The Richmond Baptist Association held its annual meeting on October 21 in the new facilities of the Broadus Memorial Baptist Church located at 5315 Pole Green Road in Mechanicsville. There were 117 messengers and 34 visitors representing 27 churches in attendance at the Sunday afternoon gathering. The theme, “Richmond Baptist Association, Celebrating 300 Years of Association Ministry,” marked the beginning of associational work in this country with the founding of the first association in Philadelphia in 1707.

The first portion of the meeting was devoted to worship which was followed by the business session and concluded with a wonderful fellowship supper graciously prepared by the ladies of Broadus Memorial. Davison Clark and DaQuan Love shared their testimony with us about their experience serving as Sojourner Summer Missionsaries working at our three Baptist Centers this past summer. They were both grateful to the RBA for the opportunity to learn about missions service first hand.

Then we were visited by the historical character “The Rev. Dr. John A. Broadus” as portrayed by our own Fred Anderson. We learned a great deal about Broadus, the first name of the Broadus Memorial Baptist Church. He served well here in Virginia but was well known as one of the founding fathers of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Fred gave us a most refreshing and personal encounter with some of our great Baptist history.

The keynote speaker for the day was the Rev. Dr. Bob Dale who spoke to us on the topic, “RBA—Future Tense: ABCs for Shaping Tomorrow’s Association.” After giving a brief overview of the Extension Fund, Bob shared with us three emerging trends, the A-B-C’s “AFFINITY MINISTRIES: Future associations are up to organize their ministries more by affinity than by geography. BIRTHING MINISTRIES: We Baptists have a new birth in missions, evangelism, and outreach. COLLABORATIVE MINISTRIES: Our Baptist impulse to ‘associate’ is embedded in our DNA. We have always believed we can do more together than we can alone. We are co-laborers...we are collaborators.”

Then Bob gave us a glimpse of RBA in the future tense. “Local Needs First, Then Global Possibilities.” He suggested that RBA will remain strongly and primarily tied to local churches and only selectively linked to other Baptist entities. “Priorities Before Properties. I imagine we’ll become even more guided by priorities but even less tied to properties. Regional Catalyst for Volunteers, I see RBA’s future as a regional missionary body. We are a facilitator of volunteer energies and an entrepreneur in local ministry.”

Bob Dale has been an active participant in the life of the RBA for many years and knows well the reality of our existence in the denominational spectrum. He reminded us that “Associations exist to help churches extend and enrich their ministries. Clustered ministry economies help us succeed at ministries we could never do singly. RBA can amplify the call to missions, serve as broker for member churches, and move creatively in teamwork.”

Dr. Dale closed his message by challenging the RBA to ask God for a fresh future. He said, “(1.) Let’s sharpen our focus and define our ministry niche. Our purpose as an association is to do more for and with our member congregations than anyone else can or will. What are the emerging, unmet needs of the Capital region, and how are we being called to meet those needs? What can we do together to meet these needs that we’ll never attempt singly? (2.) Let’s customize our structure for our ministries. Can we become large enough for greater Kingdom impact while remaining small enough to be agile, responsive, and friendly? (3.) Let’s identify and join our cultural partners for ministry. Who shares our calling to leave the Capital region for Christ? Which other Christians and people groups are primed to join us in common ministry? (4.) Is it time to form a ‘dream team’ to help map RBA’s future in the next 20 years? We have good reason to invest in God’s future. We’ll live the rest of our lives and do the rest of our ministries in that future. What do we do crucial. The harvest of souls and the health of congregations hang in the balance!”

The New Work Team recommended the acceptance of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church at 3200 East Broad Street into the fellowship of the Richmond Baptist Association. The messengers gave unanimous approval to our new sister church, as well as the two recommendations from the Administrative Council.

First, the Administrative Council “recommended the elimination of the Extension Fund from the financial program of the RBA, while at the same time recommending the strengthening of the Endowment Fund for the purposes of funding administrative costs in the RBA annual budget. In the future, churches requesting financial assistance for new church starts would be referred to the Baptist Extension Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.” Secondly, the Council “recommended that monies intended to be used as a retirement gift to eligible RBA employees not be taken from the Endowment Fund. In the future, the Budget Sub-Group will determine other sources of funding for those necessary retirement gifts.”

The recommendation of the Budget Sub-Group for the 2008 RBA Budget in the amount of $673,500.00 was also unanimously approved by the messengers from the churches represented at the meeting and endorsed by the sub-committee. New officers were elected and installed for the new associational year. It has been a very good year for the Richmond Baptist Association. PRAISE THE LORD!
Greetings!

Broadus Memorial Baptist Church graciously hosted the 56th Annual Meeting of the Richmond Baptist Association. It was a real joy to gather in their new facilities at 5351 Pole Green Road in Mechanicsville and see how God has richly blessed them in this move from their former location on Fondren Avenue. Pastor Phil Peacock took care of the many details of such a meeting and made sure our every need was met. The Ladies Ensemble, “One Voice,” blessed us with wonderful worship music. There were numerous presentations throughout the day to see that everything was just right for us. The ladies of the church provided a delicious meal for us at the conclusion of the afternoon meeting.

Thank you Pastor Phil and Broadus Memorial congregation for your warm welcome to the RBA. As we were leaving the building, the comment was made, “This has been a really good meeting of the RBA.” Praise the Lord and give Him glory!

Please be sure to read the “Highlights” of the annual meeting on the front page of this issue of the newsletter. New officers and team members were elected for the new associational year beginning at the conclusion of the annual meeting. I look forward to working with each of them in the various roles they fill for the Association. We have a lot to consider as we look into the future ministry of the RBA. It takes a real commitment on the part of each individual to make teamwork effective on such a large scale.

I challenge you to pray regularly and seek the Lord’s face regarding the ministry you provide in His Name. God has called each of us to be on mission for His purpose of reaching the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thank you for agreeing to help build up His Kingdom here in “Jerusalem” through the work of the Richmond Baptist Association.

Allow me to express my deep appreciation to all those volunteers who served the Association so well this past year. It is a real joy for me to be able to fellowship with all the folks from our 70 member churches in the RBA. I always look forward to the many varied opportunities to meet with the members of our churches and enjoy fellowship with them. Many of you have gone the second and third mile in serving the Lord in your local church and then also in the Association. Please know that everyone of you is important to the successful ministry of the RBA. No matter what you may do to serve the Association, you matter a great deal to me. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And speaking of Associational meetings, the RBA is open to invitations to come to your church for the quarterly Executive Council meetings (Feb. 21, May 15, Aug. 21, and Nov. 20) and the Spring Celebration (April 17). Please call me and let me know which date is best for you. As the old saying goes, “the more we get together, the happier we’ll be.” You know something, I just love going to our Associational meetings. You are beautiful Christian people and I want to be around you as much as I possibly can. God is so gracious and merciful to allow us to love one another and to also be loved by one another. It’s a little bit like heaven on earth!
AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (2308 Dunhamton Road) invites everyone to join them as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary on Sunday, November 11 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Ron Hall, Virginia Baptist Foundation speaking on “Living in Communities: An Intercultural Context.” Call Pastor Calvin Birch at 439-6903 for more details. BETHANY PLACE will host a unique contemporary Christian theater group, Northern Virginia Playworks in November 10 to present a Drama Works shop at 4:00 p.m and perform a program entitled Family Snaps at 7:00 p.m. BON AIR’s Glocal Ministries sponsored a mission work project to Leedstown at the Eagle Tree Farm where they picked cranberries and broccoli left in the orchards and fields after harvest and delivered it to the local food bank. CARLSILE AVENUE will have their Harvest Home Rally Day on Sunday, November 11. GENTRY PARK hosted a Blessing of the Animals for the community on October 7. GRACE’S Youth and Children are sponsoring a Thanksgiving Luncheon for their Senior Adults on November 11. HUGENOT ROAD’s Youth are going on a Fall Retreat to campground Willow Run to Find Your Place in the Soil. LEIGH STREET’s Pastor James Colvin and his wife, Martha, traveled to South Africa in October. MONUMENT HEIGHTS will host CARITAS Family Week on November 17-24. OAKWOOD MEMORIAL is collecting used stamps for the Alliance Women’s Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers, Florida. PATTSON AVENUE is renovating their church by cleaning out and then painting and redecorating the entire facility. RIVER ROAD is sponsoring a Photography Exhibit, “In Christ a New Creation”, on November 4-11. SKIPPER BAY hosted the RBA Senior Adults’ Fall FESTIVAL. WOODLANDBURY is sponsoring a Blood Drive in October.

STAFF NEWS

FIRST celebrated anniversaries of three-staff members: Mary Hite- man, 25 years; Steve Booth, 5 years; and Ruth Slaus, 5 years. GAYTON welcomes Michael Gunter as their new Adult Discipleship Coordinator. WESTOVER ordained Justin Joplin on October 28.

CHRISTMAS DRIVE FOR FLUVANNA CORRECTIONAL CENTER FOR WOMEN

Lynn Litchfield created the Christmas Drive for Women, if you can help with these needs, contact Pete Du Plessis at 329-1701 or peted@broadline.org and he will pass your name onto the BAVG.

THANKSGIVING AT THE “WELL”

The Church Hill Christian Wellness Center is putting out a call for TURKEYS, TURKEYS, AND MORE TURKEYS. Glinda Ford says she will need turkeys with stuffing to fill at least 55 bags! The turkeys need to be delivered to The Well by Tuesday, November 20 (please call ahead to set up delivery time). VOLUNTEERS are needed to pack potatoes on Monday, November 12th from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and to distribute food on November 15th from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon. If you have any questions, call Amy Sower at the RBA office, 329-1701 ext. 208.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

NEEDED: COMPLETED 2007 ACPs!

ACP Contacts of RBA churches should have received the 2007 Annual Church Profile (ACP) survey forms in the mail at the end of August. The survey provides much needed information that is vital to the ministry of the RBA. Please take time to complete the survey forms and return them to the RBA office no later than Octo- ber 15, 2007. If you have any questions, call Amy Sower at the RBA office, 329-1701 ext. 208. We thank you for your attention to this matter!
IT’S TIME TO GATHER NEW TOYS AND CLOTHING FOR THE 2007 CHRISTMAS STORES AT THE THREE RICHMOND BAPTIST COMMUNITY MISSIONS 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 nearly 250 families and provide a happy Christmas for nearly 600 children!

Refer to the list 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 6 & 7, 2007 • 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Deliver your gifts: December 3, 4, and 5 (Monday through Wednesday), between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Bring them to the rear of the gymnasium at Saint Paul’s South. Volunteers are needed to help with intake, set-up, 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. (on the opposite side of Fairmount from the Wellness Center in Mt. Tabor Church)

Saturday, December 8 • 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Deliver your gifts on December 5, 6 and 7 (Wednesday through Friday), between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to Bethlehem Baptist Church. Volunteers are needed to help with intake, set-up, and shopping assistance. If you can volunteer, call Glenda Ford (780-0053) for Church Hill.

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

Bethany Place
Bon Air
Chinese Community of Grace
Derbyshire First
First Union
Friendship Memorial Gayton
Ginter Park
Grace
Gravel Hill
Grove Avenue
Hatcher Memorial
Huguenot Road
Jahnke Road
Korean Baptist Church of Richmond
Lakeside
Lighthouse of Hope
Morning Star
New Canaan (Forest Hill)
New Covenant
New Life
Northminster
Oak Forest
Oak Grove
Patterson Avenue
Pine Street
Saint Paul’s Shalom Fellowship
Skippwith
Southampton
Southside
Stockton Memorial
Stukeley Hall
Swift Creek
Tabernacle
Trinity
United For Christ
Weatherford Mission Group
Webber Memorial
Westhampton
Westover
Woodland Heights

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

Bethlehem (Fairmount)
Bethlehem (Penick)
Broadus Memorial
Cambridge
Carlisle Avenue
Chamberlayne
Community Mission
Disciples for Christ
Fairmount Memorial
Leigh St.
LifeLine for Jesus
Monument Heights
Mt. Sinai
Mt. Tabor
New Bridge
New Canaan International (Byron St.)
Oakwood Memorial
River Road
Sandston
Second
Staples Mill Road

**“Richmond Baptist Association, Celebrating 380 Years of Association Missions!” 9th Annual Meeting Program—October 21, 2007**

Call to Worship
“Great Is The Lord”
One Voice

Call to Order
Phil Turner

Welcome and Prayer by Bill Knauss
Phil Turner

Recognition of Guests
Pat de Plenis

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report
Darlene Clark
Donna Lewis

Congregational Business 1
“Business of the Day”
Led by Carol Golden

Historical Vignette
“Dr. John A. Broadus”
First Andrew

Message to Sing
“The Call”
One Voice

Message to Word
“Rich—Father, Take ABC’s for Sharing Tomorrow’s Association”
Bob Dale

Congregational审议 (1882)
“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”
Carol Golden

Business Session
Report of Leadership Development Team
Bob Dale

Report of Nominating Committee
Bill Knauss

Report of Administrative Council
Mike Geiger

Report of Partnership Missions Team
Bob Dale

Report of Central Virginia Baptist Ministries
Pat de Plenis

Report of Woman’s Missionary Union
Bill Knauss

Report of Local American Mission Project (LAMP) Team
Laura Orsatti

Report of Women’s Missionary Union
Bill Knauss

Report of Virginia Baptist Mission Board
Carol Golden

Report of District of Missions
Pat de Plenis

Recognition of MBA Staff
Pat de Plenis

Recognition of new members in the MBA
Pat de Plenis

Registrar’s Report
By Ann Kitchen

Special Presentation from Brotherhood Mason
By Mike Geiger

Appreciation of Longtime Officers
By Mike Geiger

Installation of New Officers
By Bob Dale

Prayer of Dedication Church
By Mike Geiger

Prayer of the Counsel
By Bob Dale

Acknowledgements
By DaQuan Love

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Tour of Brunch—New Facilities—Set-up for Dinner

**Phil Peacock Opening Meeting with Prayer**

**Bob Dale Leadership Development**

**Bob Blass, Budget SubGroup**

**Wyatt Heiser, WMU**

**Mikey Geiger, Partnership Missions**

**Ruth Guile, Partnership Missions**

**Terry Green, New Work**

**Louise Orsatti, LAMP**

**Carl Johnson, VBMB**

**Mike Geiger, In-Coming Moderator**

**In-Coming Officers**

Clingman, Bidwell, Clemmons, Geiger, Kitchens, Heisler, Robinson