HIGHLIGHTS

Richmond Baptist Association’s 57th Annual Fall Meeting
“You Will Be My Witnesses”
Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Sunday, October 19, 2008
Westover Baptist Church
1000 Westover Hills Blvd & 49th Street

ATTENDANCE
25 RBA Churches Represented
105 Messengers
25 Visitors
14 Guests
144 TOTAL

NEW LEADERSHIP ELECTED

The roster of volunteer officers and team members for 2008-2009 was recommended by the Leadership Development Team. The RBA is grateful to every one of these associational servants who will give of their time, talents and energy to serve God through various RBA missions and ministries. However, a few more volunteers are still needed as there are vacancies on the Budget Sub-group and the Facilities Sub-group. These are three-year rotating committees that are also on the Administrative Council. If you would be willing to serve in one of these places, please contact Pete du Plessis.

Sojourner Testimony

Turn to page three to read Michelle Nieporte’s wonderful testimony about her experience this summer as a Sojourner “summer missionary” with our three Baptist Centers.

New Director for Camp Alkulana

The messengers gave unanimous approval to the recommendation of the Camp Alkulana Director Search Committee to call Beth Reddish Wright as our new Camp Director effective March 1, 2009. The RBA is blessed to have Beth with her experience and qualifications to be a part of the associational ministry team. Beth will actually begin service with us on February 16 allowing her to have two weeks on-the-job training with Gracie Kirkpatrick before Gracie retires on March 1, 2009. Please pray for both Gracie and Beth as they work together during this transition period.

Partnership Missions

The Partnership Missions Team recommended that the RBA accept the invitation of the Rev. Jeff McCarrell, Director of Dixon Ministry, a ministry of Toronto Baptist Intercultural Services, to continue our partnership with them through 2009. This continued partnership does not require funding support from the RBA budget. Many of our RBA churches have developed close ties with the ministries in Toronto. These relationships are good and healthy for all concerned. It is a blessing to the folks in Toronto and to the folks in Richmond. Praise the Lord for the great strides already made.

Another New Partnership

Three years ago, the RBA voted to enter into a partnership with the Entrust Federal Credit Union. This has been a wonderful relationship for the association and our member churches. This year, the messengers gave approval to the recommendation of the Administrative Council that the RBA enter into a partnership with Crown Financial Ministries in order to assist our member churches in teaching stewardship on an ongoing basis within their congregations. This partnership does not require funding support from the RBA budget. It does, however, allow our churches to acquire the various Crown resources at a reduced cost. The mission of Crown is to “equip people worldwide to learn, apply, and teach God’s financial principles, so they may know Christ more intimately, be free to serve Him, and help fund the Great Commission.” You will be hearing much more about this exciting new relationship in the days to come.

2009 Budget Approved

The Budget Sub-group has worked very carefully once again to propose to the association a ministry budget that is line with realistic resources and reasonable expenses. God has marvelously provided for the needs of the RBA over the last four years and we believe He will do so in this next year. Together we can do so much more than any one of us could do alone as we trust God and obey His word. The RBA is the 72 churches that have bonded together to “be witnesses of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem” (Acts 1:8). The Budget Sub-group eagerly looks forward to the year-end report that comes in January.
Greetings,

Please allow me to share some background and current information about the status of the Latin American Mission Project (LAMP) in the Richmond Baptist Association.

In 2001, the Richmond Baptist Association and the Dover Baptist Association jointly employed a Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, Sara Miller, who was to work with the growing Hispanic population in the Metro Richmond area. Out of that alliance came a larger partnership known as the Metro Hispanic Strategy Team, made up of the Dover, Middle District and Richmond Associations, the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and La Primera Iglesia Bautista de Richmond. The primary function was to develop an effective, reproducible model for Hispanic church planting in the Metro Richmond area. The Team voted to call Mr. Louis Orsatti, from Mexico City, Mexico as the half-time Pastor of La Primera and half-time Hispanic Church Planter for the three associations and the Virginia Board. Mr. Orsatti began his ministry in Richmond on June 1, 2003.

Over the past five years, there have been numerous changes brought about by necessity and re-evaluation. The organization is now known as LAMP, the Latin American Mission Project. Half of the funding still comes from the three associations and the Virginia Board, while the other half comes from the Hispanic church, La Primera. The philosophy and strategy of the Hispanic ministry seemed to continually need reassessment and tweaking. At the conclusion of five years in this joint venture, the results of this Hispanic ministry have been far less than what might have been hoped for.

To add further complication to the ministry, Louis Orsatti’s guest Visa expired on June 1, 2008 requiring that Louis and most of his family return to Mexico for an indefinite period of time. In response to this, the LAMP Team believed that the proper balance between compassion for Louis and responsibility to the associations was to grant Louis a paid sabbatical leave from June 1 through December of this year. At present, Louis and his family are still in Mexico. The LAMP Team received word last week that there has been some progress toward his acquisition of a green card, but his attorney is open to the possibility that Louis may still be out of the country for another three months.

Clearly, this has become a difficult situation for the LAMP partners, and there don’t seem to be any quick and easy answers. The RBA’s Administrative Council is well aware of this dilemma, particularly in providing funding for the LAMP ministry in the 2009 budget. On October 17, I sent an email letter to the other LAMP partners, which read in part: “The RBA is very concerned about...”

The RBA Administrative Council feels it must take specific action regarding the good stewardship of our missions dollars. We very much want to see some kind of outreach/ministry/church plant in the Latino community in the Richmond area. We are not sure the existing LAMP program is going to get the job done.” Please pray for this situation.

Invitation to Lunch with Doug Murren

Pastors, staff members, church leaders, and potential church planters of Richmond, Dover, and Middle District associations are invited to a church-planting meeting with Doug Murren, November 6 at Gayton Baptist Church, 13501 N. Gayton Rd, Richmond, 23233, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m., with a free lunch provided.

Doug is a national church consultant and a popular speaker who is well known by many pastors. He is guiding Virginia Baptists in starting a church planting movement here in the Commonwealth. The purpose of the meeting is to hear how churches of all sizes and shapes, can play an exciting part of helping birth new churches.

To make your reservation, contact me, Frances Jones, at the RBA office by Monday, November 3. I can be reached by phone at 329-1701 ext. 201 or via email at frances.jones@rbaonline.org.

Your safety, security and stability with Entrust FCU...

Given the recent negative news about the economy, the sale of Wachovia Bank, Freddie and Fannie, Entrust would like to take this opportunity to reassure you about its safety, security and stability.

- All of the deposit accounts at Entrust are insured up to a maximum of $250,000 through the National Credit Union Association (NCUA) insurance. Your deposits are now more than twice as safe.
- Entrust has never been, nor are we currently, a sub-prime lender. Today, we continue funding traditional single family loans that are fully underwritten with full documentation.

Entrust has been in business since 1970 and we’ve weathered many economic cycles. We are equipped and ready to weather current economic conditions.

We value our relationship with the Richmond Baptist Association, its churches, their staff, and volunteers as well as their family members very much. Rest assured we will continue to find ways to help you be good stewards with God’s money. We thank you for your loyalty and your continued confidence in the credit union.

Stay up to date on what’s happening at Entrust by going to our U.S. website, www.efcu.coop.

SEPTEMBER 2008 BUDGET REPORT

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We thank you for your attention to this matter! We have received the 2008 Annual Church Profile (ACP) survey. Please take time to complete the survey forms and return them to the RBA—ASAP! The deadline was October 17, 2008, but we are still accepting profiles. If you have any questions, call Amy Sowder at the RBA office, 329-1701 ext. 208. We thank you for your attention to this matter!

The Richmond Area Church Basketball League for 2009

The Richmond Area Church Basketball League is being formed for churches in the Dover, Middle District, Petersburg and Richmond Associations. The league is for boys and girls age six to eighteen. Games will begin on January 3, 2009. A registration/roster form and a $75.00 deposit for each team must be submitted by November 14. A complete list of eligible players (roster) and the balance of the fees must be received by December 31, 2008. The fee for 2009 is $320.00 per team. Please contact Mr. Dontae Carter at 804-439-3752 or racbl@comcast.net.

You can download the registration/team roster form, promo flier, and other information from the RBA website at www.rbaonline.org.

Summer Sojourner Testimony

by Michelle A. Nieporte

This past summer the Richmond Baptist Association gave me a wonderful opportunity to represent my church as a Sojourner “summer missionary” serving its three inner-city centers: South Richmond, Oregon Hill, and Church Hill. I am extremely grateful to God for giving me this opportunity to work in the community helping other people. It was a wonderful experience that I shall always remember.

To be honest, I was a little worried about my safety in the inner-city neighborhoods around the centers and also about doing this kind of work. What if I did something wrong? What if the kids don’t like me? I am visually impaired, so I worried: “What if I trip and fall on a small child or knock over a table while distributing food?”

I guess you could say that my worries could be understandable. I was about to do something that was way outside my comfort zone. I was about to do something I was not use to doing and really wasn’t sure if I could do it.

I remember that shortly after I began working at the centers all that fear went away. Ms Ford, Ms Turner, and Ms Allen are some of the sweetest people I have ever met. They seemed very confident in me which allowed me to be more confident in myself. I think my favorite part was getting to work with the kids. I really enjoyed coming to Church Hill for the Back Yard Bible camp and seeing the kids and how happy they were to be there. I also assisted Oregon Hill with the summer soccer clinic. Two young men from Jamaica named Donovan and Denerik came to teach the kids soccer and share their testimonies about Jesus. They were really wonderful people and the kids loved them. At South Richmond, I helped with their food and school supplies drive. The people who came were very grateful for our help, especially one man who knew he was going to be “dad of the year” for bringing home to his daughter a Hannah Montana backpack and a High School Musical folder.

As the weeks went by I thought it was funny that I had ever been worried about working at the centers. I know that God gave me the strength I needed to put my own personal fears aside and do what I needed to do.

I would like to say something to anyone who might be considering serving next year as a Sojourner with the Richmond Baptist Association. I guess this might apply to anyone of any age who is feeling called to serve God. Sure, it might sound tough to take up the challenge to give up some of your time and energy for the Kingdom of God and the ministry of your church. Young people like me might have to give up some quality time walking around the mall or driving to the beach. It might cost a little bit of time with your friends. Still, I have to say that this experience was worth the sacrifice. I’m thankful that God gave me this chance and that He helped me to get over my fears of how I might not be good enough and to realize that I wasn’t doing this for myself.

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The Bible says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” I now believe I truly understand what that means. Once again, I’d like to thank you for giving me such an amazing experience working with you.

Thank you!
IT’S TIME TO GATHER NEW TOYS AND CLOTHING FOR THE 2008 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 466 families and provide a happy Christmas for 924 children!

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.

(on the opposite side of Fairmount from the Wellness Center in 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 (780-0053) for Church Hill.**
**UKROPS CONTINUES TO OFFER 10% DISCOUNTS TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

We want to clarify a statement made in the article about “The Well” needing donations of food bags in last month’s TRANSFORMED! The article stated, “Starting in September, Ukrop’s will no longer give MARCH (United Way) a 10% discount and “The Well’s” main food pantry funding comes from MARCH.”

The clarification is that Ukrop’s continues to give all non-profit organizations including MARCH and “The Well” a one-time 10% discount, but what had been taking place was that MARCH received a 10% discount when it purchased the original discounted store cards, distributed the cards to participating agencies like “The Well” which in turn would receive an additional 10% discount when they used the discounted cards to purchase food pantry items.

Ukrops reports that in this economy and with there being very little mark-up on grocery items such as can goods, they are no longer able to handle the 20% discount that was taking place. Ukrops does not want the RBA family to think they no longer support non-profit organization such as “The Well” by offering them a 10% discount.

**Christmas Drive**

Fluvana Correctional Center for Women

Lynn Litchfield, chaplain at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, is conducting a Christmas Drive in 2008 for stamps and all kinds of greeting cards and stationery—with a special focus on Christmas cards. Stamps are particularly appreciated since it takes an inmate almost two full hours of employment (at 23 cents an hour) to buy a stamp. Toiletries are NOT being collected.

You may bring your donations to the RBA Office, 3111 Moss Side Avenue, by November 12, and they will be delivered to the Correctional Center for you.

For more information, contact Wyatt Heisler at 741-9320.

**FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED ARE:**

- $10 grocery store gift cards (to be distributed 1 per family)
- Canned Hams
- Canned Vegetables (corn, green beans, peas)
- Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams
- Stuffing Mix (instant boxed is best)
- Cranberry Sauce
- Muffin Mix, Cornbread Mix, etc.
- Powdered Milk
- Turkey & brown gravy
- Boxes of Instant rice & Instant potatoes
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Graham Cracker pie shells in pan
- Large boxes of Pudding Mixes for pies

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**Thanksgiving at the “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 75 bags (an increase of 20 over last year!). The turkeys need to be delivered to The Well by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19. Food distribution will be on Thursday, November 20. You can call Glinda Ford, Community Missionary for The Well, at 780-0053 if you are interested in helping or need additional information.

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**Thanksgiving Food Needed at Oregon Hill**

Oregon Hill Baptist Center is in need of Thanksgiving "like" food to be given away on Monday, November 24th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. **Food should be delivered to the Center by Wednesday, November 19 (please call ahead to set up delivery time). VOLUNTEERS are needed to help with distributing bags on November 24.** Call Jennifer Turner, Community Missionary for Oregon Hill at 648-1353 if interested in helping. Thanks in advance for your contributions — Jennifer

**FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED ARE:**

- Thanksgiving at Oregon Hill
- Food items requested are:
  - $10 grocery store gift cards (to be distributed 1 per family)
  - Canned Hams
  - Canned Vegetables (corn, green beans, peas)
  - Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams
  - Stuffing Mix (instant boxed is best)
  - Cranberry Sauce
  - Muffin Mix, Cornbread Mix, etc.
  - Powdered Milk
  - Turkey & brown gravy
  - Boxes of Instant rice & Instant potatoes
  - Macaroni & Cheese
  - Graham Cracker pie shells in pan
  - Large boxes of Pudding Mixes for pies

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**Plan to Attend**

RBA Executive Council Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2008
12:00 Noon
FIRST
2709 Monument Avenue

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The RBA Office will be CLOSED November 27 and 28 For the Thanksgiving Holiday!

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Please Note:

The deadline for submission of articles for the newsletter has been moved forward to November 14, due to early mailing of December issue before the Thanksgiving holiday.
CAMBRIDGE began ESL classes on Sunday, October 5 during the Sunday School hour. DERBYSHIRE’s youth will attend a Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Willow Run Nov. 21-23. GAYTON will have “Groovie Night” for children in grades 1-5 on Friday, Nov. 14. HATCHER MEMORIAL hosted the Blood Mobile Wednesday, Oct. 15 and offered the Flu Vaccine to members on Sunday, Oct. 26, 9-11 am. HUGUENOT ROAD has been asked by the Virginia Baptist Mission Board to develop a team of volunteers who will train and specialize in setting up and taking down disaster relief units. LEIGH STREET invites the public to their Harvest Home celebration on November 9. The musical service begins at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch. Call the church office at 804-648-0415 for more information or lunch reservations. LIFELINES MINISTRIES INC./LIGHT HOUSE OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH is hosting the “Thriving Under the Wings of His Love” Conference to aid in understanding the diverse nature of victimization and the depth of God’s love. The Conference will be held November 21—23 at the Hampton Inn, Corolla, North Carolina. For more information and to register go to their website at www.lifelinesministries.org. PATTERSON AVENUE will host the annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service on Wed., Nov. 26 at 7:00 pm. SECOND has begun registration for “Upward Basketball 2008-2009”. STAPLES MILL ROAD started the “Good News Club” at Glen Allen Elementary School on Mondays from 2-3:30 pm for children K-5th grade to end the school day by enjoying music, snacks, a Bible story and a memory verse. WESTOVER graciously hosted the RBA Annual Fall Meeting on Oct 19, offered flu shots at their Craft Show on Oct. 11 and their Brotherhood will sponsor a Yard Sale on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 8 am – 1 pm.

STAFF NEWS

AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH celebrates 5 years of service by Rev. Calvin Birch as pastor to Liberian refugees. BON AIR congratulates Kim Boswell for accepting a full-time position as the administrative assistant to the Children’s Ministry. FIRST celebrated the 10 year anniversary of Alan Jones as Minister to College Students and also 10 years of service by Sharon Tucker as Administrative Assistant. WESTOVER joyfully celebrates the return of their Senior Pastor, Dr. Cecil Sherman, from Houston, Texas on October 18.

Bible Ministry Project

“SHARE GOD’S WORD”

One of the many important things Rev. Garry Sims and volunteers of the Prison Ministry of Bon Air Baptist Church do for inmates in jails and prisons all across Virginia is to provide them with their own copy of God’s Word. When asked how many Bibles are needed, Sims replies, “Many thousands… actually, as many as we can get!” For more information about the Prison Ministry, visit: http://buford.bonairbaptist.org/Ministries/GlocalMissions/PrisonMinistry/tabid/166/Default.aspx.

There are 178 churches in the three Baptist associations working together through Central Virginia Baptist Ministries. How many Bibles do you think we could provide for this highly important ministry? Why not make this a church-wide project?

TWO WAYS YOUR CHURCH CAN PARTICIPATE:

- CONTRIBUTE MONEY TO PURCHASE NEW BIBLES: For $3.50, the Prison Ministry can purchase a copy of Free On the Inside, a paperback Bible especially designed for the average inmate’s reading abilities. Spanish copies of this translation are available (and much needed), too. A $35 contribution puts ten Bibles in the hands and hearts of those who need to experience the good news of God’s love!

- DONATE “GENTLY USED” PERSONAL BIBLES YOU NO LONGER USE. Many inmates state a preference for various Bible translations, and many say they benefit from reading passages someone else has underlined or highlighted as being especially helpful.

Simply provide church members an easy way to contribute to the purchase of Bibles and provide a place at church where folks can drop off their used Bibles.

When you have identified a contact person for this ministry, please contact Gayle Taylor at the Central Virginia Baptist Ministries office: (804) 598-6350 or gayle.taylor@cvbm.org.

The Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond (www.icgr.org) and the Office of the Chaplaincy at the University of Richmond will sponsor a program on the Baptists on November 6 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the North Court Reception Room at the University of Richmond. This is part of a series: “Discovering Many Faiths: Richmond's Hidden Treasures.” Each program consists of three parts:

All are welcome. For more information call Ann Loxterm, 285-1283 or email: aloxterm@richmond.edu
**Help/Situations Wanted**

**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 **Quartet-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.

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**Refugee Resettlement in Richmond: Ways to Meet Needs**

Many refugee families arrive in the Richmond area each year, assigned here by the government, aided by Virginia Council of Churches or Refugee and Immigration Services. Recently, many of these families came to Richmond from either Myanmar camps where the “Karen” people live or from Iraq, after having been forced from their homes. As they settle in Richmond, there are many needs because they do not understand our culture and language. They need assistance in learning with shopping, banking, driving, or even some basic functions like making a doctors appointment or using a stove.

As followers of Christ, it is our place to welcome the stranger, practice hospitality, and care for our brothers and sisters in need. If you would like to reach out and offer caring support to these refugee families, here are some specific ways you can help:

- Volunteer to teach ESL (English as a Second Language) to adults.
- Tutor children and youth.
- Provide a car that you no longer need/use.
- Donate a 15 – passenger vans for transporting these families to church and other functions.
- Support the organization “Embrace Richmond” by donating unwanted furniture.

**How Can You Do These Things?** Tabernacle Baptist Church has several Karen families in their congregation, is working with the Virginia Council of Churches, and has a Ministry Center at Colonial Apartments where many refugees live. We are able to be a resource as you reach out to assist refugees to our area. For more information, contact Anna Miller, Associate Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church at 804-355-0134 or miller@tbcrichmond.org.

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**November Calendar**

**November 2**

Set Clocks BACK One Hour

Daylight Savings Time Ends

**November 3**

WMU World Day of Prayer, Bethlehem-Penick (4210 Penick Road, Richmond 23228)

**November 4**

**November 5 @ 12:00 noon**

Ministers’ Lunch, Piccadilly on Broad

**November 6 @ 12:00 noon**

“Church Planting” Lunch with Doug Murren, Gayton

RSVP by Nov. 3 to Frances @ RBA 329-1701

**November 10-11**

Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, First Baptist Church, Roanoke

**November 11-12**

Baptist General Association of Virginia, Roanoke Civic Center

**November 14 @ 12:00 noon**

Deadline to Submit Articles for Transformed!

**November 18 @ 10:00 a.m.**

RBA WMU Leadership Team, RBA

**November 20 @ 12:00 noon**

RBA Executive Council, First

**November 27-28**

Thanksgiving Holiday

RBA Office Closed

**November 30—December 7**

Week of Prayer for International Mission and “Lottie Moon Christmas Offering”

A Prayer of Thanksgiving
**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.

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**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.

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**Needed: Sleeping Bags & Blankets**

With the coming of fall and cool 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 3 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!

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**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.

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**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.

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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

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