DON’T MISS IT!

The Camp Alkulana
100th Anniversary Celebration
March 21, 2015

or by calling the RBA/RCFN office

Camp Alkulana’s 100th Anniversary Celebration

March 21, 2015
2:00 p.m. - Program followed by Reception

Richmond’s First Baptist Church
2709 Monument Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220

Generations of campers, counselors, and Alkulana supporters will gather to celebrate 100 years worth of summer camp ministry to Richmond children!
We are called to “celebrate!”

The front page of this “Transformed!” as well as last month’s is a call to celebrate! Each page is an invitation to Richmond Baptists and to all friends of the River City Faith Network to gather for a wonderfully noteworthy anniversary - the 100th Anniversary of Camp Alkulana, the oldest continually operating camp in our Commonwealth. Though I do not have statistics upon which to base my conclusion, I suspect that Camp Alkulana has only a small list of competitors for the honor of being the oldest continually operating Christian camp in our nation! That is quite a distinction!

Our Camp Director, Mrs. Beth Wright, and the Camp Alkulana Support Team (C.A.S.T), have been hard at work planning and preparing for this stellar occasion. At the request by the W.M.U. of First Baptist Church, the FBC Endowment Fund has generously agree to allocate substantial funding to provide food costs for the 100th Anniversary Reception which follows a time of formal worship and celebration.

I hope you will make every effort to attend this time of thanksgiving to God for this ministry that has been and remains so much a part of the identity of the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association. A new history of the camp authored by our Camp Director will be available as well as the opportunity to express thanks to camp staff and counselors past and present! I will see you there!

On Tuesday, January 27th, at 6:30 PM, the Launch Meeting of the RCFN Board of Directors was graciously hosted at Skipwith Baptist by their pastor, Dr. Cecil Chambers (our Board Chair) and the church Hospitality Committee. To add a special flair to our first meeting, the church kindly provided a sumptuous meal at no cost to the Network.

The process of enlisting members to the Board is ongoing, but well under way. Memberships rotate so that eligible churches not represented this year will find a place in subsequent years. The Board’s size has been limited to make the work effective, not to limit access.

Enlistment for five of the six Standing Committees is nearly completed. The Ministry Placement Committee headed by Ruth Guill is hard at work. Keep this committee in your prayers with their heavy responsibility.

Our Community Missionaries have done a marvelous job enlisting engaged, mission-minded persons to serve on their newly forming Support Teams. The support, counsel and advocacy that the Support Teams will provide to each of them and their vital ministries is exciting!

On behalf of both the lay, professional and ministerial leadership of the River City Faith Network I cannot adequately express gratitude for the support that so many of you have given to the new Network and our ministries throughout 2014! In spite of the tremendous challenges of the year, you were outstandingly generous in providing for the feeding, rescue and services ministries of our centers. Our camp hosted 218 campers and provided growth opportunities for nearly 60 counselors and staff, more than half of whom returned from previous years. The Back-to-School and Christmas Store events were graced with more than a sufficient number of volunteers and you showed the phenomenal Richmond Baptist spirit of exemplary generosity in your provision of clothing, toys and bicycles! I cannot be prouder of you nor nearly thankful enough to match the willing work that you do in the Name of our Lord!

In addition, again despite large challenges, you made it possible, through excellent church stewardship as well as an increasing number of individual gifts, for the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association to end the fiscal year within 7.6% of both our 2014 budget and the year’s expenses. While we did not fully fund either, we came closer to our goals than many thought possible. I am convinced as ever that God is in our midst in wonderful ways. I am so grateful for the calling He has placed upon us and for your willingness to answer it in all of the ways that you have throughout this year.

When we live in the face of challenges I am ever mindful that our God is greater than the challenges that we face and His grace is greater than our need. I am thankful, as well, that He is an abundant Provider and His resources are not limited. I am thankful also that He is willing to use us as the means through which He does much of the providing—what a privilege!

I look forward to all that He and we will do together in the current year because there is no god like the God we serve and there are no Baptists quite like River City Faith Network Baptists in our commitment to missions and ministry!

His calling upon the River City Faith Network is clear! We praise Him through the ministries we perform in Christ’s Name for the least of our city. If we fail to answer our calling, He can call forth His praise from the stones at our feet! Luke 19:40 declares from the lips of Jesus, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”

God grant that River City Faith Network folks never grow silent! May He hear our praise until Jesus comes!! Let’s continually celebrate together His goodness!!!

With fond rejoicing,

Mike
Camp Alkulana is busy planning for the summer, and we invite you to be a part of it!

- Do you know children ages 9 (who have finished 4th Grade) to 14 that you’d like to see attend Camp Alkulana?
- Do you know college-aged students who would make good camp counselors?

Contact Beth at campalkulana@gmail.com or call the RBA office (804-329-1701 ext 206) to find out more. Camp counselors must be at least 18 years old. Campers should qualify for their school’s free or reduced lunch programs, though some exceptions apply. Get involved in your RCFN/RBA camp today!

You’re INVITED to PREVIEW DAYS AT BTSR!

MARCH 8-9, 2015

The two days will answer questions like:

- What is it like being a student at BTSR?
- What is a class experience like?
- What degree program is right for me?
- What are my housing options?
- How will I pay for it all?
- How do I apply?
- What does Richmond have to offer?

Are you wondering if seminary is right for you? Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond is hosting Preview Days on March 8-9, 2015. During the two days, participants will learn about degree programs, online and on site classes, financial aid, housing, student life, and more! Register by March 1 at http://btsr.edu/preview-days.

BTSR, 8040 Villa Park Drive, Suite 250, Richmond, VA  23228
VA Church Library Association
2015 Spring Conference
"Hand in Hand—Libraries Without Borders"
April 17—19, 2015
Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center
Lynchburg, VA

Additional information can be found at www.eagleeyrie.org or www.vbla.wordpress.com

Operation Inasmuch Training
March 7, 9 am - Noon
Parham Road Baptist Church
Led by Mr. David Crocker, Founder and Executive Director of OIM. For any church interested in participating in OIM.
RSVP to Dover Office (550-1980) or dover.info@doverbaptist.org by Tuesday, March 3

DERBYSHIRE will host an Easter Egg Hunt with a Petting Zoo on Palm Sunday, March 29, immediately after their 11:00 am Worship Service.

HATCHER MEMORIAL’s Youth, in conjunction with the Central Virginia Gospel Music Association, proudly present an afternoon of worship, the “Southern Gospel Fest 2015”, on Saturday, March 21, 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm. The event is free of charge and open to the public, however, a love offering will be taken to benefit the CVGMA and the Youth Mission Trip. Group’s performing are: 4 the Lord, Just Us Gospel Band, SonRise and The Finneys. Refreshments will be available for purchase. HUGUENOT ROAD will host CARITAS homeless women March 15-22.

PATTERSON AVENUE’s WMU has been busy collecting items for the Centers. With the help of the children’s Sunday School Class, which put together 48 Ziploc bags with designated food items for the homeless at our Oregon Hill Center, the total number of bags for the homeless was 62 complete bags and 7 incomplete bags with help of donations from the congregation. The WMU was also able to reach their goal of five $10 gift cards for the South Richmond Center.

RIVER ROAD hosted 40 homeless women of CARITAS February 21-28. The church’s Carl Freeman Concert Series continues with a Piano Recital performance by Lynne Mackey on Sunday, March 15, at 3:00 pm.

STOCKTON MEMORIAL will hold their 4th Annual Rock for Hope on February 28, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, to raise money for the Blessings Home currently under construction on the Hope Tree Campus in Salem, VA.

HUGUENOT ROAD has called Dr. Robert E. (BOB) Lee, IV to serve as their new Senior Pastor. He will begin on March 2. The church also welcomes Karen Upson as their new financial assistant. WOODLAND HEIGHTS had an installation Service for their new Senior Pastor, Rev. Tom Lynch, on Sunday, February 8.

STAFF NEWS

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP PLEASE CONTACT
GARRETT ERWIN
804-359-FUNN (3866) X327
GARRETT.ERWIN@SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM
You're Invited to Participate in the Create for Christ Video Grant Contest!

Create for Christ is back for its second year, and this year, we're giving away even more money! Six Richmond area youth groups will each win $2,000 to fund their youth mission trips!

All you have to do is choose a Bible verse and create a 3 minute or less video showing how this verse will be lived out on your mission trip.

Create for Christ videos will start being accepted April 1 through April 20. Voting will occur from April 1 to May 13, but remember, the earlier you submit your video the earlier you can start getting votes! Videos will be submitted through Entrust Financial Credit Union's Facebook page. Click here for more contest details.

Need more information? Join us for lunch and an information session:
- Tuesday, February 24, 12-1pm at Providence United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, March 3, 12-1pm at Grace Community Baptist Church

Please respond to this email if you plan on attending an information session.

Questions? Visit createforchrist.com, or contact Josh Karrer at jkarrer@entrustfcu.org or (804) 278-4714.
2015 LEVELS OF AFFILIATION

The LEVELS OF AFFILIATION that help determine eligibility and access to participation in governance and policy making within the River City Faith Network are aspirational in nature. The levels are not designed to be punitive in any way. Instead they are in place to positively encourage and reward those churches and organizations which make it a priority to cooperate in a program of activities of common interest, working together to bring living water to transform communities through the love of Christ and for the Glory to God.

It includes levels by which churches, organizations, entities and individuals may voluntarily participate in support of the mission and ministries of our community centers, camp and the Central Virginia Baptist Ministries (CVBM). At every level our partners are encouraged to commit to growing participation, aspiring to governance, attempting to increase fiscal investment while recognizing the need for accountability to God and to one another. And so, genuine participation and investment will be recognized through LEVELS OF AFFILIATION and proportionately rewarded.

Our Bylaws and the Network Policies and Procedures outline that there will be four (4) LEVELS OF AFFILIATION known in order from least to most participatory. It is hoped that each church, organization or entity that affiliates with the River City Faith Network will be challenged to progressively move from a less participatory LEVEL to the next more participatory LEVEL and then to the next until all are at the CORE LEVEL. Such aspiration is based on a growing desire and passion to proclaim Christ in Richmond and her surrounds through word and deed in an ever increasingly committed fashion.

Based upon the combined physical participation, reporting practices and fiscal investment in the ministries of our three centers and Camp Alkulana as well as in our partnership with neighboring sister associations through Central Virginia Baptist Ministries, each cooperating church has been assigned to the various LEVELS OF AFFILIATION for 2015 year. These assignments will be re-evaluated early in 2016 based on levels of physical participation, reporting practices and fiscal investment manifested during the current 2015 year. It is hoped that those partners not already at the CORE level will move in that direction.

LEVEL OF AFFILIATION Classifications for the 2015 year are as follows:

COMMUNITY

LEVEL OF AFFILIATION

20 AFFILIATES

African Christian Community Church
Deaf Mission
Gravel Hill
Life-Line for Jesus
Mount Carmel
New Life of Richmond
The Light Community

CONNECTOR

LEVEL OF AFFILIATION

9 AFFILIATES

Bon Air
Friendship Memorial
The Saint Paul’s

CHAMPION

LEVEL OF AFFILIATION

9 AFFILIATES

Bethlehem (Fairmount)
Pine Street
Southampton

CORE

LEVEL OF AFFILIATION

10 AFFILIATES

Carlisle Avenue
Grace
Patterson Avenue
The Tabernacle

Chamberlayne
Huguenot Road
Skipwith

Community Mission
Gayton
Korean of Richmond
Morning Star
New Canaan International
Swift Creek
Community of Grace
Hatcher Memorial
United for Christ

Ginter Park
River Road
Woodland Heights
First
Lakeside
Stockton Memorial

For a complete description of the requirements as well as the privileges of each LEVEL OF AFFILIATION please go to the River City Faith Network website at www.richmondbaptist.org. Click on the “Documents” tab to the left side of the “Home” page. That tab will take you to our current BYLAWS and POLICIES AND PROCEDURES just adopted in October of 2014.

If you have questions or do not have an online connection, please contact our Network Offices at (804) 329-1701. We will be delighted to speak with you and to supply you with physical copies of any documents you need.
Dear Friends of Richmond:

Compliments and best wishes from the Agape National Academy of Music (ANAM)!

ANAM provides music education and discipline to youth and young adults; it trains young people to become dedicated church musicians; it teaches war victim children peaceful alternatives to the rage they feel from the trauma of the Civil War. You can visit us at: www.anamliberia.org

We write to solicit your support at a Benefit Recital scheduled for Thursday March 19, 2015, 7:30pm, in the Chapel of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond (BTSR), 8040 Villa Park Drive #250, Henrico, VA 23228. Your donation will be used to reopen ANAM in Liberia, which was closed due to economic crisis and the recent Ebola outbreak. The Recital is admission free; but a “Free-Will Offering” will be lifted. ANAM fundraising goal is $6,000; this amount covers teachers’ salaries and class room’s rental for three months, at which time the school will be self-supporting. We will appreciate any level of support you can make toward this cause. For Tax Exempt purposes please make check payable to: Angel Eye Foundation Inc, and Memo to ANAM. Checks can be mailed to: 448 Hollow Creek Road, Apt. C21, Lexington, KY, 40511.

You can also donate online at our “Go Fund Me Link”: http://www.gofundme.com/kpnee0

This Benefit Recital is organized through the instrumentality and good will of Rev. Dr. Deborah Carlton Loftis, Professor of Church Music at BTSR, who has been a proud supporter of ANAM since its inception in 2008.

The Recital will feature Mr. Samson Tarpeh, Liberian Pianist who will perform works by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Haydn, Chopin, and some great hymns of the church in contemporary jazz style. Samson will be assisted by World renowned Saxophonist Richard D’Abreu, Minister of Music at the Second Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.

We believe that your involvement will be meaningful in the drive to support formal music education as a most important element of reconciliation and peace, creativity, and nation building in war-torn Liberia.

Samson Tarpeh is the Founder and Executive Director of ANAM. He has dedicated his career to rebuilding the education system and preserving music in Liberia as a vital component of the curriculum. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, Piano Performance, from the Campbellsville University, in Campbellsville, Kentucky, in May 2014. He is the Pianist at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky.

We thank you for your interest, consideration and support for music development in Liberia.

Cordially yours,
Rev. Dr. Calvin Birch, Pastor, African Christian Community Church, Richmond, VA & Chairman, Planning Committee

Mission: Training Musicians to Perpetuate the Liberian Musical Heritage

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**Belltower Pictures invites qualified students to apply for Spring and Summer 2015 internships.**

Interns will be involved in the production of the feature film, SHOOTING THE PRODIGAL. All internships are unpaid. Go to http://belltowerpictures.com/internships/ to complete the online application.

The objective of the internship program is to provide students with the opportunity to get hands-on experience and learn from professionals in each department.

**Internship applications are due March 1, 2015.**

Internships are available in the following departments:

- Belltower Pictures administrative (spring & summer)
- Casting (spring & summer)
- Locations (spring & summer)
- Marketing/Distribution (spring & summer)
- Documentary (spring & summer)
- Production design (summer)
- Set decoration (summer)
- Grip/Electric (summer)
- Wardrobe (summer)
- Cinematography (summer)
- Digital imaging (summer)
- Production sound (summer)
- Post production (summer)

To apply for a Belltower Pictures internship, fill out and submit the electronic internship application along with your resume, cover letter, unofficial transcript and the contact information.

For more information, contact:

- Patty Whitfield (whitfield@fbcrichmond.org)
- Internship Coordinator
- Belltower Pictures
- 2709 Monument Avenue
- Richmond, VA 23220

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**Pastor-Deacon Conference**

**Monday, April 13**

**Second Baptist Church**

9614 River Rd, Henrico 23229

**Theme – “Chosen for Service”**

“Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.” (Acts 6:3)

**5:45 P.M. Registration and snacks**

**6:45 P.M. Session I - 8:00 P.M. Session II**

Conference Fee $5.00–Pay at the door or online

Visit www.cvbm.org for more information
CALENDAR

March 2 @ 10:00 AM
RCFN Staff Meeting, RCFN

March 3 @ 9:00 AM
Raceway Ministries Core Team, RCFN

March 8
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Set Clocks AHEAD One Hour

March 9 @ 10:00 AM
CVBM L-15 Planning Team Meeting, RCFN

March 9 @ 1:00 PM
Pastor-Deacon Planning Meeting, RCFN

March 10 @ 6:30 PM
Camp Alkulana Support Team Meeting, RCFN

March 17
St. Patrick’s Day

March 24 @ 7:00 PM
RCFN/RBA Board of Directors Meeting, RCFN

SAVE THE DATE—Monday, April 13
2015 CVBM Pastor Deacon Conference
Second Baptist Church (River Road)