**TRANSFORMED!**

**news of Richmond area churches...together...changing lives - March 2008**

**ASSOCIATIONAL SMALLER MEMBERSHIP CHURCH GROWTH PLAN**

**April 3, 2008, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.**

**Patterson Avenue Baptist Church**

The churches of the Richmond Baptist Association have the opportunity to participate in specialized training in growing a Sunday School ministry. Bill Alphin, Sunday School and Discipleship Coordinator for the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, is partnering with the RBA to provide this excellent resource to our Richmond churches. Bill says the purpose of this plan is to assist pastors in developing kingdom-focused leaders in their churches.

This customized growth plan was developed by the Network Partnerships Department at LifeWay Christian Resources. Sharon Smith, a LifeWay Sunday School growth specialist, has recently retired to Virginia and now lives in the Richmond area. Sharon has led this process many times and has agreed to be our resource person to guide us through this process of developing strong leaders.

The Growth Plan is a four-month process (one training session each month) with three quarterly celebration rallies to follow. The first session is to train pastors and will take place on Thursday, April 3, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m., at the Patterson Avenue Baptist Church, 4301 Patterson Avenue. A free lunch will be provided. All pastors are invited and urged to attend this first session to find out what the process is all about. At the conclusion of the session, pastors will be asked to make a commitment to lead this growth plan in their church. Please contact Frances Jones at 329-1701 or frances@rbaonline.org to make your reservations by Friday, March 28.

The cost for this training to each church is only $1.00 per average Sunday School attendance with no more than $200.00 per church. If the financial cost is a hindering factor in church participation, our Director of Missions, Pete du Plessis will be glad to work out a plan for every church to participate. No church should miss this wonderful opportunity to grow stronger leaders in Sunday School ministry.

**JAMAICAN SOCCER TEAM**

June 30 – July 6, 2008

The Richmond Baptist Association will host to 15-20 soccer players from Jamaica during the week of June 30 to July 6. These are all Christian young men who are coming to provide soccer clinics in the city and to speak in our churches on Sunday.

A few years ago, a Brazilian soccer team came to Richmond and blessed our city immensely. The RBA is excited about this wonderful opportunity to do partnership missions right here in our own community. There is much to do in order to be ready for their coming. Please contact our Director of Missions, Pete du Plessis (804-329-1701 ext. 202), if you have interest in helping with this summer mission project.

**METRO RICHMOND AT PRAYER**

March 2008 – February 2009

Since March 2006, more than 350 churches in metropolitan Richmond have joined in a Covenant to pray together weekly for the people of our metropolitan city. The prayer calendar for the third year begins on Sunday, March 2. It has a major topic of prayer for each month, with sub-topics and emphases for each Sunday.

The web site is www.metrorichmondatprayer.org.
Greetings!

The Richmond Baptist Association closed its financial books for the year 2007 on January 18, 2008. The Administrative Council had its regular meeting on January 24 and reviewed the financial reports for 2007 finding that the RBA was truly blessed last year. The gains were more than the budget requirements and the receipts were more than the budget requirements. Those numbers were reported in the February issue of the TRANSFORMED. Based on the outstanding receipts for 2007 and the expenditures for the year, the Administrative Council proposed a budget of $673,500 to a new total of $688,500 (that is a $15,000 increase). That new revision was approved by the Executive Council on February 21 in its regular meeting.

The Administrative Council added some of the excess budget contributions ($43,000) from 2007 to the Emergency Reserve Fund (contingency fund) that was established in 2006 ($71,750) making the new total $114,750. That amount is equal to two months of income for the 2008 budget (or 16.7% of the annual budget). Should there ever be a crisis in this year, we would have two months of income before it became difficult time. The 2008 RBA budget has a new contingency fund line item in the amount of $13,500 which will be added quarterly to the existing contingency fund. It is my goal in the years to come to see that emergency reserve fund increased until it is 25% of the annual budget. Those monies are invested in flex CDs and are earning dividends as well.

Beyond that, the Administrative Council placed the balance of the excess budget contributions in the RBA Endowment Fund. The Association voted last year to close our Extension Fund since we will pay off our land indebtedness in September of 2008. The remaining balance in the Extension Fund was then placed into the Endowment Fund bringing that total to $349,000. The Endowment Fund is invested with the Virginia Baptist Foundation. The stated purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide dividend income to care for the administrative costs of the lifetime Association and thus focus the contributions of the churches on missions.

After that Administrative Council meeting, one of our RBA churches contacted us to let us know that they did not mark their 2007 contributions form correctly and would like to make those corrections. We can only researched the records to be sure our records matched theirs and they did match. Because of that correction, the financial report in last month’s newsletter has been corrected. It is as follows:

YTD Budget Amount: $655,500.00
YTD Budget Receipts: $771,801.49
YTD Budget Expenses: $664,463

Camp Alkulana Goal: $ 90,000.00
Camp Alkulana Receipts: $159,885.54

Please note that the Camp Alkulana receipts are a part of the budget reports above. The excess contributions for Camp Alkulana have been placed in a Camp Emergency Reserve Fund which is also in CDs. We give praise to Almighty God for His gracious provisions for the work and ministry of the RBA!

2008 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008
COOL SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH
9283 Atlee Station Road
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116

SCHEDULE FOR TRAINING
9 – 10 a.m. Registration
10 – 12 noon Disaster Relief Overview and Break
1 – 3 p.m. Breakout Sessions (choose one):
   Feeding, Recovery, Temporary Child Care

REGISTRATION CONTACT:
Cool Spring Baptist Church Office
804-746-0900

FOR GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF QUESTIONS, please contact:
Terry Raines at 800-255-2428 ext. 7232
terry.raines@vbmb.org

Nichole Bulls at 800-255-2428 ext. 7274 or nichole.bulls@vbmb.org

LAMP REPORT
“Latin American Mission Project”

Greetings

Last year we had our second retreat/camp for children and youth at the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center. Thirty children attended, meeting for three days with the theme, “How to Follow Jesus”. We also had youth for one week and they learned how to present the Gospel to their friends and family.

This year for our third annual retreat/camp, I would like to double our numbers so we need your help in sponsoring the children for camp this year. The cost for children ages 6—12 will be $100. The cost for youth for one week is $150. I am asking for churches, Sunday schools, WMU, youth groups, etc. to help with sponsoring. Without your help, the children will not be able to attend. Please send all money to Middle District Baptist Association, 9413-D Hull Street Road, Richmond, 23226 and be sure and put on the memo “LAMP/children’s camp”. Additional $150 will support the children’s Ministry of Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center.

Should there ever be a crisis in this year, we would have our disaster reserve fund which was established in 2006 to be sure our records matched theirs and they did match. That new revision was approved by the Executive Council on February 21 in its regular meeting.

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February 2008 Budget Report

Budget Amount: $57,375.00
Budget Receipts: $26,436.37
Budget Expenses: $60,163.99

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YTD Receipts: $26,436.37
YTD Expenses: $60,163.99

The Sojourner Summer Missionary Program of the Richmond Baptist Association places youth, ages 16 (must have completed the 11th grade) to 21, in our three Baptist Centers to experience missions first-hand. The 2008 summer session is for up to ten weeks. The work schedule is flexible. The Sojourner will average 20 hours of service per week with the goal of being more intense than others. Stipends for 2008 will be $600 per individual. The Sojourner Program offers experiences in working with children, youth, and senior adults in an inner-city environment. Sojourner youth are exposed to a variety of social ministries at all three Baptist Centers. The deadline for application is April 10, 2008. For more information, please contact Pete du Plessis at 804-372-1901 ext. 202 or pete@realli.org.
**Thoroughly Modern Millie**

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Riverside Dinner Theater, Fredericksburg, VA

The bus will depart the Robinson Street Parking Lot, First Baptist Church at 9:30 a.m. and stop by the Russell Stover Candies Store enroute to Fredericksburg. After satisfying our “sweet tooth” or buying chocolates for a friend, we will continue to the Riverside Dinner Theater for a delicious meal and the production of “Thoroughly Modern Millie”.

The meal served at your table will consist of your choice from four delicious entrees, assorted fresh vegetables, rolls, dessert, and beverage. After lunch, we will enjoy, and love, a Broadway classic presentation. After the show we return to Richmond and arrive at the Robinson Street Parking Lot between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.

Tour includes: Roundtrip deluxe motor coach transportation, lunch, performance, all gratuities for meal and driver, refreshments.

We need 35 people to be able to make the trip. Sign up now if you are interested.

• Reservations: call June Burton at 730-1224
• Reservation deadline: March 16, 2008
• Make check payable to: June Burton, FBC
• Complete Trip cost per person: $66.00
• Send check to June Burton, 6454 Thrash Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

More information and to order copies visit www.baptistheritage.org or call 804-289-8434.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!**

**START YOUR ENGINES! AND VOLUNTEER FOR....**

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA RACEWAY MINISTRIES**

**VOLENTURES WANTED** to minister besides RIR guest services by providing raceway fans an opportunity to worship, enjoy Christian music and art, discover the message of Christ through media and know His transforming presence.

Volunteers are asked to work only a 3 or 4 hour shift on May 2 & 3 as they serve in a variety of ways in our Hospitality Ministry at the Richmond International Raceway: as ambassadors of goodwill, opportunities of service include: distributing “cups of cold water,” cookies, Christian driver cards; performing as singers, musical groups; with performing arts (clowns, magicians, mimes, jugglers, balloon artist, etc.); and serving as chaplains, crisis counselors, logistics and support persons.

**ALL VOLUNTEERS NEED TO ATTEND THE TRAINING SESSION**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22, at 7:00 P.M. AT THE RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 3111 MOSS SIDE AVENUE, RICHMOND, VA.**

At this session Volunteers can sign up for a shift time, which are:

- Before the NASCAR NATIONALWIDE RACE
- Friday, May 2: 9 am-1pm, 1-4pm, 4-7pm, or 7-10 pm
- Before the NASCAR SPRINT CUP RACE
- Saturday, May 3: 9 am-1pm, 1-4pm, 4-7pm, or 7-10 pm
- After the NASCAR SPRINT CUP RACE

For more information contact: **BILLY DAVIS**

(804) 741-4898 OR (C) 304-306-1604 OR EMAIL: billy.b_davis@comcast.net

**MARCH CALENDAR**

**MARCH 2-9**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS**

“ANNIE ARMSTRONG” EASTER OFFERING

**MARCH 3 @ 8:30 AM-4:45 PM**

MINISTRY TO AIDS, STI, AIDS, P remained’s FOX INFO: BETTY STEPHENS 804-644-2256

**MARCH 4 @ 9:00 AM**

RACEWAY MINISTERS TEAM, RBA

**MARCH 5 @ 12:00 NOON**

MINISTERS’ LUNCH @ PECCANelly ON BROAD

**THE RESOURCE CENTER**

**“INTERESTING WOMEN” EVENT**, RESOURCE CENTER

804-638-8566 or toll free 888-241-5132. The Resource Center is located at 1202 Village Way, Richmond (Room 209 at Ginter Park Baptist Church).

**THEME:** “INTERESTING WOMEN” Event

The Resource Center will hold its second annual “Interesting Women” Event, as a brunch celebrating Women’s History Month, on Saturday, May 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

This event will provide an opportunity to meet women who are making positive contributions to the quality of life in their community. Honored guest will be Chief Anne Richardson, chief of the Rappahannock Indian Tribe. Attendees will also learn about two special awards, the Elizabeth V. Nash Multicultural Collection and The Isabel R. Rogers Women’s Resource Collection.

Reservations would be helpful, but are not required. Call 804-355-8366 or toll free 888-241-5132.

**MARCH 29 @ 10:00 AM**

**“INTERESTING WOMEN” EVENT, RESOURCE CENTER**

**MARCH 30 2008**

**PASTOR-DEACON MEETING**

Monday, March 10, 2008

Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

3400 Brook Road • P 355-8135

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:**

6:45 p.m. **REFRESHMENTS**

7:15 p.m. **Worship & Music**

7:45-9:00 p.m. **Conferences**

**There Is No Fee for the Conference.**

**REGISTER to attend Specific Sessions by March 3:**

Email: Gayle Taylor CVBM at gayle.taylor@cvbm.org

Or Call 598-6350; www.cvbm.org

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**PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER**

**WALK FOR LIFE PACKS AVAILABLE**

The Pregnancy Resource Center of Metro Richmond will be having its annual Walk for Life on Saturday, May 10, 2008. To request a Walk for Life Pack with information on how your church can participate in the event and make an impact in the lives of women who are unprepared for pregnancy, please contact the Pregnancy Resource Center.

Director, Pregnancy Resource Center at 804-677-4150 or CPCRichmond@aol.com. The deadline to request a pack is April 10, 2008.

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**BETTHANY PLACE** is collecting new socks to send to Page Street Baptist Church in San Francisco, and clothing, shoes, and accessories for their ESL Fourth Sunday Store. BON AIR is looking for volunteers to go and teach English and help with homework at Dixon Elementary in Toronto Mary 29

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**NEW COVENANT** is offering its renovated Sanctuary on Sunday, February 3 and is offering “Financial Peace University,” as a 13 week small group study. NORTHMINSTER is also offering its congregation participation in “Financial Peace University” program. RIVER ROAD’s youth hosted “Heat Wave”, which was a summer themed indoor event including miniature golf, mechanical surfboard, and inflatable Velcro wall, to raise money for the people of Malawi to have wells, clean water and irrigation. Students from thirteen area churches participated and $2,500 was raised. SAINT PAUL hosted CARITAS February 2-9. STAPLES MILL ROAD youth will be attending the Planet Wisdom Student Conference March 7-9 in Woodbridge. TABERNACLE is collecting socks for their Clothes Closet.

**STAFF NEWS**

FIRST welcomes Megan Sterrett as their full-time children’s Ministry Assistant.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**RBA SPRING CELEBRATION**

April 17

7:00 P.M.

**NEW COVENANT**

7250 PATTERSON AVENUE

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**2008 PASTOR-DEACON CONFERENCE**

Monday, March 10, 2008

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**AROUND THE ASSOCIATION**

**CHURCH NEWS**

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ATTENDANCE WAS THE BEST, OVER 120 FOLKS ENJOYED FOOD, DANCING, JUGGLING AND FELLOWSHIP.

CVBM DAY, TUESDAY, APRIL 22
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
AFFORDABLE HOUSING AWARENESS WEEK

CVBM has the unique opportunity to support Habitat for Humanity’s 17-house Angus neighborhood building project in the Richmond area during Affordable Housing Awareness Week, April 20-26, 2008.

CVBM DAY IS APRIL 22 – ONLY CVBM VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK AT THE SITE. We need 70 volunteers to work in teams to build four homes and churches to prepare lunches for the volunteers. Habitat for Humanity provides tools on the site.

Statistics show that on any given day in the Richmond region, there are at least 1,150 sheltered and unsheltered men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. Over the course of one year, 4,600 – 6,900 people experience a crisis that results in homelessness. We estimate that 300-800 of homeless individuals in a given year are children, and children who experience homelessness have an increased risk of experiencing homelessness as adults. (Stats provided by Homeward, Dec 2007 “Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Richmond Region.”)

To help with this project, please contact Gayle Taylor at the CVBM office at 598-6350; toll-free 1-888-598-6350 or email at gayle.taylor@cvbm.org.