Richmond Baptist Association’s Woman’s Missionary Union Votes!

The Woman’s Missionary Union of Richmond, Virginia exists for the purpose of assisting churches and the RBA WMU in being committed and involved in missions locally and globally. The women of the RBA WMU are deeply committed to this purpose.

At their WMU Annual Celebration and Dinner at Derbyshire Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, the women of the RBA WMU in business session unanimously voted to change their constitution. The primary change relates to whom may be a member.

In the past, membership in the RBA WMU included only members of Woman’s Missionary Union organizations of Richmond Baptist Association churches. Membership, as a result of the vote taken on April 15th, extends membership eligibility to members of Woman’s Missionary Unions and individual women members of BGAV (Baptist General Association of Virginia) churches even if their’s are non-RBA churches. Any woman who is a part of her church’s WMU program and a member of a BGAV church or any woman may remain or become active in the RBA WMU.

The vote came as a result of numbers of women who want to support and participate in the work of the Association and the ministries of the three Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana even though their churches are no longer Associational member churches. The constitutional changes will allow those women whose churches have left the RBA to remain eligible to participate in the Associational WMU organization which has taught missions and exemplified the work of local and global missions in work that dates back to well before the formation of the Richmond Baptist Association on February 16, 1951.

Rendering the women of non-member churches ineligible to serve would have appreciably weakened the efforts of the RBA WMU, an unintended consequence of withdrawal by some of the RBA’s strongest and most leadership rich churches. By extension, the work of the RBA Centers and Camp Alkulana would have been negatively impacted. The lives of the recipients of their ministries would have been dramatically hampered. While the negative impact upon the under-resourced of our city will still be great, the WMU is doing all that it can as an organization to minimize the burden upon the children and adults we serve on an around-the-year basis.

The membership ruling went into effect immediately following the vote taken on April 15th.

WMU - missions for life!

Mark your calendar!

5th ANNUAL RBA WMU MISSIONS EXTRAVANZA

Saturday, July 19, 2014
9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

at the
RBA Building
3111 Moss Side Avenue, 23222

Learn about the RBA Missions Involvement Program which provides support to the three inner-city Baptist Centers, Camp Alkulana, the campus ministries at VCU and UofR, as well as the after-school program of the African Christian Community Church.
Thank you, fellow Richmond Baptists, for giving approval to the Constitution Committee and the Visioning and Priorities Task Force on April 24th at the Patterson Avenue Baptist Church at the recently held Spring Celebration to continue the work of creating a new structure and new identity for the Richmond Baptist Association. What you received at the Spring Celebration was in skeletal form. The work is far from complete. Much work must be done to put flesh on that skeleton!

Your permission to continue that process is greatly appreciated! While the vote to proceed was not unanimous, it did represent a strong majority with a final count of 123 “for” and 31 “against.” It is my goal to have a draft of the new Constitution and Operations Manual completed by mid-July so that it can be circulated among our churches and thoroughly evaluated by late August to be put into more complete form by mid-September. It will be a busy summer!

Concern has been expressed regarding the various benchmark numbers included in the initial proposal as thresholds for participation in contributions at the various levels of affiliation. Let me reiterate that the numbers presented at the Spring Celebration, whether $1,000 at the Connector Level, $2,000 at the Champion Level or $3,000 at the Core Level, are numbers chosen to help us have a place begin discussion. They are by no means final numbers at this point, and will ultimately be subject to the approval of the Association before being finalized. It is fairly certain that the giving levels will NOT be based on church budgets but upon actual giving levels to the church’s general program receipts and excluding designated gifts such as Building Program and Capital Campaign Giving.

It is understood that many churches across America, and certainly in Richmond, too, do not enjoy giving levels that exceed or even meet their projected budget targets. That reality will be taken into consideration.

Others have expressed concern that their church might be eliminated from access to governance and leadership even though they are strong participants in the support of our Center and Camp ministries but cannot give at a prescribed level. A number of us are giving considerable thought regarding how participation can be measured and honored for churches who are caught in financial struggles beyond their control and who are doing all that they can fiscally so that their participation allows them leadership opportunities. Your thoughts and ideas would be welcomed. Please email them to me or to Bob Thompson, who is already hard a work on the new documents. Bob’s email address is rgtfd@msn.com and mine is mike.robinson@rbaonline.org. Your early input is most welcome!

As the logo depicts, the new name of the Association is to be the River City Faith Network circumscribed over the Richmond Baptist Association name. The Richmond Baptist Association provides the River City Faith Network with a strong and rich heritage that is not to be ignored nor easily dispelled. The good from our past is not to be casually swept away. It is still valued and fundamental to the good work ahead. Neither the old name nor the new contain the designation “Christian” but the new name clearly and unashamedly includes the addition of the word “Faith” which when coupled with the designation “Baptist” can leave little doubt that our roots, foundation and intentions are fully Christian. Our work in the Centers and Camp are only possible “through the love of Christ” as stated in our new mission statement. We are and will remain proudly Baptist while leaving room within our work to include others of the Christian faith who share our concern for and calling to the hurting of our city and who want to engage in ministering to “the least of these” in the Name of Christ.

It should be noted that those organizations and churches who partner with us at the Champion and Core Levels of Affiliation MUST be Baptist. Therefore, leadership and governance at these levels where policies and procedures will be generated and governance exercised will retain distinctively Baptist qualities.

Please continue to pray for those who will be writing, praying and thinking during the next weeks. The process in which we are engaged is a year long one that we will strive to bring to draft form in a matter of weeks. We will need His wisdom to make the impossible possible! We will need your prayers! Later we will want and need the input of all of you to fine tune and enhance what is done during these initial weeks. As the new Constitution and Operations Manual take form, this is not the time to be impatient nor hasty. This is another important step of several toward new identity, strengthened ministries and the hope of a future that brings glory to Him.

Finally, many thanks to the Visioning and Priorities Task Force under the leadership of Dr. Cecil Chambers who have done good and important work bringing us another important step along the way:

- Cecil Chambers
- Herbert Ponder
- Kimberly Ridley
- Bob Thompson
- Heather Tiller
- Melissa Fallen
- Rupert Rose
- Paige Peak

This team has put in long and thoughtful hours to give us a strong skeleton upon which to build.

Thank you again, fellow Baptists, for the opportunity to continue this important work!

Gratefully,

Mike
Your church can...  
**...promote the Week of Prayer for Associational Missions**  
and the  
**2014 Camp Alkulana Offering ...**  
**...ANYTIME!**

While the “official” Week of Prayer for Associational Missions was May 18-25, 2014, many churches choose a time that is more appropriate to their planning and better suited to the rhythm of their church’s annual life. That may be YOU!

The goal for the 2014 Camp Alkulana Offering is $148,335.00! This year’s goal includes the salaries of the Camp Director and Camp Registrar as well as this year’s investment in the camping sessions beginning at Camp Alkulana in just a few weeks. Our target remains approximately 200 inner-city youth from ages 9 through 14.

Undated promotional materials include bulletin inserts (5 1/2 x 8 1/2), an Associational Prayer Guide for the Week of Prayer, posters (11 x 17), Camp Alkulana Offering Envelopes and the Camp Alkulana brochure. Samples are pictured below. You may receive these in the quantity you need by contacting Amy Sowder at amy.sowder@rbaonline.org or by calling the church office at 804-329-1701 ext. 208.
Richmond Baptist Centers
VOLUNTEERS’ BANQUET
June 28, 2014
6:00 PM
St. Paul’s Belt Campus Fellowship Hall
700 E. Belt Boulevard, 23224
(Hull & Welton Avenue)

If you have ever volunteered, given donations, or prayed for the ministries of our three Baptist centers, you are warmly invited to our Volunteers’ Banquet. . . . to allow us to say, “Thank You!”

WMU workers  Pastors  Ministers  Sunday School workers  Church members

……..are all invited to come as guests of our three centers at no charge!

RSVP by June 16 to Wesley Garrett WITH THE NUMBER COMING from your church (804) 232-0174 or email wesley.garrett@rbaonline.org, glinda.ford@rbaonline.org, or jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org!

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:
Simple process:
1. Pick the preferred game(s) and note payment deadline.
2. Promote in church and among friends.
3. Collect payment.
4. Fax ticket orders to 804-321-7121 or email office@rbaonline.org or amy.sowder@rbaonline.org.
5. Send payment to the RBA by payment deadline for game(s) you are attending: Check (payable to RBA) mailed to RBA Office, Attn.: Baseball, 3111 Moss Side Ave., 23222

2014
BAPTIST DAY/NIGHTS with the RICHMOND SQUIRRELS!!!
Invite friends, neighbors and co-workers for great fun. This is a great opportunity to reach out to persons who like baseball and may not attend church or may have become irregular in attendance. The game options are given below with the reservation deadlines for each game.

OUTREACH CAN BE FUN! LET’S REACH OUT THIS SUMMER AND MAKE A KINGDOM DIFFERENCE!

SPECIAL TICKET PRICES: General Admission: $5.00/person
July 4th—General Admission: $7.00/person

GAMES  OPPONENT  RESV. DEADLINE
Thur, June 5  @ 6:35 pm  vs. Trenton  (May 29)
Mon. June 23  @ 6:35 pm  vs. Harrisburg  (June 16)
*Thur, July 4  @ 5:05 pm, 2 games  vs. Reading  (June 18)
Sun. July 20  @ 1:35 pm  vs. Harrisburg  (July 14)
Thur. Aug. 7  @ 7:05 pm  vs. Binghamton  (July 28)
Fri. Aug. 29  @ 7:05 pm  vs. Binghamton  (Aug 18)
Join us this summer for MC2: Missions Connection Celebration!

Keynote Speaker
Jonathan Hilliard
Pastor of First Baptist Church of Gretna, Virginia
Adult Bible Study Leader
Luke Smith
Pastor of Linden Heights Baptist Church of Staunton

MC2 is for all ages, with discipleship and mission work for everyone from babies to senior adults!
The registration fee is $68/

Join us this summer for MC2: Missions Connection Celebration! Registration is now open for MC2, so visit the webpage for more details or register online today!

MC2 is an intergenerational experience featuring:

- **Missions**: Youth and adults minister through a variety of service projects in the Greater Lynchburg Area ranging from VBS to construction to visitation opportunities.

- **Discipleship**: Age-appropriate learning opportunities are provided for preschoolers through senior adults.

- **Worship**: Daily services for children, youth, and adults are highlighted by dynamic preaching, music, and missions.

- **Fellowship**: Participants join together for an opening night picnic, a mid-week ice cream social, and packaging meals for Haiti.

**Fun**: There will be lots of pool time, plus a talent show, scavenger hunt, Frisbee golf, volleyball, campfire, night hike, and Capture the Flag.

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**NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

**BON AIR** will have an all Campus River Baptism at Robious Landing on Sunday, June 8 at 4:00 pm. The Buford Road Campus will have their “Weird Animals” Vacation Bible School the week of May 23-27, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. **CARLISLE AVENUE** will participate in the Camp Alkulana Workday on Saturday, May 31. **FIRST** will host part of the “America’s Best Storytellers Convention”, Friday, May 30-Sunday, June 1. Visit www.thebeststorytellers.com for more information and to purchase tickets with net proceeds going to “Stop Hunger Now”. The church will host “Wilderness Escape” VBS, June 23-27, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. **FIRST UNION** will offer “The Jesus Connection...what a friend” VBS also June 23-27. **GAYTON** will also have “Weird Animals” VBS June 23-27, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. **GINTER PARK** will also participate in the Camp Alkulana Workday on Saturday, May 31. **GRACE** will have an Ascension Luncheon and Cake Auction on Sunday, June 1 as a youth fundraiser. **HUGUENOT ROAD** will celebrate their 50th Anniversary with a “Heritage Day” on Sunday, June 8, with one combined service at 11:00 am, preaching by Rev. Martha Kears, daughter of their first full-time Senior Pastor, Rev. Tim Dixon and attendance of several former ministers, including Bert Browning, Charles Chandler, Ray Pollard and Tim Dixon. **PINE STREET** will offer “You’ll Get Through This” Bible study Wednesday nights beginning May 21. **RIVER ROAD** is sending a group of volunteers to the Camp Alkulana Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 31. The church is hosting “Richmond Food Truck Association” Food Trucks on Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 pm from May through September 30 in their north parking lot. **STOCKTON MEMORIAL** will have an evening of fun with “The Finneys” in concert on Sunday, June 1 at 6:00 pm and the Youth will have a Yard Sale on Saturday, June 7, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. **WESTHAMPTON** will participate in the Camp Alkulana Work Day on Saturday, May 31. **WESTOVER** is leasing space to Victory Farms so they can sell their farm fresh produce to the neighborhood.

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**ANNOUNCING!**

**3 DAY TRIPS TO CAMP ALKULANA DURING 2014 SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS**

With the success of the **Day Trips to Camp** offered during the past three summers, the RBA is offering three new opportunities this summer to see camp in action! **The Day Trips are being offered free of charge**! Each trip will leave from the RBA Office (3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, 23222) by bus or van depending on the size of the group. **SPACE IS LIMITED**: RESERVE YOUR SPOT ASAP!

**Trip #1** - FRIDAY, JUNE 20 (DURING OLDER BOY’S SESSION)

**Trip #2** - MONDAY, JULY 21 (DURING OLDER GIRLS SESSION)

**Trip #3** - SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 (DURING YOUNGER GIRLS SESSION)

Dep. RBA 8:00 a.m., Arr. Camp at 10:30 a.m. Lunch with Campers, Dep. Camp at 2:30, Arr. RBA at 5:00 p.m.
**JUNE 8, 2014—4 PM**

**INCLUSION CONCERT**

benefitting

**The Resource Center Inc.**

The Inclusion Concert is a celebration of unity in diversity, a core value of The Resource Center. Come join us for this fabulous afternoon of music and other arts supporting the mission of The Resource Center to provide resources and consultation to congregations to increase their health and vitality.

Questions? www.resourcingchurches.com or call Dr. Denise Janssen, Executive Director at 804.464.8913.

**Singers are needed and welcome!** Rehearsals will be (pick two):

- **Tuesday June 3, 6:30 p.m.**
  Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
  (8175 Pleasant Grove Rd, Mechanicsville),
- **Thursday, June 5, 6:30 p.m.**
  Laurel Park United Methodist Church (2700 Hungary Rd, Henrico), and
- **Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m.**
  Anointed New Life Baptist Church

![Image of singers at the Inclusion Concert]

**ANOINTED NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH**

**NORTH RUN V, 1616 E. PARHAM RD., HENRICO VA**

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**First Things First of Greater Richmond in conjunction with the Richmond Kickers and Collegiate School Aquatics Center presents:**

**Celebrate Fatherhood 2014!**

A collaborative effort to honor dads as they enjoy time with their kids and families at state-of-the-art recreational facilities,

**FREE admission for the whole family!**

**Sunday, June 8, 2014 from 1-4 p.m.**

**At Ukrop Park**
5300 Ridgedale Parkway
Richmond, VA 23234

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Featuring activities** for kids of all ages (infancy to early teen):

- Swimming
- Soccer
- Moonbounce
- Relays
- Golf
- Cornhole
- Games
- Food trucks
- Free ice cream

**Contests:**
- Richmond dad who can swim the fastest.
- Richmond dad who can run the fastest.
- Richmond dad who can kick a soccer ball most accurately.

**REGISTER NOW!**

Questions? - call 804-288-3431
To request flyer — lane@firstthingsfirstrichmond.org
For sponsorship information — Brittany@firstthingsfirstrichmond.org

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**Teach Your Children Well – Summer Jobs to Earn and Learn**

Ever notice how differently your child feels about spending your money versus their own? Suddenly, that new game he ‘needs’ is a lot less important when you offer to let him buy it with his own money. Giving children the freedom to spend their money their way is a great teaching opportunity. Use the extra time summer offers to give older children a chance to gain greater appreciation for the value of money and learn about the benefits of saving.

Encourage your teen to get a summer job and before the first paycheck comes home, take the time to teach the basics of good financial stewardship.

- **Budgeting basics:** Show young earners how to plan spending.
- **It all belongs to the Lord:** Teach tithing from the first paycheck.
- **Set savings goals:** Talk through wants and needs and create a plan to save for them.

Whatever their age, the Bible tells us, “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 (NASB)

Teaching your child budgeting, tithing and savings habits will reap benefits for a lifetime. You can even use some of the Children and Family resource articles on crown.org to get the conversation started.

Randy Rowekamp, Area Manager
804-683-1595; RRowekamp@crown.org
Discount/Promo Code: rrowekamp

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**Crown Financial Ministries**
April 2014 RBA Budget Report

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2014 Camp Alkulana Offering
Formerly known as the RBA Week of Prayer for Associational Missions Offering

As of 4/30/2014

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The RBA Office will be CLOSED
Friday, July 4, 2014
To observe INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Pray for Churches Seeking a Pastor
Bethlehem (Penick)     Grace
First Union            Westover

Support CAMP ALKULANA with your PRAYERS!

June 1
Director Beth Wright moves to Camp for the summer

June 4 - 14
Staff Training

June 18 - 29
OLDER Boys (Ages 12-14)

July 3 - 10
YOUNGER Boys (Ages 9-11 & CIT’s)

July 15 - 16
Staff Training

July 17 - 28
OLDER Girls (Ages 12-14)

August 1 - 8
YOUNGER Girls (Ages 9-11 & CIT’s)

August 8 - 9
Staff Wrap Up

June Events Calendar

June 1
Camp Director, Beth Wright Moves to Camp Alkulana for the summer of 2014

June 2 @ 10:00 AM
RBA Staff Meeting, RBA

June 3 @ 9:00 AM
Raceway Ministries CORE Team Meeting, RBA

June 4-14
Staff Training, Camp Alkulana

June 8-9
National WMU Annual Celebration, Baltimore, MD

June 9
“Transformed!” Deadline

June 10-11
Southern Baptist Convention, Baltimore, MD

June 12 @ 2:00 PM
CVBM Coordinating Team Meeting, VBRC

June 15
Father’s Day

June 16
Sign up Deadline
Baptist Centers’ Volunteers’ Banquet

June 16
Ticket RSVP Deadline, June 23 Squirrels Game, $5 @

June 18
Ticket RSVP Deadline, July 4 Squirrels Games, $7 @

June 18—29
OLDER Boys Session, Camp Alkulana

June 20 @ 8:00 AM —5:00 PM
Camp Alkulana—TOUR #1

June 21 @ 6:00 PM
Baptist Centers Volunteers’ Banquet
St. Paul’s, Belt Campus

June 23 @ 6:35 pm
Baptist Night w/ the Squirrels vs. Harrisburg

June 23-29
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly
[next page]

**TRANSFORMED!** is published monthly by:
The Richmond Baptist Association  
3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222  
804-328-1701

Contact Amy Sowder via email or snail mail at the addresses listed above:
- To submit an article must be received by the 7th of each month
- To be added or deleted from the mailing list
- To submit a change of address in a timely manner so that the RBA will not incur “postage due” costs for returned newsletters

**NEXT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**
Mark your calendar!
Thursday
July 17, 2014
7:00 PM
RBA Office Building
3111 Moss Side Avenue

**Help the RBA Save Return Postage Costs**
*Give us your Change of Address!*
If you are on our newsletter mailing list and will be moving, please let Amy Sowder know your Change of Address in advance. You will be helping us to direct $.49 “postage due” to more important missions efforts. Thank you so much!

**Making a delivery to the RBA Office?**
Please call before making a delivery to ensure someone will be at the office. There are times during the day when everyone may be away, so it will save time and gas by calling ahead. The RBA Office is open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WEST POINT**
**PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE**
P. O. BOX 490, WEST POINT, VA 23181

**SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR:** We are a small town church located in eastern Virginia between Richmond and Williamsburg. We are affiliated with SBC, BGAV and Dover Association. Master of Divinity and experience is preferred. For more information, instructions and an application (required), visit our website at [http://www.fbcwestpoint.org](http://www.fbcwestpoint.org).

**Midlothian Rotary Club**
**Names Camp Alkulana**

We're proud to announce that Camp Alkulana was named one of the Midlothian Rotary Club's charity recipients for 2014. Recognizing the camp's positive impact on the community, Camp Director Beth Wright received a donation of $2,500 on behalf of Alkulana. The Midlothian Rotary Club is very excited about partnering with us, are planning on sending out a volunteer group to camp and using their network to help with recruiting campers and counselors. Hopefully, this is a good signal for a strong, growing partnership.

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