TRANSFORMED!

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

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

The Staff of the River City Faith Network!
Executive Director Notes!

ACP’s!!

What are ACP’s anyway?  Great question!  What ARE they?  Are they just statistical questionnaires sent out by nosy people who have an insatiable appetite for someone else’s information, or do they serve some good purpose?  After all, it takes a good bit of effort to compile all of the information needed to complete them!

The Annual Church Profile (ACP) seeks to preserve Baptist history while collecting data on the ministries occurring in our Baptist churches.  ACP’s allow individual Baptist churches to examine their own progress of ministry and growth.  Church clerks compile information, including church membership, Sunday school participation, discipleship efforts, financial information, and missions data.

When the ACP’s were sent out in September, I penned a letter to accompany them.  The cover letter was meant to encourage individual churches to fill out the new, shortened version of the Annual Church Profile.  I’m sure you celebrate with me the fact that the ACP has become much shorter with fewer questions!

In my letter I also shared how critically important it is that the River City Faith Network receive your church’s updated information.  The information gathered helps each of us to better plan training opportunities and ministries to meet needs and to enhance Kingdom ministry.

Your church’s information will also be key to appropriately recognizing your investment and involvement in the ministries of the River City Faith Network to determine Levels of Affiliation for the purposes of your participation in governance and leadership.  A church’s information from the 2015 ACP’s will allow churches to be considered for affiliation at an appropriate level.  To be fair to churches who do provide their 2015 ACP’s, those who do not will have to wait until the next calendar year to be participants in the governance of the RCFN and to supply messengers to meetings. It is not my goal nor that of the Affiliations Committee to make any church wait, but rather to help you aspire toward greater access to governance and enhanced opportunities for meaningful impact!

For example, churches that only affiliate with the River City Faith Network on the COMMUNITY level may have demonstrated no or only sporadic but not consistent involvement or investment in our ministries. If these entities become regularly involved with our centers or at camp and contribute at least $1,000 per year they are automatically moved to the CONNECTOR Level of Affiliation allowing them three (3) messengers to RCFN meetings and granting them the opportunity to serve on center or camp Support Teams!  Is $1,000 per year too much to ask?  Great question!  Bearing in mind that it takes approximately $750.00 to send ONE camper to Camp Alkulana and since we have said that this is a priority for our Network, the $1,000 will only send one and 1/3 campers.  Two hundred and eighteen campers went to Alkulana in 2014 and nearly two hundred this year.  If this ministry is really important, is it not worth an investment of at least $20 per week?  That is all that is anticipated of CONNECTOR Level Affiliates financially!

CONNECTOR, CHAMPION and CORE Affiliates participate regularly in the ministries of the three centers and/or our camp.  They supply grocery bags of food for the homeless and our food ministry participants!  They may attend Camp Alkulana clean up days!  They complete Missions Involvement Assignments on a consistent basis and volunteer in our centers!  They provide personnel on the Standing Committees and Support Teams, depending on their Level of Affiliation!  They get to experience the real excitement of seeing ministry take place on a regular basis!  And they invest financially in a dependable way so that the cost of doing ministry is underwritten in a reliable manner!

CONNECTOR Affiliates contribute in the manner mentioned several paragraphs ago to the mission and ministries of the centers, camp or the RCFN General Budget.  CONNECTOR Affiliates may then staff Center or Camp Support Teams.

CONNECTOR Affiliates can become CHAMPION Affiliates by sharing 1% or more but less than 3% of undesignated receipts or they can contribute $25,000 for the year.  As substantial as $25,000 is, that entire amount funds not 100 campers but 33 and 1/3 campers.  So, it takes the partnership with other Affiliates to fund the entire salary of a single Community Missionary!  CHAMPION Affiliates have five (5) messengers to meetings and can staff or lead Support Teams or staff Standing Committees and are eligible to supply one (1) member on the RCFN Board of Directors.

Some CHAMPION Affiliates can step up their game by adding only a few thousand dollars and become CORE Affiliates giving 3% or more of undesignated annual receipts or they may contribute $50,000 or more to ministry causes through the RCFN.  CORE Affiliates, like CHAMPIONS, can then enjoy five (5) messengers to RCFN meetings and may have full impact and governance access by supplying staffing AND leadership to Support Teams and staffing AND leadership to Standing Committees, while being eligible to supply two (2) members on the RCFN Board.  They, too, have (5) messengers to meetings.

The following small and large churches are currently our CORE Affiliates: Carlisle Ave., Chamberlayne, First, Grace, Huguenot Road, Lakeside, Patterson Avenue, Skipwith, Stockton Memorial, and Tabernacle.

Bethlehem (Fairmount), Derbyshire, Ginter Park, Pine Street, River Road, Rising Liberty, Southampton, Westhampton and Woodland Heights are our current CHAMPION Affiliates.

There are only four churches in the CONNECTOR Level but by becoming involved and contributing an average of only $20 per week, any number of other churches can join this small group which includes Disciples of Christ, Hatcher Memorial, and Mount Tabor!

At the end of this year, only those churches that have completed and returned the ACP or have submitted by email or letter the amount of their undesignated receipts so that the Affiliations Committee can calculate their level of investment will be eligible to be a CONNECTOR, CHAMPION or CORE Affiliate, so, YES, completing the ACP’s is an important task!  The ACP’s provide official and reliable information upon which to base very important decisions regarding OPPORTUNITIES for SERVICE and ACCESS to GOVERNANCE!

I hope every church currently affiliated will consider how to aspire to a new and higher Level of Affiliation.  For those in the COMMUNITY or yet unconnected altogether, I hope we can anticipate growth from 4 to at least 10 such affiliates during 2015!  What we do is important and worthy, not only of continuation, but enhancement and growth!  Let’s step it up!  We have MUCH to do!  And MANY in Richmond are counting on us!

With grateful rejoicing,

Mike
IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO HELP!! But hurry, time is passing quickly!!  

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

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.

**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.

**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

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)**

**Community Mission**

**Disciples for Christ**

**Mount Carmel**

**Mount Sinai**

**Second**

**Tabernacle**

**Carlisle Avenue**

**Leigh Street**

**Mount Tabor**

**Chamberlayne**

**Life-Line for Jesus**

**River Road**

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.

Belltower Pictures

The idea for the film SHOOTING THE PRODIGAL began during a season of prayer, and the prayers continue as the project progresses from script to film. Your prayers continue to be a very, significant and integral part of this project.

Many prayers have been answered since the last prayer request email! Please continue your support for Shooting the Prodigal with prayer. This week David Powers along with Heather and Ken fly to Santa Monica, California to participate in the American Film Market. Pray for their safe travel, that they will arrive rested and confident of God’s plan. Ask that they will connect with people God has prepared, whose hearts are open, who sense that many audiences are hungry for this kind of film. Pray they will be able to give the film the best presentation so that a successful distribution deal will be made.
The 1st Annual Meeting of the River City Faith Network in pictures! October 4, 2015!

We met at Pine Street Baptist Church at 2:00 PM. on Sunday, October 4th

As the messengers gathered, the meeting was called to order.

Dr. Fred Anderson was recognized as the network historian for 35 years

Rev. Jennifer Turner led the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Hill Baptist Center.

At one of the tour stations, messengers and guest packed food bags for the homeless.

Julie Agee and her mom, Lynda Leslie, offered manicures to the under resourced.

There was a tour station at which free haircuts were offered to our guests.

Not one but two stylists were on hand to help with the haircuts!

Dr. David Cornelius, messenger from Huguenot Road, enjoyed the RCFN display with Rev. Wesley Garrett.

One of the tour stations offered instructions on how to make sleeping mats out of plastic grocery bags.

Rosa Coleman admires one of the completed sleeping mats on display!

Dr. Jim Somerville, Pastor, First Baptist, Richmond, tried a sleeping mat on for size!

Tour groups in the Pine Street Fellowship Hall went from ministry station to informative, hands-on ministry station.

Michael, Michelle, and Jeana Nieporte served the 75th Anniversary cake while Dr. Bill Nieporte supervised!

The cake for the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Hill Baptist Center was both beautiful and delicious!

The Pine Street Baptist Church—Oregon Hill Baptist Center Locker Ministry serves 75 persons and there is a waiting list for others needing lockers!

These pictures are complements of Mr. Richard L. Martin, Jr., member of Huguenot Road Baptist Church and our RCFN Treasurer and Chair of the RCFN Stewardship Committee. Thank you, Richard!
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 2015 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 11th Annual Camp Alkulana Golf Tournament was a great success. The tournament was postponed from October 2nd to October 23rd due to the rain saturated greens and the threat of Hurricane Joaquin. However, nearly all of the golfers who signed up to play on the 2nd followed through on the 23rd! We are deeply grateful for everyone who participated and who demonstrated flexibility and determination to help campers attend Camp Alkulana affordably due to the generosity of so many!

The following foursomes led the pack for the day:

1st Place Foursome:
Ronnie Jones, Bill Stratton, Tom Kirkup, Dan Stevens

2nd Place:
Bobby Carrington, Kenny Glenn, John Bochman, Albert Middlestater

3rd Place:
Tim Carpenter, Joe Teefey, Ryan McCarthy, Harold Brooks

Special Awards

Closest to the flag: C. J. Meade
The Roy Lewis longest drive: Bill Stratton

**Pray for RCFN Churches
Seeking a Pastor!**

Chamberlayne Disciples for Christ
Gayton River Road
Westhampton

GO to [www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org)!

Many of our RCFN Affiliates are having wonderful Christmas observances throughout the coming Christmas season. You may want to join your Christian brothers and sisters in these special seasonal offerings. I encourage you to go to [www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org). Click on the “Churches A - L” or “Churches M - Z” tabs and scroll down to locate church website addresses to find website postings of Christmas opportunities being hosted by RCFN Affiliates! I hope to meet up with you as we “make the rounds” together!

*Mike*
October 2015 RCFN Budget Report:
October Budget Amount: $42,709
October Budget Receipts: $82,527
October Budget Expenses: $44,641

YTD Budget Amount: $433,090
YTD Budget Receipts: $361,482
YTD Budget Expenses: $436,099

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2015 Camp Alkulana Offering - Week of Prayer
As of October 31, 2016
Offering Goal: $148,335
YTD Receipts: $98,437

2015 Financial Books Closing
We will be closing the 2015 Financial Books on Friday, January 15, 2016. Any contributions that you desire to be included in 2015 need to be sent in and postmarked by December 31, 2015.

DECEMBER CALENDAR
December 1 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
South Richmond/Oregon Hill Christmas Store Delivery
*****
December 1 @ 10:00 AM - Noon; 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Church Hill Christmas Store Delivery
*****
December 1 @ 6:30 PM
C.A.S.T. Meeting, RCFN, Small Conference Room
*****
December 1 @ 6:30 PM
RCFN Board of Directors Meeting, Skipwith
*****
December 2 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
South Richmond/Oregon Hill Christmas Store Delivery
*****
December 2 @ 10:00 AM - Noon; 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Church Hill Christmas Store Delivery
*****
December 3 @ 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
South Richmond/Oregon Hill Christmas Store Delivery
*****
December 3 @ 10:00 AM - Noon; 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Church Hill Christmas Store Delivery
*****
December 4 @ 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
South Richmond/Oregon Hill Christmas Store Delivery
*****
December 4 @ 10:00 AM
Church Hill Christmas Store Set-up
*****
December 5 @ 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Church Hill Christmas Store
*****
December 5 @ 4:00 - 5:00 PM
Church Hill Christmas Store Clean-up
*****
December 8 @ 11:30 AM
RCFN Staff Christmas Luncheon
*****
December 9 @ 12:00 AM
CVBM Tri-Associational Christmas Luncheon, Dover
*****
December 10 @ 4:30 - 6:00 PM
Camp Alkulana Mentoring Leadership Program, RCFN
*****
December 14 @ 10:00 AM
South Richmond Support Team Meeting, SRBC
*****
December 17 @ 1:00 PM
South Richmond Christmas Luncheon with Food Distribution, SRBC
*****
December 24 @ 11:30 AM
Oregon Hill Baptist Center Christmas Luncheon, OHBC
*****
December 24 - December 31
Christmas Holiday - RCFN Ministries Closed
*****
December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
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 The RCFN Office 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 RBA Offices will be closed December 24, 2015 thru January 4, 2016 for the CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAY!

Help the RCFN save return postage costs give us your change of address!

If you are on our newsletter mailing list and will be moving—please let the RCFN Office 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 RCFN churches should have already 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 has passed but if you have not completed your ACP, please do so as soon as possible. If you have questions, contact Mike Robinson at the RCFN Office at 329-1701 ext. 102 or at mike.robinson@rbaonline.org.

Keep in mind that the ACP surveys will be used to determine the Levels of Affiliation for River City Faith Network churches for 2016. Your information is very important for our entire Network!

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