Thanksgiving Requests from our Baptist Centers

“The Well” Needs Gift Cards, Gift Cards, Gift Cards”

Glinda Ford, Church Hill Christian Wellness Center, plans to include grocery store gift cards with the regular food bags she will be distributing. Glinda needs donations of: **80 Martin’s or Walmart $10 Gift Cards to be delivered no later than Tuesday, November 17.** The more cards received, the more folks who will be blessed. Glinda always appreciates food bag donations.

If you have any questions, contact Glinda Ford at 780-0053.

Oregon Hill Baptist Center Needs “Thanksgiving-like” Food

Oregon Hill Baptist Center is in need of “Thanksgiving-like” food to be given away on Monday, November 23. Food should be delivered to the Center by Thursday, November 19. Please call ahead to set up a delivery time.

Call Jennifer Turner, Community Missionary for Oregon Hill, at 648-1353.

*Thanks in advance for your contributions.—Jennifer*

Food Items Requested for each bag are:

- $10 Kroger gift cards (1 per family), Canned Ham (small, non-refrigerated), Gravy (turkey or brown), Box of Instant Stuffing or Potatoes, Flavored Rice (Rice a Roni, etc.), Macaroni & Cheese (family-sized box or 2 smaller boxes), Family-sized can Sweet Potatoes/Yams (no large #10 cans), Family-sized can Green Beans (no large #10 cans), Family-sized can Corn (no large #10 cans), Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Chicken Soup, Can of Fried Onions, Cranberry Sauce or Apple Sauce, Muffin Mix or Cornbread Mix, Graham Cracker pie shell in pan, Large box of Instant Pudding Mix for Pie, Small jar of Instant Coffee, Small box of Tea Bags

South Richmond Baptist Center Also Needs Gift Cards

Community Missionary, Wesley Garrett, is requesting **100 Walmart, Martin’s or Save A Lot $10 Gift Cards.** These gift cards will be distributed to individuals and families as needed surrounding the week of Thanksgiving. **Please call Wesley at 232-0174 to arrange a time for delivery** or take your Gift Cards to the **Associational Offices at 3111 Moss Side Ave. Your help is greatly appreciated!**

It’s Time to Stock the 2014 Christmas Stores at the Three Baptist Centers!

**Toys and clothing are needed!** As in years past, parents and children will be counting on our Baptist Centers to find the things they need for Christmas. Each family is charged a small amount—$5.00—for each child, entitling the parent(s) to select toys and several pieces of clothing. All donations are placed in a neighborhood fuel assistance fund for the winter months. Our stores are a ministry to the whole person where relationships are of utmost importance. Parents retain their dignity as they carefully select gifts for which they have “paid” a price.

Gifts are needed for children ages birth through age 12. Shortages have been reported for the 7 to 10 year olds. Please refer to the next page of the “Transformed!” for suggestions for appropriate clothing and toy items, delivery times and volunteer opportunities related to this important annual ministry that means so much to under resourced Richmonders!

Please purchase gifts that you would want your own children or grandchildren to receive. Please do not wrap anything; parents need to see what they are selecting. Please leave price tags in place so that items can be categorized by value!
THE 2015 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, (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 on 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 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 Patterson Avenue Shalom Fellowship Swift Creek Weatherford 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) Bethlehem (Penick) Carlisle Avenue Chamberlayne
Community Mission Disciples for Christ Leigh Street Life-Line for Jesus
Mount Carmel Mount Sinai Mount Tabor River Road
Second Tabernacle
Executive Director Notes!

If you were not there, you missed a real treat! The theme of the First Annual Meeting of the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association was taken from the 34th and 35th verses of Acts, chapter 20. The theme was, “With These Hands.”

In Acts chapter 20, Paul is making the case that those who share the gospel should be willing not only to share the gospel, the good news of Christ, with the words that come from their mouth, but that the labors of their hands should be productive enough to assist in providing for the necessities of those less fortunate. He says, “You yourselves know that these hands (his own hands) ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And so, our labors are not for ourselves only but to benefit “the weak,” those who are unable to provide for themselves due to some impairment or disability. Paul’s mind was upon the main thing and keeping the main thing the main thing, (1) the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, (2) meeting the desperate needs of the world, (3) delivering people out of the slavery of sin, and (4) sharing the gospel of life everlasting. It is fair to say, I think, that Paul was a “hands on” guy! He put the gospel into a form that took action on behalf of others.

As the leadership of the River City Faith Network thought toward the Annual Meeting this year, it was with a mindset that wanted us to sit less and do more! We wanted our people not only to hear about missions, the heartbeat of the local church and of our network, but to engage in missions and to experience missions. We felt that this could best be accomplished by getting us out of the pews and a model that only hears about the mission actions of the few on behalf of others and into a setting that might allow us to actually learn how to do some mission action ourselves or to engage with the weak and under resourced who need the benefit of those actions.

Jennifer Turner, Community Missionary at the Oregon Hill Baptist Center, along with her husband Philip, Pastor of the Pine Street Baptist Church, and other staff members and many volunteers did an excellent work of planning and carrying out such an event. We took care of the business of the network as quickly as possible so that we could move into a phase of giving thanks for the 75 years of missions service by the Oregon Hill Baptist Center to the Oregon Hill community specifically and to the larger city of Richmond as a whole. The Pine Street Baptist Church has been a powerfully strategic part of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, (2) meeting the desperate needs of the world, (3) delivering people out of the slavery of sin, and (4) sharing the gospel of life everlasting. It is fair to say, I think, that Paul was a “hands on” guy! He put the gospel into a form that took action on behalf of others.

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Following our time in the sanctuary at Pine Street, we divided into tour groups and traveled to mission stations where individuals could learn how to make mats for the homeless out of those pesky plastic grocery bags that accumulate at our homes after every trip to the grocery store. Normally considered an ecological nuisance, we discovered how they can be used to benefit those who do not go to sleep regularly on a down mattress or a set of Sealey box springs!

At another station we heard the testimonies of those who had benefitted from having a locker loaned to them in which to store their valuable possessions and important papers, the availability of a mailing address and a place to bring their soiled clothing so that they were able to apply for meaningful jobs and move into an apartment from off of the streets.

At still another station tour participants were able to help with the assembling of hospitality kits that contained the bare essentials for human existence such as tooth paste and a tooth brush, soap and other toiletry items taken for granted by so many of us. There was the opportunity to put together a food bag with the types of food items that are actually helpful to someone without a kitchen and a microwave at their disposal.

Our guests to the Annual Meeting included persons who regularly participate in the community meals at the Oregon Hill Center along with persons from the homeless community that is nearby. Available to them were a barber and hair stylist, individuals who gave manicures and a nurse who read their blood pressure and was able to answer basic health questions. Pastors were available in the prayer corner for anyone who might like to share prayer needs or receive a kind word of encouragement.

The First Annual Meeting of the River City Faith Network included childcare for those ages one through five and ministry activities in which families with children and youth ages six and older could engage as a family unit! Is there a greater way for youngsters to learn about important missions efforts than by actually doing something with other family members to benefit someone less fortunate?

And of course, there was an area in which cake and punch were served in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Hill Baptist Center. The cake was filling, the punch was delicious and there was service with a smile!

Instead of reams of paper given out to be tossed or left on the pews at Pine Street, the important documents of the day as well as most of the important documents of the River City Faith Network were given out on a thumb drive that also included a video from this summer’s Camp Alkulana ministries along with another video about the Oregon Hill Baptist Center. For those who do not have computers with a USB port, DVD’s were available. For those without computers, paper copies of all our documents were available in a take-home packet.

I have heard many favorable comments regarding the new format for our Annual Meeting. Numbers of folks found it refreshing and engaging. The main takeaway for me was the degree to which involvement was demonstrated and encouraged! We need to regularly study about missions to be inspired with new ideas and motived with powerful testimonies, but we cannot stop there! We MUST move from the classroom and the prayer closet to give hands and feet to our gospel words if the gospel words are to have their full impact. I hope that is what we modeled at this First Annual Meeting and what we will model for a long time to come.

To those who braved the unpredictable weather and came, thank you! I hope you were inspired! To those who did not make it this year, I pray you will pack up the kids and the grandkids and plan to come next year! For all of the many volunteers who made this First Annual Meeting a possibility, I thank you from the bottom of my heart! And for all of us, I hope this year ahead will be one of genuine participation as we roll up our sleeves and get involved with fresh vigor to use our hands so that the gospel words that we share with the weak and the needy will take on renewed meaning and power as they come forth from lips connected with gospel hands and gospel feet! With these hands........!

Gratefully and with rejoicing.

Mike
First Baptist Church to Host Community Basketball and Cheerleading League

Richmond’s First Baptist Church will host Upward Basketball for boys and girls, grades 1-6, and Upward Cheerleading for girls, kindergarten through grade 6. Registration is now open. Evaluations are Saturday, November 7, 2015. Games begin in January. For more information and registration, visit [http://www.FBCRichmond.org/rec](http://www.FBCRichmond.org/rec). Upward is designed to give children and their families a positive sports experience and to build character, self esteem and salvation. The season will incorporate practice, games, devotions, and a celebration event at the end of the season. The emphasis is on skill development and spiritual growth. Upward Basketball and Cheerleading Evaluations will be held at First Baptist Church on Sat. November 7, 2015. All players must attend evaluations anytime between 9am and 3pm (evaluations only take ~30 min.)

**CHURCH NEWS**

**AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH** has changed their name to **LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH** and will celebrate their 12 year anniversary with a special Grand Anniversary Worship with John Upton as the Guest Preacher, followed by a church Building Fund Drive Reception on Sunday, November 1.

**BON AIR** held their Grand Opening of their James River Campus on Sunday, September 27. The new campus is located at 2440 Hancroft Road, Midlothian, 23112 and the Campus Pastor is John Sawyer. **CARLISLE AVENUE** will serve brunch for the homeless at the Oregon Hill Baptist Center on Thursday, November 19. **GRACE** held a “Blessing of the Animals” on the steps of their front portico on Saturday, October 10, at 10:00 am. **HUGUENOT ROAD** will have a Fall Festival on Thursday, October 29, 5:30—8:00 pm, with loads of fall fun, including bounce houses, a barrel train, a photo booth, and lots of games and prizes. **PATTERSON AVENUE** will have their 4th Annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 18, 2:00—5:00 pm, with a Pumpkin Patch, Petting Zoo, Clowns, Costume Contest, Trunk or Treat, Games, Inflatable, Food and more. They are asking people to please bring a canned good for the Central Virginia Food Bank Food drive. **SOUTHAMPTON** will host “Browse the Bazaar“ on Saturday, November 21, 9:00 am -2:00 pm to get you started on your Christmas shopping at their annual event showcasing local artisans and crafts, with bake and BBQ sales. **WESTOVER** hosted with the Richmond Police Department an important Community Meeting on Crime, September 30, at 7:00 pm, in their Social Hall for Forest View, and the surrounding neighborhoods in hopes of making the area a safer place to live and work.

**STAFF NEWS**

**TRINITY** celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the installation of their pastor, Rev. Dr. Nancy Rock Poti, on September 25. **WESTOVER** will combine their “Homecoming 2015,” on October 18, and the installation of their eighth pastor, Rev. Mary Mann. Her father, Dr. Stephen Richerson, who served as pastor at Westover for over fifteen years, will bring the Homecoming message and participate in the installation service.

**NEXT**

RCFN
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday
December 1, 7:00 P.M.
To avoid conflicting with Thanksgiving services and family celebrations, there will be NO B.o.D. Meeting in November.
The Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity Faith Council would like to invite you to our...

Fall 2015 Faith Committee Interest Meeting

When: Thursday, November 12th, 2015, 8:30 am and 5:30 pm

Where: Holy Rosary Catholic Church (3300 R St, Richmond, VA 23223)

Please RSVP as soon as possible to: James Moore (jmoore@richmondhabitat.org) or 804-232-7001

when words fail:

PRACTICAL MINISTRY to people with dementia

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015 • 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY RICHMOND’S COURTbARD 5TH FLOOR LOUNGE

participants will learn:
• The physiology of dementia
• Spiritual needs of people in various stages of dementia and how to provide pastoral care
• Effective communication tools
• Ways to engage the congregation in supporting those with dementia and caregivers

instructors: Westminster Canterbury Richmond Team Members
The Rev. Kathy Berry, Chaplain to residents needing memory support
Laura Muhun BSN, RN, Clinical Educator & A.H.A. BLS Instructor

registration & information:
Space is limited, so please contact
Vanessa Perry, vperry@wcrichmond.org
or 200-1502, by NOVEMBER 6.

$30 COST INCLUDES LUNCH

Highlighting the physical, emotional and spiritual effects of dementia.
You are invited to attend the 192nd Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia that takes places in Richmond, November 9 – 11 at Second Baptist Church. The BGAV hopes you are making plans to join other brothers and sisters from across the Commonwealth and beyond to hear “Church Today. Church Tomorrow” through our speakers:

**Ed Stetzer**, Executive Director of Lifeway Research  
**Alan Jamieson**, Senior Pastor of South West Baptist Church, Christchurch, New Zealand.  
**John Upton**, BGAV Executive Director and former president of the Baptist World Alliance

For more information, visit [www.bgav.org/meeting](http://www.bgav.org/meeting) or contact Linda Peay, BGAV Marketing Team Assistant, at 800-255-2428, ext. 1204 or [linda.peay@bgav.org](mailto:linda.peay@bgav.org).
Train Up a Child or Make Room in Your Basement

With school well underway across the country, most parents have been shopping, organizing and planning for their children’s success. Coaches and trainers are engaged to achieve better performance in sports; tutors hired for chemistry or math, but some interesting research indicates that when it comes to teaching your children a vital life skill, it may be extremely difficult to make major changes after age 7 ... and parents are the primary teachers whether they know it or not.

To read the rest of this post from Crown Financial Ministries “Handwriting on the Wall,” visit http://blog.crown.org/handwritingonthewall/kids. While there, you can subscribe so you get new posts.

Randy Rowekamp
For a 5% discount on most Crown orders, please use my promo code: rrowekamp
**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.

The River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association Offices will be closed November 26 and 27, 2014 for the THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!

**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!!

**Needed:**
**Completed**

**2015 Annual Church Profiles (ACP)!**

ACP Contact Persons for all RBA churches should have received the 2015 Annual Church Profile (ACP) survey forms in the mail in mid-September. The survey provides much needed information that is vital to the ministries of the River City Faith Network.

The deadline for returning them is Friday, October 23, 2015. If you have questions, contact Amy Sowder at the RBA Office at 329-1701 ext. 101 or at office@rbaonline.org.

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!