1st Annual Meeting
River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association
&
75th Anniversary & Open House
for the Oregon Hill Baptist Center

The Annual Meeting will begin promptly in the Pine Street Sanctuary at 2:00 pm with a very brief time of worship, business session, recognitions and 75th Anniversary Celebration for the Oregon Hill Baptist Center.

Immediately following, tour groups will be formed to continue the celebration and to engage in hands-on ministry. The tour groups will rotate among four stations to include:

- an interactive station making sleeping mats for the homeless from plastic grocery bags
- preparing bags of groceries for immediate distribution to Homeless and Food Ministry Friends in attendance
- still another visiting the Locker Room where the homeless store their valuables
- while yet another assembles hospitality and snack bags while enjoying anniversary cake, nuts, mints and beverage shared with our Homeless and Food Ministry Friends being invite to the tour portion of our Celebration!

Parking will be ample by providing parking in several locations:

- church parking lot on the other side of Albemarle Street to the side of Pine St. Church
- along the street in front and around Pine Street Baptist Church
- at VHDA at 601 E. Belvedere St. with shuttles running to and from Pine Street every 5 minutes

This is a family event so a nursery will be provided for youngsters ages 1 through 5 years. Children age 6 and older can join their parents in the activities of the afternoon!

To help with the preparation of grocery bags for distribution, each RCFN attendee is asked to bring at least one food item from the following list (note sizes or amounts and follow the guidelines):

- Green Vegetables (1 lb., 15 oz. cans)
- Yellow Vegetables (1 lb., 15 oz. cans)
- Legumes (pork and beans, black beans, kidney beans)
- Canned meats
- Fruits
- Canned spaghetti, ravioli, stew
- Dry staples (rice, dry pasta, beans, flour)
- Individual packages of instant hot cereal
- Macaroni and cheese dinners
- Dry powdered milk
- Soups (one can hearty or two cans regular)

MESSENGERS
The voting body of the River City Faith Network shall be composed of the Board of Directors and three (3) elected messengers for each CONNNECTOR affiliated and five (5) elected messengers for each CHAMPION, or CORE affiliated church, entity or organization, and one (1) additional messenger for each $5,000 or more than half thereof given to the Network and Week of Prayer Offering during the previous calendar year, provided that no church shall be entitled to more than twelve (12) such messengers. Further, each mission church under sponsorship of a Network church shall be entitled to one (1) elected messenger.
Executive Director Notes

“Amazement” is an emotional response that has frequently come to the fore as I, through the years, have thought about the ministries of the once Richmond Baptist Association now River City Faith Network of the RBA! It was in May of 1975 that I took my first ministry post in the RBA as a Youth Director of Oakwood Memorial Baptist Church. Time has passed quickly. I can hardly believe it has been forty years!

Just a few months ago I attended the funeral service of Dean Trickett at First Baptist, Richmond. Dean in the 1970’s and ’80’s was the Baptist Student Union Director at Virginia Commonwealth University. I clearly remember the wonderful support that the RBA gave as churches and WMU groups provided meals for students. The RBA’s support of our local student unions was nothing short of amazing!

During the decades when so many of our churches had multi-staffs that included Youth Ministers, there was a very active associational Youth Committee that augmented the work of these secondary staff members and promoted networking that enhanced the ministries of many of the churches while strengthening immeasurably the work of these typically very young and inexperienced ministers. Again, the Association’s support was amazing and amazingly effective.

When Gayton Baptist became a part of the vision of Derbyshire to expand and to birth a new church site in the Short Pump area, there was the need for funding to purchase land on which to build. The Association was approached regarding the dilemma. Committee work of that era culminated in the RBA purchasing land for the then new Gayton Baptist project. The loan for the land was held by a family desiring to create an income stream that was to be paid in $50,000 annual payments. During some of that period the economic purse strings of the Association were tight and funds difficult to come by. Many in leadership roles agonized regarding how to make the payments faithfully. But we did! The nearly one half million dollars needed to repay the loan came in and the note was finally retired. The people of our churches and the leadership of our Association demonstrated faithfulness and dependability that was truly amazing and because of not having to pay off such a loan itself, the Gayton Church was free to minister creatively and grow rapidly into the entity it is today with a multi-million dollar complex well suited to its current ministries.

The local Sunday School Assist Team sponsored by the Richmond Baptist Association did an amazing job of strengthening the Sunday School work and the Bible teaching ministries of churches both large and small. Even the smallest and most limited church within the associational family could thrive from the impact of solid and skilled teaching and outreach!

Nearly fifteen years ago the Rev. Billy Davis pulled together a team of interested and entrepreneurial folks to launch what is now known as Raceway Ministries. Over the years many thousands of cookies have been given out in the Name of Christ as race fans from across the nation converged upon Richmond twice annually. I am ever amazed at how heartily you respond to the plea for volunteers and cookies and hours of volunteer service extending your Christlike welcome, guiding visitors through the raceway complex. Amazingly, again this year you will be found faithful in ministering as golf cart drivers, chaplains and bakers of cookies!

The Association’s partnership with sister Associations, Dover and Middle District, to form Central Virginia Baptist Ministries — CVBM — has been an amazing partnership that continues to faithfully provide training for key leaders, deacons, pastors and their staffs along with directors and leaders of annual Vacation Bible Schools! These needed training opportunities have strengthened our churches and each of the participating Associations largely through the engagement of talented, local leadership. It is collaborative work done cost-effectively.

This summer nearly 200 youngsters traveled from Richmond to Camp Alkulana to experience God in ways new and encouraging for each of them. Some learned the power of prayer. Their ability to place their full trust in God was deepened. Others learned what it meant to spend extended time with peers and leaders capable of loving unconditionally. Amazing would describe the impact that each of these four camping session had on the lives of both campers and counselors. Many of the counselors learned leadership skills that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

During the last weeks I have watched with renewed amazement as you have delivered backpacks and school supplies for distribution by our three Baptist Centers. Youngsters you may never have personally seen or with whom you have never spoken are in classrooms today with the opportunity to succeed because their classroom needs have been met as God has used you and me to gather and deliver supplies. As noted elsewhere in this edition of the “Transformed!” you brought more than 800 backpacks and 773 of them have already been given away and are in use! From my heart filled with amazement hear my words of thanks to each of you who helped so unselfishly. Thank you for shopping so carefully to find supplies at the best price with the best quality! The academic success of hundreds of young students in the Richmond area has received a definite boost from you.

In a few weeks on Sunday afternoon, October 4th, we will gather at Pine Street Baptist Church for the 1st Annual Meeting of the River City Faith Network, the 64th Annual Meeting of the Richmond Baptist Association! Included in our brief time together will be the opportunity to learn how to make homeless mats, pack grocery bags for our food ministry friends and to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of our ministries through the Oregon Hill Baptist Center. I hope you are planning to attend! Come as a messenger or a guest, but come to celebrate with amazement the work that God continues to do in Richmond through faithful Baptists known as the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association!

Filled with amazement,
Richmond Baptist Centers
Back-To-School Celebrations
August 11, 22 and 28, 2015
835 Backpacks and Supplies Donated with 773 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 River City Faith Network/RBA 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 11 (6:00—7:45 p.m.)
- 177 backpacks and school supplies donated
- 105 children received backpacks and school supplies
- 12 backpacks given out to Oregon Hill clients
- 20 backpacks were shared with the South Richmond Center
- 20 backpacks were shared with the Church Hill Center
- Some supplies were given out at the “Welcome Back College Cookout” on Sunday, August 30
- 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
- Remaining empty backpacks will be given out through the homeless ministry

CHURCH HILL: August 22 (10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.)
- 452 backpacks received
- 268 children received backpacks
- 30 backpacks given to Mount Tabor
- 14 backpacks given to Bethlehem (Fairmount)
- 15 backpacks given to Community Mission Church
- 30 backpacks given to South Richmond Center
- 357 Total backpacks given out

SOUTH RICHMOND: August 28 (1:00—3:00 p.m.)
- 276 backpacks and supplies donated
- 246 backpacks were distributed on the 28th
- 53 backpacks given to ACCC

While the news headlines are dominated by a partisan political season, BTSR embarks on a year-long exploration of what it means for Christians to be in the world, but not of it. BTSR is sponsoring a series of speakers from various areas of the church’s life to discuss Christ’s call to be salt of the earth and light of the world.

In each hour-long dialogue, these thinkers will lead us in a discussion of how faith informs politics. How does our identity as Christians intersect with our identity as citizens of the nation? Can we preserve both without compromising each? How do Baptist voices help our understanding of politics?

Events are held in BTSR’s Chapel, 8040 Villa Park Dr, Ste 250, Richmond, VA 23228. You can find more information at www.btsr.edu or contact us at 804.355.8135.
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, (804-272-5150), swann91@verizon.net; or Wyatt Heisler, (804-741-9320), wyattsweeds@aol.com.

**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 3 & 4**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Deliver your gifts: Monday, November 30 & Tuesday, December 1, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 2 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 232-0174.

Bon Air
First Union
Grace
Korean of Richmond
New Canaan
Rising Liberty
Southampton
Trinity
Westover
Community of Grace
Friendship Memorial
Gravel Hill
Lakeside
New Life
Saint Paul’s
Stockton Memorial
United for Christ
Woodland Heights

**Derbyshire**
**Gayton**
**Hatcher Memorial**
**Lighthouse of Hope**
**Patterson Avenue**
**Shalom Fellowship**
**Swift Creek**
**Weatherford Missions Group**

First
Ginter Park
Huguenot Road
Morning Star
Pine Street
Skipwith
The Light Community
Westhampton

**THE CHURCH HILL CHRISTIAN WELLNESS 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 5**

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 and 3 (Wednesday and Thursday), between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Set up is Friday, December 4, starting at 10:00 am. Volunteers are needed every day. If you can volunteer, call Glinda Ford at 780-0053.

Bethlehem (Fairmount)
Community Mission
Mount Carmel
Second
Bethlehem (Penick)
Disciples for Christ
Mount Sinai
Tabernacle

Carlisle Avenue
Leigh Street
Mount Tabor

Chamberlayne
Life-Line for Jesus
River Road

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**Needed: Completed 2015 Annual Church Profiles (ACP)!**

All RBA churches should be receiving the 2015 Annual Church Profile (ACP) survey forms in the mail in mid-September. The deadline for returning them is **Friday, October 9, 2015**. If you have questions, contact Amy Sowder at the RCFN/RBA Office, amy.sowder@rbaonline.org or at 329-1701. Keep in mind that the ACP surveys will be used to determine the Levels of Affiliation for River City Faith Network churches. Thank you for your assistance in completing and returning the ACP’s quickly!

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**Pray for the RBA Church of the Week**

October 4  Trinity
October 11  United for Christ
October 18  Westhampton
October 25  Westover
November 1  Woodland Heights
IT’S NOT TOO LATE!!!!

OCTOBER 2, 2015
Let’s help Richmond’s kids go to camp!

11th Annual
Alkulana Golf Tournament
Belmont Golf Course,
1600 Hilliard Road, Henrico, VA, 23228

Lunch @ 12 noon •
Shot Gun start @ 1 pm.

All proceeds go to fund Camp Alkulana.

FEES (same as last year!):
Individuals—$80  ♦  Foursomes—$300
Foursome + Hole Sponsor—$380

Become a Sponsor of Camp Alkulana’s 11th 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 by email at campalkulana@gmail.com or call 804-329-1701.

VCLA Conference
“Branching in New Directions”
North Run Baptist Church
2100 Lydell Drive
Henrico, VA 23228

Executive Committee Dinner & Meeting
Friday, October 9, 2015 ~ 6:30 pm

Conference
Saturday, October 10, 2015 ~ 8:00 am

Speaker
Bill Pike, Guest Children’s Author of "The Last Pumpkin" & "Murray and the MudMumblers

Prices will increase by $5 for both after that date.

Contact Darlene Herod (804) 289-8435 ~ kingherod@earthlink.net or Lee Smith (804) 306-3862 ~ Lsmith5471@aol.com

Leading Your Flock With Story & Humor
A workshop for pastors, teachers, church leaders, and others who want to connect with people and change lives.

Register Online at https://northsidebaptist.yapsody.com/event/index/11790

Rev. Geraldine Buckley
Internationally known for her stories and wit, Geraldine has been telling stories and leading workshops with enthusiasm and joy for over thirty years. She has received two Gold Awards from Storytelling World and has the gift of making her audience laugh and think.

Until 2010, she was the Chaplain at the largest men's prison in Maryland, so she knows first-hand the transforming power of story.

She will help you discover how story and humor can enhance your ministry.

Storytelling Concert
Fri. Nov. 6th at 7pm
Tickets $15 in advance $10 at the door

Storytelling Workshop
Sat. Nov. 7th from 9am – 3pm
(with a break for lunch on your own)
Registration $40
Register in advance and receive a free ticket to Friday’s storytelling concert.

Workshop participants will discover the power of story and humor in transforming lives. You will shape and tell a personal story. And learn to use stories as a tool for outreach and ministry.

Come ready to learn and participate. You will be engaged in fun group discussions and will be telling stories before the day is done!

Register Online at https://northsidebaptist.yapsody.com/event/index/11790

Northside Baptist Church
7600 Studley Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116 Phone: (804) 746-4982
Web: www.northsidebaptistchurch.com Email: PastorJef7000@comcast.net
CHURCH NEWS

BETHLEHEM (PENICK) will have Vickie Bruce and the Chicken House Group in concert on Sunday, September 20, at 4:00 pm. BON AIR had “River Baptisms” on September 13 at Robious Landing and Bon Air @ the Village will have a Virginia Blood Services Blood Drive on Saturday, October 10. DERBYSHIRE is hosting “Run DBC”, a 5K fun run/walk on October 24 to raise funds for CARITAS which is the largest homeless services provider in the greater Richmond area. FIRST will alter their Sunday Worship Service times due to the UCI Road World Championships. On Sunday, September 20, they will have one worship service at 8:30 am and on Sunday, September 27, they will only have worship at 6:00 pm followed by an ice cream social. GRACE is hosting “March for Justice” Marchers (Friday night, September 11 and Saturday night, September 12) on their way from Selma, Alabama to Washington, DC to bring attention to civil rights in the 21st century. GRAVEL HILL held their Church Homecoming, “Returning H.O.M.E. is Reason to Celebrate,” August 15-16. HATCHER MEMORIAL thanked the McShin Foundation for the free steeple facelift they provided by painting their 45 feet high steeple and trim which saved the church thousands of dollars. The church hosted “McShin’s 11th Annual Recovery Fest and 6th Annual State Championship BBQ Cook Off” on Saturday, September 12. HUGUENOT ROAD will hold “The Clinic” to help those in the community seeking food, clothing, medical care, vision checks, haircuts, a place to feel welcomed and a day to get some extra attention on September 19. The church will host the live simulcast of “Women of Faith loved, The Farewell Tour” on Friday, October 2, 8:00-10:00 pm, and Saturday, October 3, 10:00 am—6:00 pm. LIGHT COMMUNITY had an “Anniversary Gala” @ Four Points by Sheraton on September 12, a “Founder’s Day Celebration/Honoring those who helped Pave the Way” on September 13, will have “Grace Gathering—Join us as five churches are represented together to celebrate God’s grace” on Friday, September 25, at 7:00 pm and a “5th Anniversary Worship Service” on Sunday, September 27, at 10:00 am. RIVER ROAD sponsored, in partnership with Trinity United Methodist and Third Church, the “Fifth Annual Mission Footprint 5K” on Saturday, September 12. The church will host a “Stop Hunger Now” event on Saturday, October 3, and they will host 40 homeless men through CARITAS, October 10-17. Their church members have been making Prayer Scarves to give each CARITAS guest during their stay at River Road. SOUTHAMPTON will have the “Blessing of the Animals” at 11:00 am on Saturday, October 3. STOCKTON MEMORIAL’s WMU has planned a Field Trip to Salem, VA to attend Hope Tree’s Fourth Annual Brunswick Stew and Fall Festival on September 19. On Sunday, September 20, at 6:30 pm, the church will host “Avery Road” in Concert. WOODLAND HEIGHTS will have their “Annual Fall Festival and Picnic’ on Sunday, October 11, 4-6 pm, with food, music, hayrides, crafts, face painting, mini pumpkin painting, miniature golf, a moon bounce and so much more.

STAFF NEWS

BON AIR has hired Annalise Lynn as their new Administrative Assistant for Children and Student Ministries. CARLISLE AVENUE’s Minister to Families, Rev. Claire George, her husband, Chuck, and the entire congregation mourn the loss of their three year old son, Thomas, on August 3 at the UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville. FIRST had a Retirement Reception honoring Rev. Buddy Burgess’ 17 years as Deaf Mission Pastor and Recreation Minister. GAYTON has called Dr. Travis Collins as their new Interim Senior Pastor. GRACE will have a Service of Installation for Rev. Courtney Allen as Pastor on Sunday, September 20, at 2:00 pm. GRAVEL HILL will celebrate their Pastor, Rev. Louis Jones, 20th Anniversary with a Luncheon on Saturday, October 10, and an Anniversary Service on Sunday, October 11, at 11:00 am. HUGUENOT ROAD thanked Donna Earley for her 5 years as their Administrative Assistant. SKIPWITH had a special day of worship and celebration recognizing the accomplishments of Pauline Taylor’s fifty years as their faithful and efficient Administrative Assistant in August. WESTOVER’s Pastor, Rev. Mary Mann was honored by “Baptist Women in Ministry” in a July interview on the website, http://bwin.info.
October 2 @ 12:00 Noon
11th Annual Alkulana Golf Tournament
Belmont Golf Course
Details & Registration: www.alkulana.org
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October 4 @ 2:00 PM
1st Annual RCFN/RBA Meeting
Pine Street Baptist Church
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October 5 @ 10:00 AM
RCFN/RBA Staff meeting
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October 5 @ 10:00 AM
CVBM LC—15 Meeting, RCFN
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October 6 @ 9:00 AM
CVRM Raceway Core Team Meeting, RCFN
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October 6 @ 6:30 PM
Camp Alkulana Support Team Meeting, RCFN
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October 7 @ 12:00 Noon
Deadline to Submit Material for "Transformed!"
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October 24 @ 2:00 PM
South Richmond Center Support Meeting,
South Richmond Center
******

October 27 @ 7:00 PM
RCFN Board of Directors Meeting, RCFN

The African Christian Community Church would like to thank Huguenot Road’s Healing Hearts group for donating 14 bags of groceries in honor of their new Pastor, Rev. Bob Lee. The South Richmond Baptist Center donated 53 back packs filled with school supplies to the ACCC for their children in Richmond and Liberia.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 RCFN/RBA 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 RCFN Office is open from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

August 2015 RCFN Budget Report:
August Budget Amount: $45,209
August Budget Receipts: $52,335
August Budget Expenses: $63,376
YTD Budget Amount: $347,672
YTD Budget Receipts: $249,054
YTD Budget Expenses: $356,987

2015 Camp Alkulana Offering—Week of Prayer
As of August 31, 2015
Offering Goal: $148,335
YTD Receipts: $ 83,912

GOSPEL JAIL MINISTRY’s
ANNUAL BANQUET
Saturday, October 17, 2015
New Highland Baptist Church
9200 New Ashcake Road
Mechanicsville
6:30—8:30 pm

Dinner will be served.
Gospel Music will be provided by THE FINNEYS.
There will be plenty of Christian Fellowship.
Mr. Terry Sullivan, a Sargent with the Hanover Sheriff’s Department, will be the Speaker.
There will also be a personal testimony.

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 $0.49 “postage due” to more important missions efforts. Thanks!!