvd, Richmond, VA 23234
804-276-5000

SCHEDULE:
6:00 p.m. Refreshments/Bookstore
6:30 p.m. Welcome & Inspirational Meditation
7:00 p.m. Session I
7:50 p.m. Refreshment Break
8:00 p.m. Session II

CONFERENCE CHOICES, select two:
- What Pastors Wish Deacons Knew
- Understanding Purpose, Seizing Ministry Opportunities
- Pumping New Blood into Worn out Deacons
- Deacon Family Ministry/Team Ministry Overview
- New Models in Ministry/Co-Pastoring
- Dealing with Growth Within the Church
- Using Social Media in Ministry
- Shepherding Congregations through Loss and Grief During Change and Transition
- Identifying Lay Leaders
- Basic Training for Deacons
- Multi-Site Ministry
- Equipping Saints to Serve
- What Deacons Wish their Pastors Knew
- Help for Hurting Pastors (Pastors/Clergy only)

There is a $5.00 fee for this Conference
Pre-Registration is Requested
Online registration begins February 6, 2012 at
www.cvbm.org

Questions? Contact Frances Jones, RBA, at 329-1701
It’s Time to Make your Reservations For the:

2012 SPECIAL EDUCATION VALENTINE SOCIAL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10
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 3
To Amy Sowder
Richmond Baptist Association
329-1701 ext. 208;
amy.sowder@rbaonline.org

THE ART OF MARRIAGE
Offered at various Richmond Churches
February 10-11, 2012

Sign-up today....
The First Things First Marriage Coalition and FamilyLife, present The Art of Marriage, a new video-based marriage conference helping couples understand God’s blueprint for marriage. The Art of Marriage is an interactive video conference that weaves together the following elements to help couples fully experience God’s design for marriage: expert teaching, engaging stories, real-life testimonies, man-on-the-street interviews, and humorous vignettes.

Cost is $50 per couple
(includes 2 workbooks and lunch)

Register for The Art of Marriage at:

Be sure to select the correct location when registering.

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

Registration is now open for the following courses during the spring semester, beginning January 23, 2012. These courses are designed for both clergy and laity who are seeking to gain knowledge and practical skill for ministry. Credit may be earned toward a Diploma in Theological Studies, and also toward a bachelor’s degree.

Baptist Beliefs and History
Pastoral Care and Counseling
Christian Theology II

Spanish-Speaking Courses
Introducción al Nuevo Testamento: Monday, 6:30–9:30 pm
Introducción al Antiguo Testamento: Thursday, 6:30–9:30 pm

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, 747-1380, (Leland website: http://leland.edu).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

RBA Executive Council Meeting
February 16, 2011 @ 12:00 Noon
Location: To Be Announced

2012 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 2012. The seminar in Richmond will be held on February 16, 2012, 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.” Yet many churches do not comply with them because they do not understand them. This misunderstanding can lead to substantial penalties.

Minimize your risk and potential for substantial penalties resulting from non-compliance with State and Federal Tax Laws. Make Plans to Attend the 2012 Seminars!

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, to register for the Richmond seminar or to secure a post-seminar appointment, please contact Melody Fowler, GuideStone Administrative Assistant at 1-800-255-2428 X5293 or by email to melody.fowler@vbmb.org.
CHURCH NEWS

BON AIR’s Student Ministry will send a group to “Winterblast” at Bluefield College, January 14-16, to ski, snowboard, tube and to enjoy worship provided by national recording artist Seabird and speakers Eric Timm, Andy Kirk and B. Reith. FIRST will host a special joint January Bible Study, “Bethlehem First”, with Bethlehem (Fairmount) featuring Bethlehem’s pastor, Dr. Victor Davis, on Wednesday nights at 6:15 pm. The study is “The Pursuit: Chasing Answers to Life’s Questions” focusing on the book of Ecclesiastes and will raise and address the most challenging questions we face in life. GRACE’s Chancel Choir will sing with the choir of Seventh Street Christian Church on Sunday January 22 at 4:00 pm, for the “Sing Out for Freedom, Pray for Peace” interfaith concert at Congregation Beth Ahabah. RIVER ROAD will have an Organ Recital featuring Robert P. Gallagher on Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 pm. SANDSTON will house 40-50 men for CARITAS Saturday, January 21-28 and will offer the program, “Making Ends Meet”, led by Entrust Financial Credit Union and 2Live2Give on Wednesday nights, January 4, 11, 18 & February 1 at 6:30 pm. SECOND is also sending their middle and high school students to Bluefield College for “Winterblast”, January 14-16 for a time of inspiring and transformational worship and fun on the slopes. STAPLES MILL ROAD will offer “Financial Peace University” beginning January 8. SWIFT CREEK’s Student Ministry is having their first ever Winter Retreat to the Great Wolf Lodge on January 6-7 where they will have small group time, and worship services with the theme, “Reconnect with God and Others.” WESTHAMPTON’s Music Ministry will have a fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner and Puppet Show on Sunday, January 29.

STAFF NEWS

BETHANY PLACE has called Dr. Gene Cornett as their new Pastor/Elder. CHAMBERLAYNE has called Rev. Rachel Hoffman as their new Associate Pastor for Family Ministries. GINTER PARK will celebrate Dr. Lee Gallman’s 35 years of ministry as their Pastor and his retirement on January 22 with a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanksgiving at Oregon Hill Baptist Center

FOOD BAG DISTRIBUTION

Community Missionary, Jennifer Turner, reported giving out food bags with Thanksgiving-like food and a $10 grocery store gift card to 83 households on November 19. This was 15 more bags than last year.

Thanksgiving Meal for the Homeless

On Wednesday, November 23, 19 members of Pine Street Baptist Church (and a few other volunteers) contributed the covered dishes to serve and fellowship with 29 homeless friends. Check out the photos below to see what a great time of fellowship was had by all!

IRS Announces 2012 Standard Mileage Rates, Most Rates Are the Same as in July

WASHINGTON — Beginning on January 1, 2012, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

• 55.5 cents per mile for business miles driven.
• 23 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 is unchanged from the mid-year adjustment that became effective on July 1, 2011. The medical and moving rate has been reduced by 0.5 cents per mile.
Camp Alkulana's mentoring program has been connecting campers with counselors for year-round mentoring for the past five years. We have many faithful counselors who volunteer their time and energies—many of whom have been involved in this part of the ministry for years now. Recently, we asked them to consider why they volunteer to be mentors, and how it has been meaningful to them. Here's one response that we received from former camper and long-time counselor, Victoria Bradley:

**The Afternoon of the Sparkling Polar Bear**

On a chilly December afternoon in 2002, I trotted from the bus stop to my house, opening our mailbox and humming "Jingle Bells" jubilantly as Christmas Break had just begun. Much to my surprise, amidst the bills and junk mail, a kelly green envelope emerged, proudly displaying my name in curly, mesmerizing cursive. Giddy excitement tingled my fingertips as they voraciously shredded the fold and tore out the dazzling card, glitter floating to the pavement. A jolly, sparkling polar bear was sledding down a hill of snow wearing a red scarf with penguin close behind; the inside was a thorough letter wishing me a merry Christmas from my camp counselor the previous summer, Amber Hatfield.

Words can hardly describe the utter joy I felt when receiving that card; Amber had remembered me and even written personal questions and anecdotes in the text. As a twelve year-old girl, knowing that a counselor whom I admired had thought of me made my heart sparkle just as much as the polar bear's fur. Until our family moved homes four years later, that card remained taped to my bedroom door, reminding me of God's love and how he shows it through others.

Even though I was a camper before the Mentoring Program began, this is why I know that the Mentoring Program brings love and happiness to the campers it services. Nine years later, I still remember that delight from having contact with a counselor via a Christmas card; magnify this feeling times twenty, as our mentors have contact with campers various times each month. This is why I am a mentor in the Camp Alkulana Mentoring Program, to show our campers that we love them and think about them year-round. Merry Christmas!

---

**January Calendar**

**January 1**

**Collegiate Ministries Emphasis Sunday**

**January 2**

RBA OFFICE CLOSED

**January 3 @ 7:00 PM**

CVBM VBS Director's Workshop, Central BC
1510 Courthouse Rd, Chesterfield

**January 9 @ 10:00 AM**

RBA STAFF MEETING

**January 10 @ 12 NOON**

RBA Ministers' Fellowship & Lunch, RBA
"Helping Couples Prepare for Marriage,”
Lunch Cost $6—RSVP by Jan. 6 to 329-1701

**January 10 @ 6:30 PM**

CAMP ALKULANA SUPPORT TEAM, RBA

**January 13**

RBA Financial Books Close for 2011

**January 15**

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

**January 16**

RBA OFFICE CLOSED

**January 17 @ 10:30 AM**

RBA WMU Winter Celebration & Lunch, First

**January 18 @ 12 NOON**

Deadline to Submit Material for February 2012 Transformed

**January 19 @ 7:00 PM**

Administrative Council Meeting, RBA

**January 23 @ 12:00 NOON**

Baptist Centers Support Group, RBA

**January 24**

10:30 AM (LUNCH): South-West Women on Mission @ Westover

6:15 PM: North-East Women on Mission @ Fairmount Memorial
**Host Churches Needed for 2012 RBA Meetings**

**Executive Council Meetings**

- February 16
- August 16
- November 15

**61st Annual Fall Meeting**

Sunday, October 21

3:00 p.m. Session and 5:00 p.m. Dinner

If your church is interested in hosting one of these meetings or if you have questions, contact Frances Jones or Mike Robinson at the RBA at 804-329-1701 as soon as possible.

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**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 18th 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.

---

**Help the RBA Save 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! The RBA has to pay $0.45 “postage due” for each returned newsletter because they are mailed bulk rate and the post office will not forward them to your new address! Postage due costs can add up if we have several newsletters returned each month! We appreciate your assistance with this matter.

---

**RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

3111 Moss Side Avenue

Richmond, VA 23222

Phone: 804-329-1701

Fax: 804-321-7121

E-mail: office@rbaonline.org

Website: www.rbaonline.org

**Date Material — Do Not Delay**

---

**Want to do Something BIG?**

**Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days**

At Camp Alkulana

May 19 and June 2, 2012

**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.

---

**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.

---

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**Host Churches Needed for 2012 RBA Meetings**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

(includes quickly served lunch and Thursday meeting 12 noon-1:30 p.m.)

February 16
August 16
November 15

**61st Annual Fall Meeting**

Sunday, October 21

3:00 p.m. Session and 5:00 p.m. Dinner

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