63rd Annual Fall Meeting
of the
The Richmond Baptist Association
known as
The River City Faith Network
Sunday, October 19, 2014
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Richmond
2709 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220

Reports, Discussion and Recommendations to Adopt
Proposed New Bylaws
Proposed New Policies and Procedures
from the Writing Team of the Visioning and Priorities Task Force
(Proposed documents may be found at www.richmondbaptist.org
under Documents and Event Fliers on the Home Page)

Reports from:
Baptist Center Community Missionaries, Camp Alkulana Director, Executive Director and others

This meeting will not be followed by a meal, so meal reservations will NOT be needed. It would be very helpful, however, to pre-register messengers to speed up registration!
The following thoughts are from my most recent report to the Executive Council Meeting held at Carlisle Avenue on August 26th. Since many of you were not at that meeting, I want to share them with you as well!

Restructuring any organization is arduous work involving much attention to detail and skill in selecting grammar as well as sorting priorities. In August of 2013 the Association when it gathered at Second Baptist Church made it clear through a number of listening sessions held throughout the day that the ministries of our three Baptist Community Centers and Camp Alkulana are the priorities upon which we should cast our focus for this season of our journey. These priorities are a clear indication that God continues to call this Association to give its attention to the plight of our city and to continue our ministries to the underserved.

Since then we have moved forward to deal with long-standing systemic weaknesses of our Association while laying the ground work for expanding the support base for the accomplishment of the calling we sense from God. The leadership model of the past with its many layers of involvement and much duplication of effort, while it served the Association well for many years when the every-day demands upon people’s time and energies were not so great, has been time consuming, cumbersome and increasingly ineffective. Membership for some has meant little in terms of accountability or genuine involvement and investment in the ministries we cherish. Much prayer, energy and thought have been expended in addressing these issues that have weakened our ability to function effectively in our current context.

I am deeply grateful to the Visioning and Priorities Task Force under the leadership of Dr. Cecil Chambers, Pastor of Skipwith Baptist, that has spent long hours addressing these important issues. I am thankful for our staff and our churches which have hosted and participated in eight Town Hall Listening Sessions to help derive a framework for moving forward together. I am proud of the Writing Team led by Dr. Bob Thompson, long-time member of Lakeside and past Interim Director of Missions, for their work in crafting new Proposed Bylaws as well as Policies and Procedures to create a framework for dealing with our systemic challenges. These documents will streamline our organizational structure and simplify our governance to better conform to the realities of busy schedules and the need to avoid meetings for the sake of meeting. Much systemic duplication will be stripped away.

Like C.A.S.T. [Camp Alkulana Support Team], which greatly strengthens the work of our Camp Director, each of our Baptist Community Centers, under the new proposal, will have a similar Support Team made up of persons who are passionately connected to that particular expression of our mission and ministry. Each of the Centers will be greatly strengthened and our Community Missionaries encouraged.

Moving away from the membership model of the past to a network affiliation model that is not exclusively Baptist, though always careful to maintain our Baptist roots and principles, will allow us to reach beyond ourselves to invite alongside faith partners who share our passion for our communities and the underserved found in them.

The insights shared with the Writing Team from individuals and the attendees of some of our regular gatherings of leaders have been invaluable in enhancing the quality of the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures that are currently in draft form. Your interest and input will continue to increase the vitality and effectiveness of these offerings.

I truly believe that the future for our work in the Richmond area can be bright and the days filled with hopefulness as we continue to be faithful to the work to which He has called us. I believe that the new structures that are being proposed will enable us to fulfill that calling in more effective ways than ever before and that the rich heritage of the past can serve as a foundation for even greater days ahead with old partners and new!

Joyously,

Mike

RBA / River City Faith Network Churches: 
It’s Time to Prepare for the 63rd Annual Fall Meeting! 

Elect Messengers to Represent Your Church

SECTION 3: The voting body of the Association shall be composed of five (5) elected messengers from each member church, and one (1) additional messenger for each $5,000 or major fraction thereof given to the General Program and Week of Prayer offering of the Association during its previous fiscal year; provided, that no church shall be entitled to more than fifteen (15) such messengers. Further, each mission under the sponsorship of an Associational church shall be entitled to two (2) elected messengers, and all officers, members of all teams and councils, chairs or heads of Association organizations shall be members of the voting body of the Association.

SECTION 6: One hundred messengers shall constitute a quorum.
It’s NOT too late to help out, but you must hurry! Time is running out!! Contact Beth Wright at 329-1701 ext. 206 or at campalkulana@gmail.com or go to www.alkulana.org.

Take your best swing at making a child’s summer wonderful.

Camp Alkulana has been a ministry to inner city children since 1935. Camp Alkulana’s mission is to reveal God’s love to low-income and at-risk children and youth of Central Virginia so that they might realize the intrinsic value in themselves and others. Find out more at www.alkulana.org.

BELMONT GOLF COURSE
Course played by legends!
Site of 1949 PGA Championship
1800 Hilliard Road, Henrico, VA
OCTOBER 3, 2014
12 PM Lunch • 1 PM Shotgun
Sign-up online at www.alkulana.org

Become a Sponsor of Camp Alkulana’s 10th Annual Golf Tournament

Being a sponsor individually, as a family, Sunday School class or missions group you can take your best swing to help Richmond’s kids go to camp!

TYPES OF SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

BRIGHT EYES SPONSOR: $500
Benefits include:
• Your logo will appear on publication information.
• Your logo will appear on a banner at tournament registration.
• Your company or organization will receive two complimentary hole sponsorships.

HOLE SPONSOR: $100 per hole
Benefits include:
• Your company or organization will receive your logo or other artwork placed at a hole on the golf course. You can sponsor more than one Hole!
• Hole sponsors will be listed in the program on the day of the Golf Tournament.
• Hole sponsors are eligible for a $20 discounted fee when also registering a golf foursome.

To become a sponsor contact Beth Reddish Wright at email campalkulana@gmail.com or call 804-329-1701 ext 206.

Camp Alkulana
100th Summer Report
By Camp Director, Beth Wright

We are grateful for another wonderful summer at Alkulana! This summer at camp we had:

- A camper who got scared and cried all the way down the 40’ rappel tower, but she did it! And was embraced in hugs and given high fives by her fellow campers as soon as she touched the ground.
- A counselor whom I found in tears during the first few days of camp because she felt inadequate, but by the third session she was thriving in roles of leadership.
- A camper who began a conversation with us about being baptized.
- A Counselor in Training who felt safe enough with her counselors to disclose that she was being abused by her foster parents.
- A camper who wrote the prayer, “God, help me not be angry any more.”
- A camper from a non-Christian home who ended her session by promising to read the Bible more.
- An alumna from 1940 who visited us at camp and sang an old camp song with the campers and shared stories about what Alkulana had meant to her as a child.

All of this and more. Yes, all of this and more. This is what you and your churches and a growing number of individuals helped make happen this summer. These statements represent just a glimpse into the ways we saw God at work this summer.

We served 218 campers and provided a place of ministry for over 60 volunteers or staff members to serve as counselors, cooks, nurses, or in other support roles. We celebrated this 100th summer with the campers in different ways throughout the summer:

- We brought back old activities like the baseball tournaments our campers used to have in the 1920’s and the 1970’s.
- We held treasure hunts that led campers to different old camp artifacts they learned about.
- We had a giant birthday party for camp, complete with party games and cake.

We invited camp alums to pay us a visit and teach us about what Alkulana had meant to her as a child.

The campers really got into the spirit of things, and we hope that you’ll get into the spirit of things too as we continue to celebrate that landmark throughout the year.

Thank you for your support and encouragement through prayers, care packages and visits to camp this summer.
Richmond Baptist Centers
Back-To-School Celebrations
August 12, 16 and 29, 2014

813 Backpacks and Supplies Donated with 699 Distributed to Date!

Our three Community Missionaries have reported the number of backpacks donated and given out to their respective communities at the most recently held Back-to-School Celebrations. Your RBA/River City Faith Network staff is so grateful to the churches, WMU groups and individuals who very generously provided backpacks, school supplies and volunteer helpers for these three events in August. Hundreds of students will start school more strongly because of the supplies that you have made available to them. Thank you very much for your kindness! The numbers from each Baptist Center follow:

OREGON HILL: August 12 (6:00—8:00 p.m.)
• 192 backpacks and school supplies donated
• 114 children received backpacks and school supplies
• Extra supplies will be shared with St. Andrew’s School in Oregon Hill
• Some supplies are kept at the Center for needs during the year
• 30 backpacks were shared with the South Richmond Center
• Remaining empty backpacks will be used in the homeless ministry

CHURCH HILL: August 16 (10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.)
• 351 backpacks received
• 306 backpacks given out at the Back-to-School Celebration

SOUTH RICHMOND: August 29 (1:00—3:00 p.m.)
• 270 backpacks and supplies donated
• 239 backpacks were distributed on the 29th
• 40 backpacks given to ACCC
• 31 backpacks and remaining supplies will be distributed during the school year

Thank you for your assistance in completing and returning the ACP’s quickly!

The deadline for returning them is Friday, October 10, 2014. If you have questions, contact Amy Sowder at the RBA Office, amy.sowder@rbaonline.org or at 329-1701 ext.208. Keep in mind that the ACP surveys will be used to determine the Levels of Affiliation for River City Faith Network churches.
THE 2014 CHRISTMAS STORES AT THE THREE BAPTIST CENTERS

Gifts are needed for children ages birth through 12 years old (Shortages reported for the 7 to 10 year olds). Suggestions: Clothing (jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts, sleepwear, socks, underwear, coats, hats, and gloves in regular and large sizes); Games; Toys; Books; Bicycles (and helmets). Please go easy on stuffed animals, Barbie dolls, Candy Land and Chutes and Ladders Board Games. Please purchase gifts that you would want your own children to receive. Please do not wrap anything; parents need to see what they are selecting. (Donations of small amounts of wrapping paper will be appreciated.) Please leave price tags on items so that less expensive items can be distinguished from more expensive ones.

Refer to the lists below to see where it is suggested that your church take its gifts. Questions? Contact WMU Mission Involvement Consultants, Barbara Swann, swann91@verizon.net (804-272-5150); Kathleen Coxon, mkcbgly1@verizon.net (804-262-1667) or Wyatt Heisler, wyattsweeds@aol.com, (804-741-9320)

SOUTH RICHMOND AND OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTERS

Christmas Store @ South Richmond Baptist Center, Saint Paul's Belt Campus, 700 East Belt Blvd.

Thursday & Friday, December 4 & 5
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Deliver your gifts: December 1 & 2 (Monday & Tuesday), between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 3 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Bring gifts to the rear of the gymnasium on the Saint Paul's Belt Campus. Volunteers are needed to help sort and set up each delivery day; help as shopping assistants on Store Days; to be interpreters for Spanish-speaking shoppers, and to help pack up leftover items on Friday, December 5. If you can volunteer, call Jennifer Turner, OHBC, at 648-1353 or Wesley Garrett, SRBC, at 323-0174.

Bon Air  Community of Grace  Derbyshire  First
First Union  Friendship Memorial  Gayton  Ginter Park
Grace  Gravel Hill  Hatcher Memorial  Huguenot Road
Korean of Richmond  Lakeside  Lighthouse of Hope  Morning Star
New Canaan  New Life  Patterson Avenue  Pine Street
Rising Liberty  Saint Paul’s  Shalom Fellowship  Skipwith
Southampton  Stockton Memorial  Swift Creek  The Light Community
Trinity  United for Christ  Weatherford Missions Group  Westhampton
Westover  Woodland Heights

THE CHURCH HILL CHRISTIAN WILLNESS CENTER

Christmas Store @ Bethlehem Baptist Church
1920 Fairmount Ave. (on the opposite side of Fairmount Ave. from the Wellness Center in Mount Tabor Church)

Saturday, December 6
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Deliver your gifts: to Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1920 Fairmount Ave, across from Mount Tabor; December 2, 3 & 4 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday), between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with set up on Friday, December 5, starting at 10:00 a.m.; as shopping assistants on December 6; and to assist with cleanup on December 6 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.. If you can volunteer, call Glinda Ford at 780-0053.

Bethlehem (Fairmount)  Bethlehem (Penick)  Carlisle Avenue  Chamberlayne
Community Mission  Disciples for Christ  Leigh Street  Life-Line for Jesus
Mount Carmel  Mount Sinai  Mount Tabor  River Road
Tabernacle

SOUTH RICHMOND BAPTIST CENTER NEEDS AN OFFICE COMPUTER

The computer can be either a laptop or desktop model preferably with MicroSoft Office 2010 as well as virus protection software. If you can help, please contact Rev. Wesley Garrett at 323-0174 or email wesley.garrett@rbaonline.org.

OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTER NEEDS HELP WITH HOMELESS MEALS

Church groups or individuals are needed to prepare and serve a meal to approximately seventy homeless individuals on Thursday, October 9th and 30th and November 13th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Plan to arrive early to prepare the meal. If you can help, please contact Rev. Jennifer Turner at 648-1353 or email jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org.
BON AIR baptized 21 people at their river baptism on Sunday, September 7. CARLISLE AVENUE has an Adult Mission Trip to Halifax County, North Carolina planned for October 21-24. The team will give devotions and assist with food distribution in the mornings and serve an evening meal to homeless men. CHAMBERLAYNE will hold their Annual Brunswick Stew fundraiser on Saturday, October 4. FIRST's “New Americans Ministry” is collecting paper towels, baby wipes, diapers, bath towels, bath mats, bed linens and Walmart gift cards as part of their Journey Point Program for New Americans which offers many services including: providing household items; helping to secure housing and employment; tutoring, cultural orientation and driving assistance. GINTER PARK has begun a “Weekend Backpack Ministry” to fill Ginter Park Elementary School children's backpacks with food to take home for the weekend and to be refilled with food for the next weekend. GAYTON held a Community Open House with games, live music, food and more on Saturday, September 13 and had a combined worship service on Sunday, September 14 with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Celebration Luncheon in celebration of the Grand Opening of their new Outreach Center. HUGUENOT ROAD is a sponsoring church of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia's “Mission Co-Op Richmond”, an adult mission event focusing on sharing Christ's love by meeting the Hunger, Home (Construction), and Health needs of people in the Richmond area. THE LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH celebrated the first anniversary of their first service at their own location and has begun having two Sunday Worship Services, 8:30 am and 11:00 am, on Sunday, September 14. PATTERSON AVENUE will hold their 3rd Annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 19, 2-4 pm, with a Pumpkin Patch (which will be open October 11-31), Petting Zoo, Clowns, Costume Contest, Trunk or Treat, Games, Inflatables, Food and more. Everyone attending is asked to bring a can of food for the Central Virginia Food Bank. PINE STREET finished up their annual 3 months of service for CARITAS as an Intake Center. The church also had a very successful “Community and VCU Welcome Back Cookout” on Sunday, August 24. RIVER ROAD will host 40 homeless CARITAS men October 18-25. SOUTHAMPTON had a “Blessing of the Backpacks” on September 6 and will have a “Blessing of the Animals” on Saturday, October 4 at 11:00 am. WESTHAMPTON will have “Family Fellowship Time” on Wednesday, October 1 starting at 5:30 pm and will have their Annual Family Fun Day at Osborne Landing on Saturday, October 25. The church will also have volunteers helping at Patterson Avenue’s “Annual Fall Festival”. WESTOVER hosted the RBA WMU Fall Celebration and Lunch on Tuesday, September 16. WOODLAND HEIGHTS will be helping Bethany Christian Church feed the CARITAS group on Wednesday, October 1.

AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY’s Pastor, Dr. Calvin Birch, is the Chairman of the Virginia in Action for Liberia Against Ebola, which is raising funds and collecting supplies to send to Liberia to fight the deadly Ebola Virus. BON AIR celebrated the 20 year anniversary of Peggy Moore as their Weekday School Director. DERBYSHIRE welcomes Rev. Billy Davis as their new Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation. WESTOVER welcomes Dr. Bill Tuck as their new Interim Pastor.

**Teachers’ Toolbox**
*a training event for teachers and educational leaders*

October 4, 2014 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
at
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church
3601 Seminary Avenue, Richmond, Va

Cost: $25/person or $20/person for 4 or more from the same congregation (includes a FREE copy of *Fostering Faith* for each church registered by September 29)

Register online at www.resourcingchurches.com

Sponsored by The Resource Center and the School of Theology of Virginia Union University
Entrust Financial Credit Union
Offers Financial Classes

Entrust Financial Credit Union offers a wide variety of finance classes that work great within small groups or Sunday school classes. Take this fall to explore what God says about finance, how to create a financial stress free home, or how to teach finance to your children. If you would like to find out more information about this free resource please contact Josh at jkarrer@entrustfcu.org or 804-353-8012.

Josh Karrer
Director of Outreach
Entrust Financial Credit Union
1801 Dabney Road | Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 353-8012 | (800) 944-3622, ext. 714
Fax: (804) 359-4991 | jkarrer@entrustfcu.org

July 2014 RBA/RCFN Budget Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget Amount</td>
<td>$46,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Receipts</td>
<td>$50,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Expenses</td>
<td>$70,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Budget Amount</td>
<td>$311,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Budget Receipts</td>
<td>$218,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Budget Expenses</td>
<td>$342,249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 Camp Alkulana Offering

As of 7/31/2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offering Goal</td>
<td>$148,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Receipts</td>
<td>$76,182</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER DIRECTOR NEEDED:

This ministry of Stockton Memorial Baptist provides care for approx. 40-45 preschool-age students, 18 mo. to age 5. Experienced Director for before and after-school care, plus supervision of a staff of 6-8 teachers. Please forward all resumes to Stockton.church@comcast.net. Check the website at www.stocktonlearning.com.

Pray for the RBA
Church of the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Woodland Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Church Hill Christian Wellness Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Oregon Hill Baptist Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>South Richmond Baptist Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>Camp Alkulana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Transformed!** is published monthly by the Richmond Baptist Association,
3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222
804-329-1701.

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 Association will not incur postage due costs for undeliverable newsletters.

**Calendar**
- **October 3 @ 12:00 Noon**
  10th Annual Alkulana Golf Tournament
  Belmont Golf Course
  Details & Registration: www.alkulana.org

- **October 6 @ 10:00 AM**
  RBA Staff Meeting

- **October 6 @ 10:00 AM**
  CVBM Leadership Development Conf. Review, RBA

- **October 7 @ 9:00 AM**
  Raceway Ministries CORE Team Meeting, RBA

- **October 7 @ 6:30 PM**
  Camp Alkulana Support Team, RBA

- **October 7 @ 12:00 Noon**
  Deadline to Submit Material for “Transformed!”

- **October 16 @ 7:00 PM**
  Administrative Council Meeting, RBA

- **October 19 @ 3:00 PM**
  63rd Annual Fall Meeting, First Richmond
  Advanced Registration of Messengers by Oct. 16

- **October 28**
  “Women on Mission” Meetings
  South-West @ 10:30 AM (Lunch), Westhampton
  North-East @ 6:15 PM (Dinner), Ginter Park

**Pray for**
- **RBA Churches Seeking a Pastor**
  Bethlehem (Penick)
  Disciples of Christ
  Grace
  Huguenot Road
  Woodland Heights

**Making a Delivery to the RBA/RCFN Office?**
Please call before you plan to arrive to make sure that someone will be at the office. There are times during the day when everyone may be away, so it will save time and gas to call ahead. The RBA Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**RBA /River City Faith Network**
Administrative Council Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2014
7:00 PM
RBA Office, 3111 Moss Side Avenue