Hallelujah!
Christ our Savior is Born!

Wise Men Still Seek Him!

It (the Star) led them (the Magi) on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him.

Matthew 2:9-11 (The Message)

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:10-12 (NIV)

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 Christmas Season is quickly coming upon us. We all look forward to this wonderful celebration of our Lord’s birth. The many activities related to “Merry Christmas” bring us such joy and happiness. Each church develops its own schedule of programs and traditions that mean so much to that congregation. Many churches open these special activities to the community at large. There are scores of people who will enter a church building during this holy time of the year just to see what is going on with these Christians. Christmas is certainly the time to tell the good news – Christ is born!

The Richmond Baptist Association and its member churches are committed to understanding and obeying the admonition of our Lord found in Acts 1:8: “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (NKJV). It behooves us to be diligent in telling the good news in all four geographical areas represented in this verse. Most churches have developed a mission statement as a guiding principle for their particular congregation. And in many instances, that mission statement has its roots in Acts 1:8 or in the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20 or in the Great Commandment found in Matthew 22:37-40. Isn’t that what the church and what Christmas is all about? As born again believers, we are to be about loving God and loving one another and telling others about the love of God.

Now churches may have differing ideas about how that is supposed to happen, but happen it must. We dare not lose sight of who we are in Christ and thus, whose we are! Our passion must be clear – we must love God with all that we are and we must love one another unconditionally. And although we may not all do it in exactly the same way, we must do it in a manner pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

The RBA mission statement reads like this: “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.” Or, you may have heard it put another way, “we can do so much more together than any one of us can do alone.” The Association endeavors to help its member churches to work together in carrying out our Lord’s commands.

One very powerful way of doing that is to network our churches together in doing missions. Many of our larger churches regularly take volunteer mission trips. Perhaps those larger churches could invite other churches of the association to join them on their next mission project. Please let the association help you in getting out the word about your mission trip and give other churches an opportunity to do missions with you. The RBA will be more than happy to print your information in our monthly newsletter so we can all be aware of where the Lord is moving in our midst. Our churches are not to compete with one another but rather complement one another. Let’s join hearts and hands as we intentionally share the spirit of Christmas in all of our mission fields. The Father is pleased when He sees His children work together in unity. May God richly bless you and yours as you experience the love of God in having a very Merry Christmas.
OUR SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCE  
Phil Peacock, Pastor  
Broadus Memorial Baptist Church

When was the last time you counseled with a teenage girl who was prostituting herself to buy food and pay school tuition? Or worshipped in a church constructed of rough wooden poles and sheet metal? Or hugged a child whose parents had both died of AIDS? Or overcame your inhibitions enough to talk to a crowd of teenagers about sexual purity? For a team of fourteen people from Broadus Church, the answer is “July 2008”!

My wife, Amber, and I had the privilege of being part of a mission team to South Africa this past summer. With our missionary kid backgrounds, it’s not surprising that we would be drawn to this ministry adventure, but I was overwhelmed that there were twelve others – 5 youth, 3 college students and 4 other adults (all female, by the way) – who would be willing to step out of their comfort zones and travel to a far-away land to share the love of Christ. Though our South African Baptist partners had requested primarily evangelism/revival teams, we consider it a “God thing” that our mission task turned out to be a bit different. Because of our deep burden for the “new generation,” we divided into two teams – one to focus on children and the other on youth.

Our children’s ministry team had an extraordinary experience. During our stay in Bloemfontein, they were able to present a short program of Bible stories, songs and crafts in ten different classrooms in the Sentraal Primary School. Using the story of Jesus’ call to Peter to be a fisher of men, they presented the truth about God’s loving invitation to each person to be an obedient follower of Jesus. We estimate that over 300 students! Outside of the school setting, they also offered Bible Club activities on a sports field, in a local church, and in a city park. What a thrill it was to watch kids appear out of nowhere when the games and singing started!

Our youth ministry team decided months before departure to make “True Love Waits” (TLW) our focus. Using material specifically designed for African youth by a former missionary, we presented five 2-hour TLW presentations about God’s perfect plan for sexual purity. We talked to 11th grade students in several different public schools, with over 150 students in each assembly. We also did a presentation in one of the local churches. We estimate that close to 700 high school students heard the message, and about 250 of them signed the TLW commitment card!

I can’t describe for you how meaningful it was for me to see people from my own church – particularly the young people – speaking publicly, plainly and boldly about their own commitment to live lives of sexual purity. I can’t convey to you how it impacted us to hear the testimonies of African youth who were willing to endure ridicule within their peer groups to follow God’s plan. Some made the commitment to break off unhealthy relationships they had already begun. One girl was ready to trust God and give up her life of prostitution. Our prayer is that God will use our efforts to lead young people into His family, and at the same time to stem the tide of HIV/AIDS that is ravaging that beautiful country.

What I share with you here only scratches the surface of our experiences. It was certainly worth the money, the long flights, and the effort. The exotic animals were fun to watch during our day of sightseeing, but no one in our group considers that the highlight. We came home with new friends, new memories, and a new appreciation for what God is doing around the world. We even got to worship with the new mission church that Broadus is helping to sponsor in the poorest township around Bloemfontein. If you have never followed God’s call beyond your comfort zone, perhaps it’s time to give it a try. You will be blessed and you will become a blessing to others. I guarantee it!

ENTRUST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION’S MEMBER STORY

Sherie lacked confidence....

“I knew NOTHING about purchasing a vehicle. My mom suggested I attend a Car-Buying seminar at Entrust. The loan guy, Sean, realized I was extremely nervous about purchasing, and he helped me every step of the way. I learned how I was going to have to interact with the sales person, and Sean taught me about invoice pricing, what was fair, and what was not. I felt like Sean kept me from getting in over my head. Entrust gave me the confidence to walk into the car dealership. And I love my new car!” - Sherie Carpenter, member since 1992

Entrust FCU offers safety, security and stability in this challenging economy. We can be a financial alternative so you, your church and its members have the resources to maintain your financial well-being. For more information about how Entrust can serve you, please contact Greta Kidd at 278-4714 or gkidd@entrustfcu.com OR go to our website at www.efcu.coop.
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.)

Refer to the lists below to see where it is suggested that your church take its gifts. If you have questions, call Carol Alley, Mission Involvement Consultant, at 282-7982.

**SOUTH RICHMOND AND OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTERS**

Christmas store in South Richmond Center @ Saint Paul’s South, 700 East Belt Boulevard

**Thursday & Friday ◆ December 4 & 5 ◆**
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Deliver your gifts: December 1 and 2 (Monday & Tuesday), between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Bring them to the rear of the gymnasium at Saint Paul’s South. Volunteers are needed to help with intake, set-up on Wednesday, December 3, and shopping assistance. If you can volunteer, call Margaret Allen at 232-0174.

**THE CHURCH HILL WELLNESS CENTER**

Christmas Store @ Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1920 Fairmount Ave. (across Fairmount Ave. from the Wellness Center @ Mt. Tabor Church)

**Saturday, December 6 ◆ 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 1 through 5 (Monday through Friday), between 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 10:00-2:00 p.m. on Friday. Volunteers are needed to help with intake, set-up, and shopping assistance. If you can volunteer, call Glinda Ford at 780-0053.

---

**CHURCHES TO TAKE GIFTS TO SOUTH RICHMOND:**

Bethany Place<br>Community of Grace<br>Derbyshire<br>First<br>Friendship Memorial<br>Gayton<br>Ginter Park<br>Grace<br>Gravel Hill<br>Grove Avenue<br>Hatcher Memorial<br>Huguenot Road<br>Jahnke Road<br>Lakeside<br>Lighthouse of Hope<br>Morning Star<br>New Canaan<br>New Covenant<br>New Life<br>Northminster<br>Oak Forest<br>Oak Grove<br>Patterson Avenue<br>Pine Street<br>Richmond Korean<br>Saint Paul’s<br>Shalom Fellowship

**CHURCHES TO TAKE GIFTS TO CHURCH HILL:**

A Different Richmond<br>Bethlehem<br>Bethlehem (Penick)<br>Broadus Memorial<br>Cambridge<br>Carlisle Avenue<br>Chamberlayne<br>Community Mission<br>Disciples for Christ<br>Fairmount Memorial<br>Leigh Street<br>Life-Line for Jesus<br>Mount Carmel<br>Mount Sinai<br>Mount Tabor<br>New Bridge<br>New Canaan<br>Oakwood Memorial<br>River Road<br>Second<br>Staples Mill Road

---

**FEELING TENTS (TENSE) THIS CHRISTMAS?**

Hard to buy *something* for someone who needs *nothing*? How about buying a tent for Camp Alkulana in that someone’s honor?

Camp Alkulana needs a specific model of tent, as it best suits our needs. The tent is discounted for non-profits and costs $40.49.

To order online, go to [http://alkulana.org/donatetent.php](http://alkulana.org/donatetent.php) or call Gracie Kirkpatrick at 329-1701 x206 for information on the specific tent. Our campers will appreciate your donation when they discover that they slept through the storm on their "High Adventure" without waking up in a pool of water (standard fare with our present tents!)

---

Chances are that no tent could be more perfect for your church this Christmas season. With the help of the Richmond Baptist Centers, you can choose from different models and sizes that suit everyone’s needs.

**Want to do Something BIG?**

**Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days at Camp Alkulana**

**May 16 and May 30, 2009**

**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 you can count on you, call or email Gracie Kirkpatrick, Camp Director: 329-1701, ext. 206 or Alkulana@juno.com.

Note: After March 1, contact Beth Wright, Camp Director: 329-1701 ext. 206.
Retreat to the perfect VA get-away!

Camp Alkulana, is the perfect place for your group to get away for a retreat! Youth groups, young adults, Sunday School Classes… groups of all ages will find the camp’s retreat facilities an attractive site for group bonding, spiritual reflection, and relaxation. During the summer, our mission is to allow Richmond’s children a place to leave behind their challenges, and come to a place that will allow them just to be kids and learn about the transforming power of God in their lives. During the year, our focus broadens to providing a space that can do the same thing for you!

Adventure activities are available for all skill levels, including hiking, caving, rappelling, and low ropes course. For more information about which facilities are right for your group, check out www.alkulana.org/retreat.

Book your retreat weekends now before they fill up!

Check out www.alkulana.org or call 804-329-1701 ext. 206.
BETHANY PLACE’s Music and Drama Ministry will present “Tonight, Heaven Touches Earth” on Saturday, December 13, at 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 14, at 10:30 am. BON AIR is collecting Teddy Bears for their Prison Ministry and is presenting “Lottie D. — A Musical on the Life of Lottie Moon” on Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 pm. CAMBRIDGE will have their Children’s Christmas Musical Program on Wednesday, December 17 and again on Sunday, December 21 during the morning worship service. FIRST hosted CARITAS November 22-29 which included a special Thanksgiving dinner. First will have “Child of Light”, featuring the Church Choir, Orchestra and One Accord on Sunday, December, 7 at 7:00 pm, “All is Bright” featuring One Accord and First Ringers on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 pm and “It’s a Wonderful Birth”, their Youth Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 pm. GAYTON will have a “Jazz Nativity” on Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 pm, a Christmas Choral Musical on Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 pm and their Children’s Christmas Musical on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 pm. GRACE has sent pocket change, collected for over a year, to the Diamond Christian Camp for Children in Poland and to the Grace Baptist Institute in Liberia. HATCHER MEMORIAL will have “Festival of Carols”, a Christmas Musical, on Sunday evening, December 21. HUGUENOT ROAD is looking for coaches, assistant coaches, prayer partners, gym monitors for practices and games, adults to share devotions at half-time of games and game clock operators for this year’s Upward Basketball season. MONUMENT HEIGHTS is asking their members to “Adopt a College Student” to keep in touch with by sending encouraging letters, exam care packages, cards and praying for them. NEW BRIDGE will present “A Night in Bethlehem”, a musical Christmas drama, on December 11-13 at 7:00 pm. NORTHMINSTER is offering a special “Free Market” during Advent for their food pantry people by having members donate quality items such as clothing, shoes, reading glasses, watches, baby items, toys, Bibles, and much more. OAK FOREST is offering “Piano Reflections of the Christmas Season” on Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 pm. SECOND will host CARITAS from December 20-27 and will present a Christmas Concert, “The Marvel of This Night!”, on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 pm. SKIPWITH will have their “Christmas Cantata” on Sunday, December, 14 during their 11:00 am worship service. WOODLAND HEIGHTS will combine with Ridge Baptist Church to present their Christmas Choral Event on Sunday, December 7 at 5:00 pm and again December 14 at Ridge on December 14.

STAFF NEWS

FIRST celebrated the 10 year anniversary of Sharon Tucker as their Administrative Assistant and the 20 year anniversary of Lynn Turner as Minister of Youth and Discipleship. HATCHER MEMORIAL congratulated Debra Nicholls for her 10 years of service as their secretary. HUGUENOT ROAD celebrated the 10 year anniversary of Linda Almond as secretary. OAK-WOOD MEMORIAL celebrated 30 years of service from Rev. Ken Webb as their Senior Pastor.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**NEW LIFE INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

The New Life International Baptist Church held an “Inaugural Worship Service” on Sunday, November 2, 2008. This was not their “first” worship service in that sense but rather a service of “constituting” the church and recognizing New Life International as a fully established church. The Rev. James Nam Kim and his family came from Raleigh, North Carolina, last fall to begin a new church in the Richmond area. The mission started as a small group meeting in Pastor Kim’s home in Glen Allen and then moved to the chapel of the Patterson Avenue Baptist Church on Easter Sunday of this year.

The Inaugural Service was a great time of celebration as 80 members of the sponsoring church came to Richmond to be a part of the special service on Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. The Rev. Don Choi, Pastor of the sponsoring church, First Korean Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, presided over the worship service. The service was in the Korean language except for the message delivered by the Rev. Bill Nieporte, Pastor of the Patterson Avenue Baptist Church. It was the first time Bill had preached using an interpreter. It went very well as he challenged the congregation to overcome the “Giants in the Land.” Along with the RBA Director of Missions, members from Patterson Avenue were also in attendance for the special service.

The members of New Life International wore their native Korean clothing and provided the special music. It was a beautiful sight to behold and to hear. A delicious Korean meal was shared by all in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

The Richmond Baptist Association partners with the Patterson Avenue Baptist Church to help this new ethnic congregation build a firm foundation to stand on in the months and years to come. New Life International’s mission is to be a congregation of believers, who worship the one true God and through the study of God’s Word learn to live the faithful Christian life. They have a two-fold focus for their ministry: reaching Korean people in the Fan and the West End of Richmond with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to reach and disciple students from Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond.

The RBA family of faith can partner with this new mission by referring Korean friends or acquaintances to this exciting new ministry to Korean people in the Richmond area. You can contact Pastor James Kim at 804-308-0712 or by email at jamesnamkim@gmail.com. The RBA congratulates Pastor Kim and the New Life International Baptist Church on this significant step in their continued growth and development.
Lakeside Baptist Church, is seeking to fill the newly created part-time position of Minister of Outreach and Missions. We welcome inquiries from retired ministers, laity gifted in these areas, and seminary students. Send resumes by December 10 by mail to 7401 Woodman Rd., Richmond, VA 23228, e-mail at lbchurch@verizon.net, or fax at 804.266.7351. For further information call 804-266-1613. 

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. 

New Covenant Baptist Church is seeking a Quarter-Time Music Director. The candidate will direct an adult choir and lead in music worship. Applicants should be proficient in piano and/or organ, and music direction. For consideration please call the church for more info at 804-282-9308, fax resume to 804-282-9356 or email NewCovenaBC@aol.com or you can mail a resume to: New Covenant Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 7250 Patterson Ave, Richmond VA 23229 

Administrative Assistant, Communications and Music. Derbyshire Baptist Church has a full-time position that involves oversight of the internal and external communications of the church, including newsletters, publicity, and website. Also, this person will be responsible for the technical and administrative tasks of the church’s music ministry. Interested applicants must be proficient in writing and editing, have strong computer skills, and be well-organized. Background in music is preferable. Send inquiries or cover letter and resume to churchoffice@derbyshirebaptist.org.

MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDARS

RBA Administrative Council Meeting
January 15, 2009
7:00 p.m.
RBA Office, 3111 Moss Side Avenue

Special Education Valentine Social
February 13, 2009
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Monument Heights Baptist Church

Coming next month will be more information on The Entertainment and Registration Deadline..... Once again there is no charge to attend!

December Calendar

November 30—December 7
Week of Prayer for International Missions and “Lottie Moon Christmas Offering”

December 1 and 2—9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Deliver Christmas Store Gifts to Saint Paul’s South, 700 East Belt Blvd
For Oregon Hill and South Richmond
Questions, Contact Margaret Allen 232-0174

December 1-5
Deliver Christmas Store Gifts for Church Hill To Bethlehem Baptist, 1920 Fairmount Ave.
M-Th: 10-12, 2-4/ Fri: 10-2
Questions: Contact Glinda Ford; 780-0053

December 3 @ 12:00 noon
Ministers’ Lunch, Piccadilly on Broad

December 4 & 5—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Christmas Store @ Saint Paul’s South
For Oregon Hill & South Richmond Baptist Centers
Questions: Contact Margaret Allen; 232-0174

December 6—8:00 a.m. t 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Store @ Bethlehem Baptist (Fairmount)
For Church Hill Wellness Center
780-0053

December 12 @ 12:00 noon
Deadline to Submit Articles for TRANSFORMED!

December 24 – January 1, 2009
RBA Office Closed
For the Christmas Holiday And New Year’s

Host Churches needed for 2009
RBA Meetings:

Executive Council Meetings
(includes quickly served lunch & Thursday meeting
12:00 noon—1:30 p.m.)
February 19
August 20
November 19

58th Annual Fall Meeting
Sunday, October 18
3:00 p.m. Meeting & 5:30 p.m. Dinner

If your church is interested in hosting one of these meetings or if you have questions, contact Frances Jones or Pete du Plessis at the RBA at 804-329-1701 as soon as possible.
NEEDED: SLEEPING BAGS & Blankets
With the coming of cooler weather, GRACE FELLOWSHIP has experienced an increase in requests for sleeping bags and blankets. The men and women who live "on the streets" depend on these contributions to get through the winter months. The "life span" of a bag/blanket on the street is usually three months. They get worn out, they get wet and rot, they get stolen, or any combination of these. Grace Fellowship, the worship ministry of homeless and group home adults, operating with the First Baptist Church of Richmond, relies on the contributions of area churches and organizations to provide back packs, blankets and sleeping bags and work-clothes. They meet each Thursday at 6:30 for worship and dinner. It is truly, their church. If your congregation or organization can provide a sleeping bag or blanket, or would like to consider hosting a meal, please contact Mark Holland at mark4uth@comcast.net or marktholland@gmail.com. His church phone is 687-1166. We need blankets and sleeping bags NOW!

**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.

**The Richmond Area Diploma Course Offerings**

**JOHN LELAND CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

**2009 Spring Semester**

**MONDAY, 6:30 p.m.**

Introduction to the New Testament

**TUESDAY, 9:30 a.m.**

Church History

**TUESDAY, 6:30 p.m.**

Life and Letters of Paul

**THURSDAY, 6:30 p.m.**

Preaching and Communication

Classes begin on January 26, 2009

All classes held at Derbyshire Baptist Church, 8800 Derbyshire Road, Richmond, VA 23229

**QUESTIONS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

Contact: Dr. Keith Smith @ Derbyshire
nksmith@derbyshirebaptist.org or 804-740-7238 x22

**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 $0.42 “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**

**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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**