**CENTRAL VIRGINIA RACEWAY MINISTRIES**

**Ministry Service Opportunities Available During NASCAR Race Weekend**

**Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24, 2016**

**Richmond International Raceway (RIR)**

800 EAST LABURNUM AVENUE

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to minister beside RIR guest services by providing race fans an opportunity to worship, enjoy Christian music and arts, discover the message of Christ through media and know His transforming presence.

**VOLUNTEERS are asked to work a 5 or 6 hour shift as they serve in a variety of ways in our Hospitality Ministry Sites at the RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY (RIR) COMPLEX.** As ambassadors of goodwill, opportunities for service include: distributing “cups of cold water,” cookies, and Christian driver literature; performing as singers, musical groups or with performing arts (clowns, magicians, mimes, jugglers, balloon artists, etc.); and serving as chaplains, crisis counselors, carnival workers, or logistics and support persons.

**VOLUNTEERS are also needed to become residents or minister at a CVRM provided camper/motorhome parked at one of the RV lots with camping race fans during the race weekend.** RIR track management believes that having CVRM representatives living and ministering at these sites among camping race fans will strengthen the Christian influence throughout the raceway complex. CVRM is SEEKING RVs: If you have a camper or motorhome you would like to park at RIR for the race weekend either for your own occupancy or for someone else from CVRM to occupy, please call: (804) 601-4463 or e-mail: info@varacewayministries.org

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**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION & SHIFT SIGN UP**

All volunteers or anyone interested in learning more about this ministry ARE REQUIRED to attend the Orientation/Training Session on Thursday evening, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond Baptist Association building, 3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond.

Agenda items for this meeting include briefing by race track guest services official, volunteer responsibilities, finalization of the plans for the weekend activities, and a chance to ask questions. Volunteers can also sign up for a shift time, which are:

- **April 22 - Friday:** SET-UP Main Hospitality Site & Hospitality Sites in RV lots
- **April 23 - Saturday:** Hospitality Ministry for the NASCAR Xfinity RACE:
- **April 24 - Sunday:** FAMILY FUN CARNIVAL and Hospitality for the NASCAR Toyota RACE:
- **April 24 - Sunday:** TAKE-DOWN Main Ministry Site

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**WANTED!! THOUSANDS OF COOKIES!!!**

We are asking that church mission groups, Sunday School classes, youth groups, etc. volunteer to make “homemade” cookies and bag these in small clear zip lock plastic bags with 2-3 medium sized cookies each. A label saying compliments of ______ Baptist Church may be put on the outside of the bag. No tracts please! These will be available Central Virginia Raceway Ministries.

Cookies may be brought to the RBA Office, 3111 Moss Side Ave. April 18-21, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (329-1701) or the Dover Baptist Assoc. Office, 11006 Lakeridge Pkwy, Ashland, VA (550-1980)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT WHEN YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER:

PHONE: (804) 601-4463 OR E-MAIL: INFO@VARACEWAYMINISTRIES.ORG
Encountering poverty in Richmond Virginia is not a new gig for the River City Faith Network. Fortunately, there a success stories of how individuals and families have moved from poverty and homelessness to acquiring self-sustaining housing and steady work, leaving poverty and the uncertainty of homelessness behind. But unfortunately the success stories are more the exception than the rule. There are far too many in our city and in cities around our country who have been caught in the poverty cycle for generations and who see no signs of hopeful-ness around them. Their friends and relatives have been “stuck” for longer than they can remember!

Today, Scott Miller, founder of the Circles Initiative will speak in Ashland, Virginia at Randolph Macon University. Persons interested in helping others to break the grasp of poverty will gather to learn more about the Circles Initiative. I will be among them representing the River City Faith Network and the work that we have done for more than six decades to combat poverty and its ravages here in central Virginia.

History of Circles Nationally

The Circles Initiative is part of an innovative national movement that connects volunteers and community leaders to families wanting to make the journey out of poverty. Volunteer Allies help families break the cycle of poverty by sharing their time and friendship. There are barriers that keep even the most motivated from achieving prosperity, but Circles breaks down these barriers by expanding opportunity and support for families as they create their own paths to stability. Circles encourages growth from people of all financial classes and engages the community as a whole, so that they work together to create deep and lasting change.

Circles operates in communities around the country, with each initiative consisting of Circle Leaders working to get out of poverty, and several Volunteer Allies offering them friendship and support during this long transition. Circles was founded by Scott Miller and developed by the nonprofit Move the Mountain Leadership Center. Think Tank Inc. oversees all member Circles sights for Move the Mountain. Circles was largely funded through the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Move the Mountain initiated Circles in Ames Iowa in 1995, and by 2004, Circles had been measured by Iowa State University to have a 2-1 return on welfare and food stamps assistance (490,000 annual savings) and a 4-1 return on new earned income for 58 families ($960,000 new annual income). From 2003-2007, Circles was transferred through the Community Action Network to communities in Minnesota, Idaho and Missouri. Average income went up in all sites in the first 12-20 months, but the fidelity of the model was difficult to sustain. Lessons learned were embedded in new training programs and coaching protocols.

Rather than targeting a surface need of at risk communities such as housing or food provision, the National Circles Campaign sought to expand social capital by fostering relationships across racial and economic lines. It fostered understanding, healthy communication, leadership and a drive to change the systems in place that keep people in poverty. Today, the National Circles Campaign continues to thrive, with 70 member communities across 24 states. Think Tank Inc leads member sights for the National Campaign from their base in Dayton, Ohio.

The vision of one of the local Circle, reflective of the vision of the larger Circle Initiative is to “build collaborative circles of support that strengthen community, inspire understanding, eliminate barriers and connect resources for those living a cycle of poverty, so they may lead themselves and their families to permanent stability.” In the Circles climate there is a strong belief in the power of individuals working together, and the notion that we can end poverty… one friendship at a time.

Circles Initiative Efforts in Dubuque, Iowa

In 2007 a group of concerned citizens, community leaders and service providers met to develop a plan to eliminate poverty in the Dubuque community. These leaders understood poverty was not just about "having enough money" and recognized that ending poverty would require a shift in how we understand and think about class. Circles was adopted a training process called Bridges Out of Poverty. This training provides people with the knowledge and community planning tools to address poverty and communicate across barriers. The first Bridges Training was offered in 2008, and is now the required training for Dubuque Circles Ally Volunteers.

In the summer of 2008, Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World, a curriculum for individuals trying to get out of poverty, was brought into Dubuque Circles. The first Getting Ahead class, composed of 21 individuals from poverty, guided participants though an in-depth investigation of the impact of poverty in their lives and community. It then exposed them to the tools needed to transition into sustainability. Circles now offers one class of Getting Ahead every year!

These two complimentary components make the Dubuque Circles Initiative an effective tool for building community, inspiring change and tolerance, and creating systemic change.

I wonder what impact the faith community of Baptists and others can accomplish in Richmond to change our poverty culture among the “least of these!” Let’s explore this together and move toward making a lasting impact in the Name of Christ!

With joyful anticipation,

Mike
South Richmond Center is in need of Easter supplies: Easter Baskets, basket grass, candy and the eggs are all needed for the children at the center. Will you help us make at least 20 baskets to be giveaway the week (March 20-25) prior to Resurrection Sunday on March 27, 2016. The Seniors of our center help make the baskets during their fellowship time at the center. (Also after most holidays candy is reduced, so if you see sales of this type, pick up a bag or two for the after school programs all year long). Also Men’s suits of all sizes, and shoes, belts and ties are also needed this month. Many feel out of place when they want to attend church on Easter morning. These suits will also be helpful for job interviews as well.

Rev. Wesley R. Garrett  
(Located in The Saint Paul’s Baptist Church South) 
700 East Belt Boulevard, VA 23224  
(804) 232-0174

WESTOVER AREA CHURCHES

WED. NIGHTS: Feb. 24—Westover Baptist; Mar. 2—Jahnke Road Baptist; Mar. 9—Woodland Heights Baptist; Mar. 16—Forest Hill Presbyterian, and Mar. 23 Bethany Christian.

The Wed. night Lenten lunches will begin at 12 noon, followed by a speaker. The theme this year is of local mission and social justice issues. Please bring your lunch; beavages will be provided by the host church.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS BAPTIST

David Thomason’s 25th anniversary as organist for Woodland Heights Baptist will be celebrated on Sunday, February 28 both in the worship service and with a luncheon afterwards.

SOUTHAMPTON BAPTIST

MAR 18th Movie night, 7:00 pm; MAR 23th Book Club, 6 pm; MAR 24th Spanish Class, 4 pm; MAR 25th Good Friday, 5 pm; MAR 26th – Wood Carving Class 10.00am

CHURCH NEWS
At its last meeting on February 2nd, the RCFN Board of Directors elected and welcomes two new board members:

Rev. Bill Duganne (At-large)
Stockton Memorial
(replacing Paula Bass)
Mr. Bob Shoemake (At-large)
River Road

The Board added to the Ministry Placement Committee:

Rev. Bill Nieporte
Patterson Avenue

The Board also authorized the River City Faith Network to receive a donated property in southside Richmond at 5500 Germain Road as a site to expand the ministries of the South Richmond Baptist Association. The property consists of two connected buildings on a .7 acre lot.

The Board also approved action to move approximately $37,000 from the General Program 3 Month Reserve Fund to Checking to replenish funds to the operating budget checking account to offset the 2015 shortfall from income and expenses.

The Endowment Committee offered a gift of $5,000 to the RCFN to be used to hire a grant writer to assist our center ministries and camp with seeking funding for worthwhile programs and projects to strengthen and expand our work among the under resourced of Richmond, Virginia!
Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Children's Ministry during Race Weekend

This spring April 22-24, the Xfinity Race will be on Saturday afternoon and the Sprint Cup Race will be on Sunday afternoon. We will be changing the kid’s activities to allow more time for families to enjoy the games and fun. Games and the matchbox derby track will be open and available from 10 am until an hour before race time each day. Will YOU be one of the volunteers during the time period 8 am until 2 pm?

You can volunteer by calling Helen Carter at (home) 804-526-0250 or (cell) 804-931-2500. Thank you in advance for helping to represent Christ at the Spring Race at RIR!!
The world has changed.
Does your church have a vision for the future?

Fresh Expressions Vision Days are a one day interactive learning experiences that inspire and equip individuals, church leaders and denominational executives to pioneer new ways to be the Church. At the Vision Day you will discover:

- How Fresh Expressions are renewing the church around the world
- What it means to be a Mission-Shaped Church
- Tools for starting Fresh Expressions in your area

Two upcoming Vision Days will take place in Danville and Winchester, Virginia.

Register today @ www.freshexpressionsus.org!

- Vision Day in Winchester, Va, March 19

Fresh Expressions’ Vision Days come to Virginia!!

SAVE THE DATE—May 12, 2016

2016 Virginia Baptist Homes Benefit Golf Classic

Tidewater Classic at Kiln Creek Golf Club in Newport News. Please register on line at vbh.org/golf or contact Taylor Thomas at 804-521-9212
Scholarships Are Now Open!

Do you know a student who is a member of a BGAV church that could use some help with tuition for college or theological training? The BGAV Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for College and Ministerial Education Funds, and the deadline is April 1.

Please note that the online application will need to be completed in one sitting.

http://bgav.org/financial-resources/scholarships/

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**RCFN STAFF**

**Executive Director:** Mike Robinson  
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**Mission Assistant:** Camp Alkulana: Anna Tuckwiller  
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**EASTER MONDAY**  
Monday, March 28, 2016  
River City Faith Network of the RBA offices will be CLOSED.  
It's True! The LORD has RISEN!  
LUKE 24:34 (NIRV)
Transformed! is published monthly by the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association

Contact: Danette Moen via email or snail mail at the addresses listed above:
- To submit an article: it 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.

Pray for the RCFN of the RBA Churches seeking a PASTOR

Chamberlayne
Gayton
River Road
Westhampton

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 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

THANK YOU for your continued support

January 2016 RCFN Budget Report
Jan. Budget Amount: $43,671.00
Jan. Budget Receipts: $10,098.00
Jan. Budget Expenses: $38,629.00
YTD Budget Amount: $43,671.00
YTD Budget Receipts: $10,098.00

Camp Alkulana Offering
Offering Goal: $150,696.00
YTD Receipts: $3,966.00
YTD Expenses: $8,944.00

Week of Prayer
March 6 – 13

March Meeting
of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 22 @ 7:00 PM
Richmond Baptist Building, Large Conf. Room

Pray for the RCFN of the RBA Church of the Week

March 6........Community Missions
March 13........Community of Grace
March 20.......Deaf Mission—First Baptist
March 27.......Derbyshire

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much! (James 5:16)