Celebrating Gracie: Over 30 years of smiles.

Pictures from the
OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION
Sunday, February 22, 2009
Northminster Baptist Church

Over 500 former campers, counselors, volunteers, friends, family members and RBA supporters joined with the Camp Alkulana Support Team in wishing Gracie Kirkpatrick “God Speed” as she sails into her retirement in Punta Gorda, Florida. As you can see from the surrounding photos that all in attendance enjoyed great music by the acoustic band “Scattered, Smothered & Covered;” a bountiful buffet prepared by Suzie Kierson and friends; a chance to visit with Gracie; and the time to reconnect with Camp friends from last summer or years gone by!
Greetings,

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a). Birth and death are an integral part of the fabric of our human existence. We have no control of either event in our lives. But we all know that one day we will face the reality of death. It has been jokingly said that only two things in life are absolutely certain: death and taxes. Well, we do know that death is certainly coming, but we just don’t know for certain when it will come to us. We are all affected by death in one way or another. Here in Richmond it is not unusual to wake up to the morning news and hear that someone in our fair city has been killed during the night. But that death is generally due to some kind of violent event such as a domestic quarrel, or a robbery, or a gang war, or some such senseless act. Fortunately for most of us within the Christian community, we are more often touched by the death of a loved one due to illness or natural causes rather than an act of violence. And we are blessed that in our country the lifespan of an individual is getting longer and longer. But then again, none of us has a guarantee of a long life. So in America, we are acquainted with death.

On the other hand, it is very difficult for me to comprehend the kind of death that is being experienced in the war-torn countries of Africa. It is not just an occasional killing here and there during the night. It is the horrific slaughter of hundreds of people during the day. On the internet, I can see the pictures and read the stories of the terrible atrocities being committed every day. I ask myself “How can this be?” Why can’t something be done to stop this senseless killing of innocent life? I can’t get my mind around the fact that a man could take a club and simply beat a fellow human being to death. I can’t understand how a man could take a machete and hack another person’s body to pieces. I weep for the children. They are such innocent and helpless victims of madness. God help them!

I step away from those stories of death in far away places and I think of the death of a dear friend of mine last week. It was my privilege to participate as a minister in his funeral service. My, how wonderful it was to reflect on the life of this faithful servant of the Lord. His was a life of devotion to service for others. He loved people, he wouldn’t think of hurting another human being. This good man would do anything he could to help anyone in need. He especially had a tender heart for children. I was blessed to know him and to be able to call him my good friend. Oh yes, I will miss him as his family and other friends will, but I thank God that I can know for certain where he will spend eternity.

As I get older each year, I find that more and more of my friends are dying. That is one of the hard things of aging. I have to say good bye more often. But in each case, I can thank God that this person has lived a life of faithful service for the Master. Their Christian life of decency and goodness and trust in God has been an encouragement to all who knew them. As the Director of Missions, I have come to know many wonderful people in all of our RBA churches. They have become my friends and when they die, I miss them. I thank God that their death was not horrific but rather peaceful as they went out to meet their Savior and Lord. Such is the death of my friend and sister in Christ, June Bass. I will miss her as you will too. I give God the praise for her wonderful life.

RICHMOND AREA PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

One of the things that many in the clergy miss after leaving seminary is the opportunity to be a part of a meaningful Bible study which they are NOT teaching. Since it is important that clergy remain lifelong students of the scriptures, you are invited to join an in-depth Bible study designed just for pastors. The gathering takes place each Monday from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Clergy from many Christian traditions are welcome and often attend - so please invite your friends from other denominations to join us. Our texts are upcoming texts in the Revised Common Lectionary, making this study another useful sermon preparation resource if you follow the Lectionary in your preaching. If not, it is still a valuable time of study and fellowship.

The study is facilitated by two noted Baptist scholars, Dr. Mark Biddle, Russell T. Cherry Professor of Old Testament and Dr. Scott Spencer, Professor of New Testament and Preaching, both from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. There are lively exchanges from study participants, making for an even more meaningful experience. Contact Dr. Biddle at mebiddle@btsr.edu or by phone at (804) 204-1225 for more information and the current location for the study.

2009 SOJOURNERS SUMMER MISSIONARY PROGRAM

WHAT IS A SOJOURNER SUMMER MISSIONARY?

- A young person between the ages of 16 (must have completed the 11th grade) and 21.
- Someone who would like to experience missions first-hand by assisting at our three inner-city Baptist Centers in Church Hill, Oregon Hill and in South Richmond.
- Wants to work with children, youth, and seniors in an inner-city environment in a variety of social ministries at all three Baptist Centers.
- Must be available for up to 10 weeks during the summer. The work schedule is flexible. A Sojourners will average about 20 hours a week, with some weeks being more intense than others.
- Willing to accept the challenge of a program that could be more formative in a choice of career or life in service.
- Ears a total of $600 for the summer.

SPACES ARE LIMITED!

APRIL 10 IS THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE RBA OFFICE.

Applications can be downloaded from the RBA website: www.rbaonline.org or obtained for the RBA office, 3111 Moss Side Ave., Richmond (329-1701). For more information contact Pete du Plessis at the RBA at 329-1701, ext. 202 or pete.duplessis@rbaonline.org

JANUARY 2009 BUDGET REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Expenses</td>
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**PRAY FOR THE RBA CHURCH OF THE WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 1</th>
<th>Northminster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Oak Forest</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Oak Grove</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Oakwood Memorial</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Patterson Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Pine Street</td>
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</tbody>
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**Virginia Baptist Mission Board**

2009 **Disaster Relief Training**

**Saturday, March 28, 2009**

**Mechanicsville Baptist Church**

8016 Atlee Road
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111

**Schedule for Training**

- 9 – 10 a.m. Registration
- 10 – 12 noon Disaster Relief Overview
- 12 – 1 p.m. Lunch (provided)
- 1 – 3 p.m. Breakout Sessions (choose one):
  - Feeding, Recovery, Temporary Child Care

**Cost of Training:**

$15 per person
Includes a disaster relief hat, t-shirt, ID badge, Virginia Disaster Relief pin, printed materials and lunch

**Registration Contact:**

Mechanicsville Baptist Church Office
804-746-7253

**For General Disaster Relief Questions,** contact:

- Terry Raines at 800-255-2428, ext 7322; terry.raines@vbmb.org
- Nichole Bulls at 800-255-2428 ext. 7274 or nichole.bulls@vbmb.org
- or go to: www.vbmb.org/glocalmissions/disaster-training.htm.

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Note: Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are unpaid volunteers who receive specific training and volunteer their time and efforts to minister to the victims of disaster.

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The RBA family extends our deepest sympathies to:

The family of **June Rebecca Foster Bass**

who lost her heroic three year battle with cancer on February 17, 2009. June was active for many years in leadership roles in the RBA WMU. Long-time members of Bon Air Baptist Church, June and her husband Bob actively supported the ministries of the RBA. She will truly be missed.

***************************************************

The family of **Ann Dinwiddie Hollenbaugh**

who passed away on December 26, 2008, following an illness. She was a long-time member of Stockton Memorial and Weatherford Memorial Baptist churches and very active in the leadership of the WMU. She will be greatly missed by her sons David and Wayne and her most recent church family at Jahneke Road.

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**Photos of the 2009**

Special Education Valentine Social

February 13 @ 7pm

Monument Heights Baptist Church

Attendees enjoyed: Food, Dancing, Juggling and Fellowship!
**OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTER**

Things continue to go well at the Oregon Hill Baptist Center thanks to the support of RBA churches, WMU groups, and individual volunteers. Without commitments to follow through on Mission Involvement Assignments, uplift our ministries and people in prayer, and to keep your congregation aware of our needs we would not be able to do what we do for the members of our communities.

*Thanksgiving:* 50 families received Thanksgiving Bags with either a Turkey, Ham, or $10 gift card included. 13 individuals took part in a community Thanksgiving Meal. Attendees included the homeless in our community and those with no family for the holiday.

*Christmas:* 60 families with 133 children from the Oregon Hill Center participated in joint Christmas Store with South Richmond Center. 50 children attended our annual Children’s Christmas Store in which children can get gifts for parents. This was double the number from last year.

*Financial Assistance* – (October 2008-Present) $3293.32 given in emergency assistance.

*Food Pantry:* average 60 different households (175-200 individuals) a month. Beginning in January 2009 clients must reside in 23220 zip code or be involved in the programs of the Center or Church. (exceptions made in emergency cases or with referrals).

*Kids On The Hill:* our Tuesday after school program for elementary children started back in October. We currently have 30 children enrolled and 10 volunteers.

*Festival:* Bon Air Baptist youth and leaders sponsored an outdoor festival for our children on Saturday, Nov. 15th. The day was filled with fun games and a devotion time.

*Youth:* Our youth group currently meets twice a month following the Pine Street Baptist Church worship service. Our time together includes lunch, games, topic discussions, videos, and prayer. The second Sunday meeting is dedicated to mission awareness & service and is called “Youth on Mission”. Volunteers from Pine Street Church assist with this ministry. We are preparing to lead our youth in participating in a “30 Hour Famine” in March.

*OHHOMOMS Group:* young mothers meet together once a month for support and education. The WMU assigns different groups to provide childcare, but additional volunteers are needed in case assigned groups are unable to follow through. OHHOMOMS meets the last Saturday of each month (10:00 – 11:30 AM).

*Church & Community Retreat:* October 4-5, 2008 we took a group of approximately 25 to Camp Alkulana for a Fall Retreat. Several in attendance were adults who had been to Camp as a child and now have children of their own attending camp.

*Senior Adults & Friends* continued with dinner and fellowship twice a month.

*Christmas In August:* I was included as a Christmas in August Missionary through the National WMU & NAMB for the summer of 2008. As a result the Baptist Center received toiletries, stamps, grocery store gift cards, gas cards, printer cartridges, Bibles, and DVDs from churches and mission groups throughout the United States.

*South Africa Mission Trip:* July 2-13, 2009 I will have the privilege to travel to South Africa with a group from Pine Street Church as we participate in the VBMB & RBA partnership with this country.

*Prayer Concern:* Please remember the homeless members of our communities during extreme weather days — that they find safe shelter indoors at night and also during the daytime.

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**SOUTH RICHMOND BAPTIST CENTER**

All of the services and ministries to the community were made possible by volunteers, churches of the RBA, the WMU and other agencies, organizations and individuals. Thank you for freely giving of your time and resources in support of the South Richmond Baptist Center. I could not make the center’s ministries available to the community without you.

The South Richmond Baptist Center has served the community during the past four months with the following ministries:

*Food Pantry* – Since September 2008, the food pantry served 300 families (520 Adults and 211 children) with food bags, sponsored two luncheons (Thanksgiving and Christmas), Bibles and worshipped each third and fourth Thursdays of the month. In addition, fifty bags of food were given out in the Hillside Community and the Oak Tree Apartments Complex.

*Thanksgiving* - 92 persons attended our Thanksgiving luncheon sponsored by New Canaan Baptist Church. 79 food bags were given out and ten $10 gift cards were given to those who did not receive a bag.

*Christmas* - 87 persons attended the Christmas luncheon sponsored by Leigh Street Baptist and the Center and each person in attendance received a gift bag filled with toiletries. In addition to the luncheon 87 bags of food were distributed.

*Christmas Store* - The store served 100 families with 246 children in South Richmond. Thirty churches of the RBA participated and over 143 persons volunteered.

*Clothes Closet* - The clothes closet was opened the first Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each month from 9am-12 noon and also the third and fourth Thursdays of the month from 2:30-3:30 pm. Over 125 visits were made to the closet. The first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month, the closet was opened in conjunction with St Paul’s to accommodate persons who visited the dental van and were in need of clothing. On the first Thursday, the closet was opened for the community and those who participated in the sewing class. Each third and fourth Thursday, the closet was opened for those who visited the food pantry.

*Financial Assistance* – Twenty nine persons in the community and surrounding areas were assisted with oil, rent, utilities, electricity and transportation in the amount $3,944.

*Bible Study* - Bible study was provided each Tuesday morning and devotion each Thursday morning. The average attendance for Bible study and devotion was 12 persons. The Tuesday morning study was led by Marie Van Lear and that group studied the Song Of Songs while the Thursday group focused on “The Power of Prayer”.

*Sewing Class* - This class continued to meet each Thursday of the week for devotion, fellowship and sewing. There is always a need for fabric and notions, but not patterns.

*Hope Builders* - Hope Builders continued to meet on Wednesday night with one participant.
“He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. (Pro 14:31)”

Happy New Year!!! Time seems to be racing along and at the same momentum, demands for assistance are increasing. The economy doesn’t seem to be getting any better yet, I’m confident that the greater works that we were destined to do shall be done due to the faithfulness and determination of the RBA churches and WMU. Thank you for all your hard work and the support that you give to the Centers. It is because of you that some of those who come seeking help, many who are burdened, depressed and hopeless, receive relief and experience the love of God. The Well provided for the community the following ministries:

Thanksgiving bags were distributed to 88 families and 100 were served during the annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Christmas Store as always turned out to be an amazing event. 181 families totaling 438 children reaped the blessings and benefits of being a part of the Store. Over a hundred people served as volunteers. Each year this event seems to rise to another level.

Food Pantry on the second and fourth Thursdays 9:00am to 11:00am. Since September 2008, the Well has distributed 392 bags serving 670 adults and 364 children.

Financial Assistance for lights, water, and gas was given to thirty-one families totaling $3,470.61.

Prescription Assistance was given to eleven persons that could not afford to pay their co-pay or didn’t have any type of health insurance. The total amount given was $341.27.

Birth Certificates/Identifications are becoming one of the most sought after ministries. The Well was able to help twenty-one persons to receive their birth certificates and twenty-four persons to get their identification. The total amount for Birth Certificates and Identifications was $514.00.

Clothes Closet is opened on Mondays 1:00pm to 3:00pm. There is still a need for men and children clothes and household items (pots, pans, dishes, silverware, sheets and glasses). Also, the closet needs large sizes for women.

After School Program is in need of a coordinator. Hopefully by the spring, the program will be under way which will make the children of the community very happy.

Bible Study followed by lunch is on Fridays at 10:00am. We are studying the Book of Acts and participation is growing.

Computer Classes for Workshop #1- The Bare Bone Basics (four weeks course) were completed in November. The dates for the next workshop have not been scheduled.

Exercise Classes that have been pending for awhile will be starting soon with Ms. Connie Moe of Second Baptist who has so graciously accepted the challenge to whip into shape sagging bodies that are in need of a tune up.

Special Need: The Well needs a few good men. These volunteers are needed to help bring in canned goods on the Wednesdays to stock our Food Pantry before the second and forth Thursdays of the month. Also, the Well needs a volunteer van driver to carry those who are in need of their birth certificate and identification. This task is scheduled around the availability of the driver.
MISSION OPPORTUNITY

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, April 23, 2009

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTRIES DAY!

In conjunction with Affordable Housing Awareness Week
April 19-25, 2009

CVBM has the unique opportunity, for the second year in a row, to join with Habitat for Humanity in a building project during Affordable Housing Awareness Week. CVBM needs 90 volunteers to work in teams to build six houses.

The location of the CVBM houses will be determined by The Partnership for Housing Affordability. Details will be posted soon on the CVBM website: www.cvbm.org

Please plan to get involved in this meaningful project. To sign up as a volunteer, please contact Gayle Taylor at the CVBM office at 598-6350 (toll- free 1-888-598-6350) or at her email address: gayle.taylor@cvbm.org. Sign up early since the volunteer spots fill up fast!

2009 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009

Winfree Memorial Baptist Church
13617 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23113
(804) 794-5031

DINNER : 6:00 PM
(Fried chicken, potato salad, and green beans)
Cost: $5.00
(Reservations due by April 16, at noon)

CONFERENCES 6:45 PM-9:00PM
Choose two of the following conference sessions:
* New and Experienced Directors
* Preschool: 3s & 4s
* Kindergarten
* Grades 1 & 2
* Music
* Grades 3 & 4
* Art Activities (Crafts)
* Grades 5 & 6
* How to Lead a Child to Christ

RESERVATIONS
To make your reservation, email Gayle Taylor at gayle.taylor@cvbm.org or call the CVBM office at (804) 598-6350. Checks should be made out to: Central Virginia Baptist Ministries, Inc.

BRING-A-KID NIGHT
5:30 pm Program @ Classic Amphitheatre
6:30 pm Dinner (optional @ $7.50/person
7:00 pm Entry NASCAR Nationwide Race ($35/Adults, Free Kids 12 & under)

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Clergy & Counselor Certification Training for PREPARE-ENRICH Marriage Counseling Assessment and Counseling/Education Tool.

Tuesday March 17; 8:45 am – 4pm.
First Baptist Church on Monument at Boulevard

Nation's leading relationship - personality assessment tool used by many thousands of clergy and counselors. There are "rave reviews" of the new "Customized Version" released in 2009. The old version was the best single tool for marriage enrichment or preparation available to clergy and counselors. The new version is a whole generation better with a great SCOPE personality assessment.

Link here for information or registration.
http://www.firstthingsrichmond.org/PREPARE_ENRICH.html

We are also training Marriage Ministry leaders in congregations.

Bob Ruthazer, CFLE
(804) 288-3431; www.firstthingsrichmond.org

GAME PLAN
Your financial well-being may be in a state of shock after 2008's roller coaster economy. Entrust Federal Credit Union offers you a financial game plan to get you back on your feet and money back in your savings account.

Play #2: Huddle Up and consolidate your debt. (You should already know what you owe if you used the budgeting resources provided in Play #1.) Entrust has options available to help you pay off your credit card debt faster so you can have more money in your savings account. And speaking of saving money, if you're thinking of refinancing your mortgage, contact us first to receive resourceful information from our real-estate processor.

Tip: Pay off your loans with the highest interest rate first, and try to avoid just making minimum payments. More is better.

If you or anyone in your congregation would like step-by-step help during this roller coaster ride, please contact Entrust FCU and ask to speak with one of our certified money coaches at 353-8012 or check out our Financial Game Plan at www.efcu.coop.
CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES
PASTOR’S SURVIVAL KIT

How this Kit can Help You:

Two out of every three families - 68% - have been noticeably affected by the financial setbacks in America, and nearly one out of every four (22%) said they have been impacted in a "major way." (The Barna Group of Ventura, California, www.barna.org.)

During uncertain economic times, Christian spiritual leaders are called to provide stability and wisdom for the church members they serve. Without the powerful, transforming message of God’s Word that gives lasting help, hope, and insight, Christians are simply following the world’s natural tendency to fear and be greedy and selfish.

As a complimentary resource to pastors and churches, the Pastor’s Survival Kit is a downloadable digital resource providing three sermons that will encourage and inspire your church members to seek God first during times of uncertainty or instability.

Whether you formally preach these sermons as a “Help, Hope, and Insight” sermon series or simply use them as part of your regular preaching schedule, they're available to help you provide biblical answers that will stand the test of time.

To Download the Kit, Visit: www.moneylife.org/SurvivalKit/

**MARK YOUR APRIL CALENDARS**

RBA ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
APRIL 9 @ 7:00 P.M.
RBA OFFICE
3111 MOSS SIDE AVENUE

RBA SPRING CELEBRATION
APRIL 16, 2009
7:00 P.M.
PATTERSON AVENUE
4301 PATTERSON AVENUE

**MARK YOUR APRIL CALENDARS**

RBA CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR

Friendship Memorial
New Bridge
Shalom Fellowship
Westhampton

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.

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

DATING MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY