News of Richmond area churches...together...changing lives—May 2015

**Materials Available for the 2015 Camp Alkulana Offering and Week of Prayer for Associational/Network Missions (May 17-23, 2015)**

**Offering Goal:** $148,335.00

The promotional materials the 2015 Camp Alkulana Offering and Week of Prayer for Associational/Network Missions will be available Monday, April 27 at the RBA Office. Shown below are samples of the Offering Envelope, the Flier (8½ x 11) for the Camp Offering, and the Prayer Guide for the Week of Prayer. Other promo items available for the Camp Offering are: bulletin inserts (5½ x 8½) or posters (11x17), and the Camp Alkulana brochure. These promotional items are not dated so that your church can use them any time during the year when you emphasize Associational Missions. To view samples of these items and download the order form, visit the Camp Offering section of the RBA website at www.richmondbaptist.org. To place an order contact Amy Sowder at 804-329-1701 ext. 201 or office@rbaonline.org. Hurry! Place your order while supplies last!

**The Prayer Guide** highlights a different network mission emphasis for each day of the week with a photo of the RCFN staff member and specific prayer requests relating to that ministry. The use of the prayer guides for a week is an excellent way for a congregation, Sunday School class or missions group to get to know the staff and ministries of the River City Faith Network. The Guide is formatted so that it can be used for any seven-day period during the year, not just during the official Week of Prayer for Associational/Network Missions which is May 17-23, 2015.
Celebrating never goes out of style! The writer of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes tells us, “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven —.” While the translations with which I am most familiar do not use the word “celebrate” there are certainly in the verses that follow verse 1 of chapter 3 a number of events cited that supply the impetus for celebration, whether a birth, planting time, an embrace or love itself.

And haven’t we as the River City Faith Network had great cause for celebration! On Saturday, March 21st, at historic First Baptist Church we officially celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of Camp Alkulana! The event was well attended as attested by this picture of First’s sanctuary. There was much embracing as old friends came together to remember and rejoice in God’s graciousness for having entrusted the camp to us for all of these years!

Our current director, Beth Wright was joined by the two most recent directors, Barbara Davis and Gracie Kirkpatrick as we celebrated. Several scholarships for the next academic year were awarded from the Mabry-Blake Scholarship Fund to former campers. With characteristic excellence, Dr. Fred Anderson addressed the assembled group with humor and an impactful capturing of the camp’s historic theme of demonstrating God’s love through the generations! A beautiful reception was held in First’s Fellowship Hall with provisions made available by the generosity of First’s Endowment Fund at the request of First’s WMU.

I want to express heart-felt thanks to First Baptist, their WMU and their Endowment Board for hosting this important celebration and for so graciously providing resources to make the celebration a truly classy event! Beth, her staff and the Camp Alkulana Support Team engaged in excellent planning that helped the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association to commemorate this momentous occasion appropriately.

The newest history of Camp Alkulana, Come Along, Join Our Song, compiled and authored by Beth Wright was available for purchase on the 21st and can still be acquired through the Richmond Baptist Office Building for a donation of $30.00. It is a delightful read and contains a number of very significant photographs capturing the flavor of the camp’s journey through this first century.

Saturday, March 28th, was a very busy day for two additional celebrations.

CVBM VBS TRAINING

At 8:30 in the morning Huguenot Road Baptist Church did an outstanding job of hosting the Central Virginia Baptist Ministries celebration of Vacation Bible School by holding a training conference for VBS workers. The conference and workshops offered by the CVBM VBS Training Team headed by Gayle Bradley spanned the morning. Workers were trained, inspired, and motivated to have an impactful Vacation Bible School at their local church for their surrounding communities. Craft and snack ideas were offered and VBS materials were reviewed.

Huguenot Road had prepared a theme wall and the event included samples of simple theme-related snacks on display. Bill Alphin aptly reminded trainees of the importance of having in place a plan to intentionally reach out to Vacation Bible School attendees to draw them into the life of the church after VBS is over.
RACBL Play-offs!

Through the morning of March 28th and well into the afternoon youngsters participated in the end-of-season championship play-offs that concluded the 2015 Richmond Area Church Basketball League season! Rev. Joey Meador from the staff of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Dover Baptist Association, has been the organizational force behind the league this year and has done a fine job. Mr Richard Johnstone of Pine Street Baptist Church has been the person since 1985 who has arranged to have refereeing officials at every game to provide order, safety and, sometimes, on-the-spot instruction for the young players. RACBL is the current-day version of Royal Ambassador (RA) Basketball as it was once known.

Team registration took place in December. Season play began in mid-January and continued through March with 13 teams playing, involving between 150 and 200 youngsters. Most youngsters are already actively involved in their churches but one focus of the league is to provide a venue for all youngsters to play, giving an opportunity for witnessing to the Christian faith and for Christ-centered outreach.

While the 2015 season has come to an end, think about the youngsters in your church who might like to play next year! Boys and girls are eligible from ages 6 through 18 years of age. Next year, the league is considering lowering the entry age to age 4. For churches who engage in Upward Basketball but do not have a basketball program for older youngsters who have aged out of Upward, RACBL offers a wonderful opportunity to extend basketball participation in a Christian environment well beyond Upward eligibility. The investment was affordable this year at a cost of $425.00 per team for the entire season. More teams means lower cost per team.

The picture to the right shows the RAMS (not VCU) receiving their team trophy following championship play! These youngsters had a great season and a fine series of playoff games! And they had a good time celebrating.

Consider joining them next year!

With continuing joy!

Mike
Background Checks

A recent headline in “Facts & Trends,” a LifeWay publication, reads this way: “Background checks pay off.” I was startled to discover that 1 in 5 background checks processed by LifeWay’s partnership with backgroundchecks.com reveals a serious offense.

A number of insurers are requiring churches to use background checks to better protect those involved in the ministry. The article goes on to say that “since 2008, approximately 7,700 churches and religious organizations have conducted more than 142,000 checks using the LifeWay partner service cited above. Of the 142,000 checks, almost half (47%) contained some type of criminal offense. These included speeding tickets and seatbelt violations. “But more than 21 percent of the checks discovered misdemeanors or more serious crimes, including more than 9,200 felonies.”

If your church does not use background checks, it is highly recommended that you begin. It is imperative that the vulnerable in our church ministries, particularly preschoolers, children and youth, receive our best service and protection. It is a matter of good stewardship!

2015 Camp Alkulana Budget

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<th>Personnel</th>
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<td>Miscellaneous - Postage, Mailers, etc.</td>
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<td>Mentoring Program</td>
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Total Camp Alkulana Mission Offering Goal $148,335.00

Week of Prayer for Network Missions—2015 Camp Alkulana Offering

Offering Goal: $148,335.00

The table to the right shows a detailed breakdown of how the 2015 Camp Alkulana Offering Goal is expended. We recognize that each contribution, large and small, is critical to the on-going operation of your camp and to the ministries that will be offered to the 215 youngsters who will participate. In an effort to achieve total transparency, the accompanying table clearly shows where each dollar is invested in this important ministry to the under-resourced of our city. Thank you for every donation that makes this ministry possible. These costs and this offering do not provide the necessary staff office space, administrative support, utilities, office equipment and maintenance necessary for day-to-day operations. Those costs are included in the Administrative portion of the 2015 River City Faith Network budget that can be found at our online website at www.richmondbaptist.org.
HopeTree Family Services Celebrates
National Foster Care Month

HopeTree Family Services, originally founded as the Baptist Orphanage of Virginia in 1890, is celebrating 125 years of service to children and families. Much of that care has been provided by foster families. May is Foster Care Awareness Month and the perfect time to celebrate agencies like HopeTree and the foster families who help fulfill their vital mission. HopeTree foster families provide loving environments where foster children can mature into responsible, caring adults as God intends. HopeTree’s staff ensures that each child is placed in a home where the family’s strengths, skills, personality, and desires best meet that child’s needs. Social workers provide extensive support for the family and the child’s physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. HopeTree also works closely with Departments of Social Services and the court system to either reunite the child with his or her biological family or locate an adoptive family. HopeTree could not fulfill its mission of serving the needs of at-risk children without the support of churches, organizations, and individuals in our community. If you would like someone to speak to your church or small group about the various ways to be involved in foster care ministries, please contact Abigail Schreiner at (804) 698-9370 or AbigailS@HopeTreeFS.org. You can learn more about HopeTree Family Services at HopeTreeFS.org.

Baptist General Association of Virginia
(Virginia Baptist Mission Board)

May 1-2, 2015
Eagle Eyrie

Dr. Joey Faucette, Main Speaker
Co-Author of faith positive in a negative world
Visit bgav.org for more details and registration.

SENIOR ADULT “SING AND SHARE” FESTIVAL OF PRAISE
May 11-12, 2015
First Baptist Church, 12716 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA

The Senior Adult Sing & Share Festival of Praise begins on Monday afternoon at 3:15 p.m. and concludes by noon on Tuesday.
You may attend the festival as a senior adult choir, senior adult ensemble, or as an individual. We’d love for those choirs attending to share a song or two with the entire conference, but it’s not required! We’ll have a banquet Monday evening, learn new songs in a mass choir setting led by Bob Burroughs, and have a wonderful time of fellowship, praise, and inspiration with Bob and Esther Burroughs.

More Information
For registration, lodging suggestions, or more information, visit the Senior Adult Festival of Praise webpage.
Contact Tom Ingram at 800.255.2428, ext. 6220.
Thank You!

Please accept my deepest gratitude to everyone who attended the Camp Alkulana’s 100th anniversary celebration on March 21! We estimate over 500 people were in attendance. It was a beautiful time of worship and shared gratitude, and we are so thrilled to have celebrated with all of you the good we have partnered together in for 100 years. Now, we’re looking forward to our next 100 years of ministry. Thanks be to God.

Sincerely,
Beth Wright, Camp Director

campalkulana@gmail.com
www.alkulana.org

CAMP ALKULANA IS SEEKING CAMPERS & COUNSELORS

The Camp Alkulana leadership team 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!

NEW CAMP ALKULANA BOOK

A new written history of Camp Alkulana was released at the anniversary celebration on March 21. This full-color, photo-filled, 200+ page book details the camp’s beginnings in 1915 and follows its 100 year old story as told by camp alumni and others. Historian Fred Anderson describes the book this way in its foreword: "As camp director, Beth would be expected to know its present, but her inquiring and interested nature led her to invite others, including camp alumni and leaders, to share their remembrances of its past. She has woven the historical record and the reminiscences of so many into a book that captures the spirit of Camp Alkulana, holding up its magical presence for the thousands of “Bright Eyes” who have played on its grounds, splashed in its stream, fellowshipped in the cabins with newly made friends and, along the way, learned some of life’s best lessons. . . . The book is a tribute to the remarkable women who led the program across the century. These include the actual directors as well as the core of volunteers who offered support. Camp Alkulana is a success story—a uniquely American, distinctly Christian, proudly Baptist story with its primary focus upon influencing the lives of one city’s youth. It is more than a place. It is a feeling. Beth Wright has caught that feeling and the reader will not go away empty handed or empty hearted."

Make sure to buy your copy of the book before inventory runs out. It costs $30 and can be purchased by calling the Richmond Baptist Association or online at this link: https://squareup.com/market/Alkulana100
### May Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>RCFN Staff Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>CVRM Raceway Ministries Core Team, RCFN</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline to Submit Material for “Transformed!”</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
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<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>CVBM L-15 Meeting, RCFN</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>5-7:00 PM</td>
<td>Free Camp Physicals, RCFN</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>CAST Team Meeting, RCFN</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Camp Alkulana Clean-up Day #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16-23</td>
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<td>Week of Prayer for Associational Missions “Camp Alkulana Offering”</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>1:00—6:00 PM</td>
<td>Camp Alkulana Junior Counselor Training, RCFN</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>RBA WMU Leadership Team Meeting, RCFN</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
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<td>RCFN OFFICE CLOSED</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting, RCFN</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>10:00 AM — 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Camp Alkulana Clean-up Day #2</td>
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### CHURCH NEWS

**BON AIR** is sponsoring “Miles for Missions 5K” on Saturday, May 30, at 9:00 am to raise funds to help send their Student Ministry to the Florida Baptist Children’s Home for a week of mission work and mentoring. The money raised will help cover the costs of travel, VBS supplies, and worship supplies. Visit the church’s website, www.bonairbaptist.org, for more information and to register. **CARLISLE AVENUE** will host, on Sunday, April 26, 4:00 pm, an “Inclusion Concert” benefitting The Resource Center, Inc., an ecumenical lending "library" that seeks to provide resources and consultation to congregations throughout Central Virginia. The church will take a group of workers to the Saturday, May 16, Camp Alkulana Work Day. **FIRST** is a participating sponsor of the “ONE Justice Conference” to worship, learn and act together in pursuing God’s heart for justice, May 15-16, at Second Baptist, 9614 River Road, Richmond. For more information, visit www.onejusticeconference.com. **NEW CANAAN** begins a series of events designed to recognize their Pastors’ 10th Anniversary centered on the theme, “After the Heart of God” with a special musical tribute on Saturday, April 18 at 4:00 pm and the series will culminate on the weekend of May 16-17 with a Banquet and Worship Service. **WESTOVER** will have a Church Yard Sale on Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am—1:00 pm.

### Pray for Churches Seeking a Pastor

- Bethlehem (Penick)  
- Bon Air  
- Chamberlayne  
- Disciples of Christ  
- Grace  
- Hatcher Memorial  
- Bethlehem (Penick)  
- Bon Air  
- Chamberlayne  
- Disciples of Christ  
- Grace  
- Hatcher Memorial  
- Bethlehem (Penick)  
- Bon Air  
- Chamberlayne  
- Disciples of Christ  
- Grace  
- Hatcher Memorial  
- Bethlehem (Penick)  
- Bon Air  
- Chamberlayne  
- Disciples of Christ  
- Grace  
- Hatcher Memorial
**Transformed!** is published monthly by the River City Faith Network of 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 to or deleted** from the mailing list.
- **To submit a change of address** in a timely manner so that the Network will not incur postage due costs for undeliverable newsletters.

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 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 10</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 17</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 24</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 31</strong></td>
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<td><strong>June 7</strong></td>
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Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days
**Saturdays**
May 16 and 30, 2015

There is still time to do something really important for Camp Alkulana before the 2015 Camping Season opens!

Yard Work   Spring Cleaning   Light Carpentry

Arrive at Camp by 10:00 am, work until 4:00 pm with a lunch break. Stop on the way home for special Dinner Fellowship! For more information and to let us know you are coming, call Beth at 329-1701 ext. 206 or email campalkulana@gmail.com.

RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
Tuesdays, April 28, 7:00 PM & May 26, 7:00 PM
Richmond Baptist Building, Large Conference Room