The Staff of the Richmond Baptist Association
Wishes you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and A New Year filled with God's Richest Blessings!
Greetings!

The RBA Constitution indicates the purpose of our Association as follows: “The mission of the Richmond Baptist Association is to serve member churches in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ by encouraging and facilitating congregational witness, fellowship, and cooperation with others.” I want to share two excellent opportunities for us to carry out our purpose.

The first is an evangelism approach known as “More to Life” developed by Dennis Pethers, who is the founder of Viz-A-Viz Ministries and International Director of More to Life. He works in close partnership with Virginia Baptists and LifeWay Christian Resources in the US and with numerous networks of leaders around the world. This unique format helps believers engage their non-Christian friends in a discussion regarding Christ and salvation. It is an easy-to-use approach. The Christian simply invites his/her unbelieving friends to explore the life of Jesus through a four-session video-led discussion group. Each session aims to bring understanding of Christ’s work to bring about forgiveness, hope, and meaning to our lives.

The More to Life materials are being printed and distributed by LifeWay Christian Resources. The RBA has agreed to provide a cluster of seven or eight people who will serve as pilot group in Virginia. There will be ten clusters around the state. I personally will be one of the people in our first cluster here at the RBA. The cluster can include pastors, staff members, and lay people. I want to challenge you to consider being a part of this first group to use these evangelism materials. Please contact me right away to let me know of your interest in being a part of this More to Life evangelism thrust.

The second opportunity is being developed by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The goal of “God’s Plan for Sharing” (GPS) is to fulfill the Great Commission in North America by Every believer sharing and every person hearing by 2020. GPS will have a special evangelism campaign every two years beginning in 2010. The special evangelism campaign for 2010 is called ACROSS NORTH AMERICA. This is considered a “sowing” effort, designed to get the average believer out of the pew and into the streets. This campaign will take place through the Easter season and is comprised of four steps: a three-week media blitz prior to Easter, participating churches “prayer walking” their communities, participating churches saturating their communities with a clear bag containing the gospel, a church brochure, and an invitation to Easter services, and participating churches will conduct a five-week “follow-up” process. I want to ask all of our churches to join this exciting campaign and have another reason to worship and celebrate this Easter season. For more information about “GPS: Across North America,” visit www.vbmb.org/GPS or contact me at 329-1701.

Every single church in the RBA believes the Great Commission has been given to them to carry out. But the real question is, “What are you and your church doing to fulfill the Great Commission given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ?” Please, let me encourage you to participate in both of these opportunities to be involved in reaching the lost around us.

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**From Your Dom, Pete du Plessis**

**Dates to Note From RBA Staff**

**RBA Office CLOSED**

**December 24 thru January 1, 2010**

For the Christmas Holiday And New Year’s

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**2009 Financial Books Closing**

We will be closing the 2009 financial books on Friday, January 15, 2010. Any contributions that you desire to be included in 2009 need to be sent in and postmarked by December 31, 2009. Thanks!

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**N E E D E D: COMPLETED 2009 ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILES!**

ACP Contact Persons of all RBA churches should have received the 2009 Annual Church Profile (ACP) survey forms in the mail in late August. The survey provides much needed information that is vital to the ministry of the Richmond Baptist Association.

Please take time to complete the survey forms and return them to the RBA—ASAP!

The deadline was October 16, 2009, but we are still accepting profiles. If you have any questions, contact Amy Sowder at the RBA office, 329-1701 ext. 208 or amy.sowder@rbaonline.org.

We thank you for your cooperation in completing and sending in your ACP as soon as possible!

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**October 2009 Budget Report**

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**2009 Camp Alkulana Offering**

As of 10/31/09

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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
804-329-1701 ♦ office@rbaonline.org
Or check out the E-giving option on our website:
www.rbaonline.org

The Ministries of the Richmond Baptist Association:
Together… Transforming Lives Since 1951.

MARK YOUR 2010 CALENDARS

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RBA ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
January 21, 2010
7:00 p.m.
RBA Office, 3111 Moss Side Ave.

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SPECIAL EDUCATION VALENTINE SOCIAL
February 12, 2010
7:00—9:00 p.m.
Monument Heights Baptist Church
More information coming next month!

RBA PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS GOING LOCAL WITH
“RBA-AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH PARTNERSHIP”

In her annual report, Ruth Guill, Team Leader of the RBA Partnership Missions Team reported to attendees of the RBA’s 58th Annual Fall Meeting that in the past the churches of the Richmond Baptist Association have been involved in partnership missions in Toronto. This has been a great blessing to all who participated and there were many. In fact, this partnership continues between individual RBA churches and those in Toronto.

The RBA Partnership Missions Team is moving in a new direction – that is, local partnerships.

We have had a request from the African Christian Community Church (Pastor Calvin Birch) to partner with them, beginning as soon as possible, in their various outreach ministries to African immigrants in Richmond. The African Christian Community Church (ACCC), recently voted into full-membership in the RBA, was founded in 2003 as an outreach to immigrants. To date 95% of its members consists of immigrants from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Sudan and Zambia. The remaining 5% are African Americans. The ACCC needs assistance with their after school tutoring and mentoring program, The Barnabas Project; and providing food, clothing and the like with their community ministry.

Therefore we need volunteers to assist in this undertaking.

Many possibilities and opportunities are being explored. Several churches have already shown an interest in this partnership. Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church has partnered with the African Christian Community Church for six years giving them space and sharing the utility costs. Now we need to develop an ongoing partnership with this Church.

The Partnership Missions Team is inviting you or your church group to consider participating, on a regular basis, in this partnership as individual volunteers or as ministry teams to provide food and clothing; to be tutors and mentors as part of the After School program for all ages on Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Liberian children were not in school in Liberia for many years because of the unrest in the country. They need our help. Representatives from RBA Churches voted positively at the recent Annual Meeting to move forward in this direction beginning in November 2009.

A covenant agreement is being drawn up between the RBA and the ACCC and Ruth Guill will serve as coordinator. More details will be forthcoming regarding the specific need for volunteers. If you have any questions regarding this partnership, contact Ruth Guill at 745-1655.
IT’S TIME TO GATHER NEW TOYS AND CLOTHING FOR THE 2009 CHRISTMAS STORES AT THE THREE RICHMOND BAPTIST CENTERS!

We call them “Christmas Stores” because the items are not simply given away. A small amount - $5.00 is charged for each child, entitling the parent(s) to select toys and several pieces of clothing. The money collected is used in a neighborhood fuel assistance fund for the winter months. Our stores are a ministry to the whole person, in which relationships are central. Parents retain their dignity as they carefully select gifts which they have paid to obtain.

We need gifts for children ages birth through 12 years old (the Center directors report shortages for the 7-to-10 year olds). Suggestions: Clothing (including jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts, sleepwear, hats, gloves, socks, and underwear), games, toys, books, bicycles and helmets. Go easy on stuffed animals and Barbie dolls. In other words, purchase gifts that you would want your own children to receive. Do not wrap them; the parents need to see what they are selecting. (If you would like to donate some wrapping paper that will be appreciated.)

Last year your gifts made it possible for these centers to assist 341 families and provide a happy Christmas for 817 children! If you have questions, call Kathleen Coxen, Mission Involvement Consultant, at 272-1667.

SOUTH RICHMOND AND OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTERS
Christmas store in South Richmond Center
Saint Paul’s South, 700 East Belt Blvd.
Thursday & Friday ♦ December 3 & 4
10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Deliver your gifts: November 30 and December 1 (Monday & Tuesday), between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 2, between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Bring gifts to the rear of the gymnasium at Saint Paul’s South. Volunteers are needed to help sort and set-up each delivery day; help as shopping assistants on Store days; be interpreters for Spanish speaking shoppers; and help pack-up leftover items on Friday, December 5. If you can volunteer, call Margaret Allen at 232-0174.

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THE CHURCH HILL WELLNESS CENTER
Christmas Store @ Bethlehem Baptist Church,
1920 Fairmount Ave.
(on the opposite side of Fairmount from the Wellness Center in Mount Tabor Church)
Saturday ♦ December 5
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Deliver your gifts to Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1920 Fairmount Avenue, across the street from Mount Tabor; December 2 & 3 (Wednesday and Thursday), between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up on Friday afternoon, December 4, starting at 4:00 p.m. with dinner provided; and as shopping assistants on December 5. If you can volunteer, call Glinda Ford at 780-0053.

ANNOUNCING.....
LEADING TODAY'S CHURCH
TRANSITION INTO TOMORROW

January 29-30, 2010
Gayton Baptist Church, Richmond
Conference Registration Opens November 21, 2009
For all the details and to register visit: www.21-c.org

Leading Today’s Church into Tomorrow

Welcome to the world of “Transition.” Transition is defined as “a passage from one place, period, state, stage of development, type, etc., over, across, or through to another.” Whether we like it or not, transition happens! So why not be intentional about it?

This year’s 21-C Conference will be composed of four unique conference experiences. Each experience is designed to help Virginia Baptist leaders lead their churches from where they are today to where they believe God would like for them to be in the future.

January 29-30, 2010
Gayton Baptist Church, Richmond
For all the details and to register visit: www.21-c.org

Want to do Something BIG?

Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days At Camp Alkulana
May 22 and June 5, 2010
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 little girl rushed up to her newborn brother in his hospital room and asked, “Quick, what is God like?” She shrewdly figured that, having just come from Heaven, he might have some inside information. (Philip Yancey, *The Bible Jesus Read*, 26-27)

Isn’t that a great question? Quick, how would you answer? As a leader in your church and association, there are many who look to you for answers. That story came from a book purchased at the CVBM Leadership Development Conference that was held in September. It reminded me that as leaders in our church and association – many people look to us for answers. It reinforced for me how important it is that we get to know God better. Reading God’s Word and participating in training and mission opportunities can help us help others know what God is like. Why is that so important?

Christianity grew only 7% between 1990 and 2001, having the slowest growth rate among religions in America. To put that into perspective, during that same time period:

- Mormonism grew by 112%
- Humanism grew by 169%
- Islam grew by 210%
- Buddhism grew by 270%
- Hinduism grew by 337%

The Wiccan religion (a contemporary form of paganism that includes goddess worship) grew the fastest: 1,675%

So many Americans claim no religion at all (15%, up from 8% in 1990) that this category now outranks every other major US religious group except Catholics and Baptists. (“How Americans Describe Their Religious Identity 1990-2008” USA Today)

And consider the recent art exhibit in Washington, DC that marked the first-ever International Blasphemy Day (September 30) at the Center for Inquiry DC near Capitol Hill. The Blasphemy Challenge encouraged people to upload their denials of faith to YouTube. (USA Today, 10/2/09)

This Christmas, let’s make it a priority to tell someone what God is like. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 reminds us that when we share our faith it is a demonstration of God’s power:

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom but on God’s power. (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)

Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas season filled with opportunities to discover even more what God is like, and a holiday season filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Blessings, Nita May
CHURCH NEWS

BON AIR continued their “HeartBeats from Home” ministry of sending cards, prayers and bags filled with special items to the families left behind when a member is deployed overseas on Veterans Day. Their music ministry will welcome 75 guests from local homeless centers to attend the 3:30 pm music performance and at 5:00 pm have Christmas dinner prepared by their Food Service Ministry, served by their music and mission groups and paid for by the Sanctuary Choir and Coventry Ringers. BROADUS MEMORIAL will have “Children’s Winter Workshop” for ages four and up on Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 am-12:30pm with craft-making, gifts, pizza, snacks and a movie. CAMBRIDGE will have the “Longest Night Service” on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 pm for a time of special music, scripture, silent reflection, healing prayer and communion for anyone who has suffered the loss of a family member or friend, a relationship, good health or their job. DERBYSHIRE celebrated five years of the Robert Scott Aronson Grief Ministry which provides individual/family grief counseling, seminars, and related resources. They offered a new seminar, “Understanding Grief after the Death of an Infant”, as well as “Grief: Coping With the Holidays After a Loss” for church members and the community. FIRST hosted 100 CARITAS men for the week of Thanksgiving. The church is weekly hosting a couple of dozen newly-arrived Nepalese refugee guests for Wednesday night dinner and have asked for donations to help defray the cost of the meals in order to demonstrate Christian hospitality by helping them adjust to our culture, learn our language and become productive members of our community. GAYTON went to the Greenville Correctional Center for a “Kairos” celebration service that concludes the Kairos three plus days of intense prayer, worship and study. GINTER PARK’s Christian Education Council sponsored a Food for Thanksgiving Drive with the goal of collecting 93 items (to honor the 93 year anniversary of their church) on each Sunday in November. GRACE’s Youth and Children invited the Senior Adults to their Annual Intergenerational Thanksgiving Luncheon. MONUMENT HEIGHTS will have an Outdoor Nativity at 6:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday nights, December 19 and 20. RIVER ROAD graciously hosted the RBA Executive Council meeting and hosted “Youth Choir Jam 2009” which is a weekend of music and fellowship with other youth choirs from Richmond, Hampton, Blacksburg and Roanoke with sessions directed by Kenney Potter. SECOND hosted the Stop Hunger Now (an international hunger relief organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid around the world) event to package dehydrated, high protein and highly nutritious meals that are used in crisis situations and in school feeding programs for schools and orphanages in developing countries around the world. They will host CARITAS Saturday, December 26 – Saturday, January 2.

WESTHAMPTON’s Evangelism and Visitation Committee is working on a project with the Richmond Friends of the Homeless to feed individuals the first Wednesday of each month. WESTOVER’s Brotherhood Christmas tree lot opened shortly after Thanksgiving. The Benevolence Committee held a Food Drive to collect food and blankets for the Westover neighborhood.

STAFF NEWS

BETHANY PLACE welcomes Marty Coleman as their new Interim Pastor of Worship Arts and Youth. FIRST’s Dr. Jim Sommerville was the preacher for the evening session of the Baptist General Association of Virginia’s annual meeting in Fredericksburg. NEW BRIDGE enjoyed the first Sunday of preaching by their new Senior Pastor, Dr. Rob Edwards, on November 22. TABERNACLE ordained Anna Miller to the gospel ministry on Nov. 1.

BOB BASS ELECTED
BGAV FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

At the 186th annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia in Fredericksburg on November 18, Bob Bass was elected to serve as the First Vice President of the BGAV for this next year. Bob has been active in denominational service over the years having served on the national, state and local levels. The Richmond Baptist Association is certainly proud of Bob and his many accomplishments for the Kingdom of God. He has served as Moderator of the RBA in addition to many other places of responsibility in the association. He is an active member in the Bon Air Baptist Church. The RBA wishes to congratulate Bob Bass in being elected to this new office in the BGAV.
**Help/Situations Wanted**

**Minister of Music:** Part-time position. Send résumé and salary requirements to the attention of the Personnel Committee, Stockton Memorial Baptist Church, 5100 Claypoint Rd. Chesterfield, Va. 23232. Phone 804-744-8761. Fax 804-744-8277. Email stocktonchurch@aol.com. Will consider director and accompanist position as separate positions if qualified. Organist abilities a plus.

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<th>Grace Baptist Church, in Windsor Farms, Richmond, VA is looking for a Part-Time Organist to play one service a week, one rehearsal. For more information on the position, please check the American Guild of Organists (AGO) website (<a href="http://www.richmondago.org">www.richmondago.org</a>) or call the church office at 804-353-0134. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Wanda Sauley Fennell, Grace Baptist Church, 4200 Dover Road, Richmond, VA. 23221.</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Organist/Pianist/Choir Director** needed immediately by Oakwood Memorial Baptist Church to lead the choir and accompany on organ for choir practice on Thursday evenings and during Sunday morning worship service. Salary negotiable. Oakwood Memorial is located in East Henrico County near Airport. For more information contact Norma Carlton 804-301-4509.

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| Free Piano |
| Our family has a Winter Upright Piano with practiano and bench, see photo, that needs a new home. We would like to donate it to a church or church related organization. The new owner will need to pick up the piano. |
| If interested, contact Jeanie Waldrop at 804-739-4487 or jeaniew1@comcast.net. |

+------------------------------------------+
| Stewardship Matters! |
| **Entrust Federal Credit Union** takes stewardship seriously. |
| We want the churches and members we serve to have the best budgets as well as the biblical principles to reinforce why they need these budgets! |
| Learn how serious we are by contacting Greta Kidd at 278-4714 or gkidd@entrustfcu.com. |
| P.S.: Entrust would like to host a 10-week Crown Financial Ministries Life Study in your church this Winter. Are you interested in providing this to your members at a discounted cost? Call Greta! |

+------------------------------------------+
| December Calendar |
| **November 29—December 6** |
| **Week of Prayer for International Missions** |
| **“Lottie Moon” Christmas Offering** |

**November 30 & December 1: 9am to 2pm and December 2: 9am to 12 noon**

Deliver Christmas Store Gifts For Oregon Hill/South Richmond Centers to Saint Paul’s South, 700 East Belt Blvd

Questions, Contact: Margaret Allen 232-0174

**December 1 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Camp Alkulana CAST, RBA

**December 2 @ 12 noon**

Ministers’ Lunch, Piccadilly on Broad

**December 3 & 4 @ 10am—1:30pm**

Christmas Store @ Saint Paul’s South For Oregon Hill & South Richmond Centers

**December 5 @ 8am to 5pm**

Christmas Store @ Bethlehem Fairmount For Church Hill Wellness Center

**December 10 @ 2pm**

CVBM Coordinating Team, Dover

**December 11 @ 12 noon**

“Early” Deadline for Submission of Material To RBA for December Transformed!

**December 24 thru January 1, 2010**

RBA Office CLOSED For the Christmas Holiday And New Year’s Day
The Richmond Area Diploma Course Offerings

JOHN LELAND CENTER
FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

2010 Spring Semester

TUESDAY, 3:00 p.m.
Christian Ethics

TUESDAY, 6:00 p.m.
Christian Theology II

THURSDAY, 6:00 p.m.
Church Administration

Classes begin on January 25, 2010
All classes held at Derbyshire Baptist Church,
8800 Derbyshire Road,, Richmond, VA 23229

QUESTIONS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
Contact: Dr. Keith Smith @ Derbyshire
nksmith@dbcrichmond.org or 804-740-7238 x22

HOST CHURCHES NEEDED FOR
2010 RBA MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS
(includes quickly served lunch and
Thursday meeting 12 noon—1:30 p.m.)

August 19
November 18

“Spring Celebration”
April 22 @ 7:00 p.m.
(no meal involved with this meeting.)

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
  20th 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 newsletter that cannot be forwarded.

MAKING A DELIVERY TO THE RBA OFFICE?
Please call before you plan to arrive to make sure someone will be at
the office. During the holiday season 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 MONEY
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 $0.44 “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.

DATED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY