MANY THANKS from those that GOD Blessed through you!

THANKS FOR GIVING

Mission Involvement Projects

CHRISTMAS STORE
(Look inside for the Centers’ inserts)

As the Lord said, "The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them anytime you want…" Mark 14:7

Let’s help them this Christmas season as we celebrate our LORD’S birth!
By the time you will have read this article, the 2nd Annual Fall Meeting of the River City Faith Network will probably be a completed event! I’m looking forward to the worship time, the brief business meeting and the time invested in allowing Messengers and Guests from our River City Faith Network affiliated churches to witness and experience some of the hands-on ministries that take place day-after-day at the Church Hill Christian Wellness Center, the Oregon Hill Baptist Center, the South Richmond Baptist Center and Camp Alkulana. It is my prayer that after having seen and experienced missions first hand many of those who will have attended will leave declaring, “I can do that!” Further, it is my hope that many of those persons will begin to show up at one of our ministry locations with their sleeves rolled up ready to help in new ways, because the theme of the Annual Fall Meeting is “Love Is a Verb!”

There is a great deal of talk about love in every generation. Much ink has been spilled in poetry and the writing of sometimes very wonderful song lyrics extolling the virtues of love but from time to time engendering the feeling of love as a romantic notion that is almost exclusively about warm, tingly feelings. Some times we are the ones who write poetry to express what common words seem to miss. We give gifts to express what words only inadequately imply. Occasionally there is much ado about love but not much is done about love and the emotion of love prompts others to do very little unless to engage in very selfish activities that are more about themselves than the other!

I am so gratified that among the really involved churches affiliated with the River City Faith Network I have the privilege of witnessing again and again “love as a verb!”

When church members gather at the Oregon Hill Baptist Center to prepare and serve a Thursday meal for the homeless, I am seeing first-hand “love as a verb!”

When a group of individuals are busily sorting clothing to bring out the items appropriate for one season of the year while storing the items no longer so appropriate for the current time of year, I know that those kind folks are acting out “love as a verb!”

On the two Camp Alkulana work days during springtime as I watch men and women, young and old, as well as members of local youth groups blowing leaves off of roofs, splitting logs for the nighttime bon fires, sweeping cabin floors, beating the dust out of mattresses stored for the winter, cutting grass, and washing pots and pans in readiness for the first summer meals, it is the music of “love as a verb!”

On those mornings when canned goods and staples are delivered to the Church Hill Christian Wellness Center and then are placed in grocery bags for distribution to those families in the nearby zip codes who will experience once again more month than the money they have to manage so that their cupboard is all too bare before the next Social Security check, I smile knowing that those fortunate families will have been blessed by the actions of persons who embody “love as a verb!”

The backpacks you have assembled for Richmond area children in August and the Christmas stores you will supply with clothes, toys and bicycles will provide in December create a symphony of good will and Christian love for many! They are depictions of “love as a verb” that makes my heart swell with pride in the partners who allow us to do God’s work in our needy city!

As Thanksgiving approaches in just a few short weeks, I will be giving thanks for many things but among the things for which I will be most thankful is for faithful partners who roll up your sleeves, make deliveries, purchase wisely, and dig deeply into your wallets to let our city know in the Name of Christ that “love is a verb!”

The Message Bible, a paraphrase, states John 14:21 about love this way: "The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that's who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him." In this small verse Jesus is describing who loves Him; it is the person who knows His commandments and keeps them. It is the one who DOES them! “Love is a verb here, isn’t it?” He further underscores this point by noting that He will love that person who does His commandments and will “make Himself plain to that person.” Jesus’ love commits Him to DOING something — making Himself plain to that person.” Once again, “love is a verb!”

What He means by making Himself “plain” is an interesting matter, but not directly related to my point here, so I hope you will explore its meaning on your own!

Thank you for the many ways in which you have made “love a verb” during the first three-fourths of this year as we have partnered together as the River City Faith Network! We are a missions organization participating in God’s mission and ministry in the strong Name of Jesus Christ to the resource challenged of this area of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our calling is to DO love! God’s command to us is to live out “love as a verb” and I am grateful for how well you help your Assistant to the Executive Director, Danette Moen; your Community Missionaries, Glinda Ford, Wesley Garrett, and Jennifer Turner; and your Camp Director, Beth Wright and support staff to fulfill this magnificent command and calling! Thank you so much!!

Rejoicingly and with great gratitude,

Mike
The 12th Annual Alkulana Golf Tournament was a great success! Thank you for all who participated as golfers and sponsors. We had 64 golfers registered and 18 hole sponsorships. Together we raised about $3,500 to support Camp Alkulana’s mission to provide a summer camp opportunity for Richmond’s young people.

Here are the results of this year’s tournament:

First place: Mike Clingenpeel, Tim Clingenpeel, Craig Carlock, & Ben Hoffman
Second place: C. J. Meade, Barry Tudor, Ashton Tudor, & Jim Crinkley
Third place: Bobby Carrington, Kenny Glenn, John Bochman, & Al Mittlestater
Longest Drive: Ashton Tudor
Closest to the Pin Contests: C. J. Meade, Craig Carlock, & Ronald Floyd

Deliver your gifts to Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1920 Fairmount Avenue, across the street from Mount Tabor; November 30 and December 1 (Wednesday and Thursday), between 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up on Friday, December 2, starting at 10:00 a.m.; as shopping assistants on December 3, and to assist with clean-up on Dec. 3 from 2 p.m. until. If you can volunteer, call Glinda Ford at 780-0053.

Questions? Contact WMU Mission Involvement Consultant, Wyatt Heisler, (804-741-9320), wyattsweds@aol.com.
**South Richmond Baptist Center & Oregon Hill Baptist Centers’ CHRISTMAS STORE**

Christmas store in South Richmond Center, Saint Paul’s Belt Campus, 700 East Belt Blvd.

**Thursday & Friday ♦ December 1 & 2**

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

Gifts are needed for children ages birth through 10 years old (Shortages reported for the 7 to 12 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 or grandchildren 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.

**Questions? Contact WMU Mission Involvement Consultant, Wyatt Heisler, (804-741-9320), wyattsweeds@aol.com,**

**Deliver your gifts:** November 28, Monday and November 29, Tuesday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, November 30 between 10:00a.m. and noon. Bring gifts to the rear of the gymnasium at Saint Paul’s Belt Campus. **Volunteers are needed** to help sort and set-up each delivery day; help as shopping assistants on Store days; be interpreters for Spanish speaking shoppers; and help pack-up leftover items on Friday, December 2. If you can volunteer, call Jennifer Turner, OHBC, at 648-1353. or Wesley Garrett, SRBC, at 232-0174.

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**SOUTH RICHMOND BAPTIST CENTER**

700 East Belt Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23224
(Located in St Paul’s Baptist Church)

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<th>Community of Grace</th>
<th>Derbyshire</th>
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<th>First Union</th>
<th>Friendship Memorial</th>
<th>Gayton</th>
<th>Ginter Park</th>
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<td>Hatcher Memorial</td>
<td>Huguenot Road</td>
<td>Korean of Richmond</td>
<td>Lakeside</td>
<td>Lighthouse of Hope</td>
<td>Morning Star</td>
<td>New Canaan</td>
<td>New Life</td>
<td>Patterson Avenue</td>
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<td>Pine Street</td>
<td>Rising Liberty</td>
<td>Saint Paul’s</td>
<td>Shalom Fellowship</td>
<td>Skipwith</td>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>Stockton Memorial</td>
<td>Swift Creek</td>
<td>The Light Community</td>
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**Oregon Hill Baptist Center & South Richmond Baptist Centers’ CHRISTMAS STORE**

Christmas store in South Richmond Center, Saint Paul’s Belt Campus, 700 East Belt Blvd.

**Thursday & Friday ♦ December 1 & 2**

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

**Deliver your gifts:** November 28, Monday and November 29, Tuesday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, November 30 between 10:00a.m. and noon. Bring gifts to the rear of the gymnasium at Saint Paul’s Belt Campus. **Volunteers are needed** to help sort and set-up each delivery day; help as shopping assistants on Store days; be interpreters for Spanish speaking shoppers; and help pack-up leftover items on Friday, December 2. If you can volunteer, call Jennifer Turner, OHBC, at 648-1353. or Wesley Garrett, SRBC, at 232-0174.

**OHBC is in need of donations for their laundry ministry to the homeless. The detergent pods are preferred. Monetary gifts are always appreciated. Thank you!**

**OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTER - JENNIFER TURNER**

400 South Pine Street Richmond, VA 23220
(Located in Pine Street Baptist Church)
(804-648-1353)
The current transition in presidential leadership at BTSR is being handled with care and purpose. Dr. Ron Crawford announced his retirement on February 19, 2016, effective June 30, 2017. Dr. Crawford has served as President of BTSR since July 1, 2007. In March 2016, BTSR Trustees named a Presidential Search Committee to assume the task of searching for a dynamic and competent individual to assume the leadership of BTSR. (See the complete article at http://www.btsr.edu/about/president/)
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 Wednesday, November 16.** 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 21. Food should be delivered to the Center by Thursday, November 17 (3-5 PM). Please call ahead to set up a delivery time. Call Jennifer Turner, Community Missionary for Oregon Hill, at 648-1353. Donations can also be dropped off at the RCFN office, 3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond, VA 23222. RCFN office number is 804-329-1701. OHBC will be closed November 14—16 for the BGAV Annual Meeting in Roanoke, VA.

Thanks in advance for your contributions.—Jennifer

$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!

Because our Center Missionaries may be at the BGAV Annual Meeting on November 14—16, you may bring your items to the RCFN offices, located at 3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond, VA 23222. Please call Danette at 804-329-1701, ext 101 before coming.

Board of Directors Meeting Update - Meeting Date—September 22, 2016

Camp Director, Beth Wright, reported that she is exploring ways to quantitatively measure the benefits of camp for participants. Camp included 198 campers. The 12th Annual Alkulana Golf Tournament scheduled for October 7th at Belmont Golf Course involved more than 40 golfers. The dam repair project contract has been released and is awaiting permit approval for work to begin which should take approximately six weeks.

The Endowment Committee reported gains in both the River City and Camp Alkulana Endowment Funds. Gutter work and vinyl siding as well replacement roofs will be required on the newly donated Manchester Community Center. An $8,000 monetary contribution from the Manchester Ruritan Board accompanied the donation of the center to cover a portion of these costs. The Board approved additional monies to cover these repairs. A grand opening is planned for the spring of 2017. Electricity is on and a security system to be donated by Richmond Alarm Company and HVAC to be donated by Bradley Mechanical Corporation will soon be installed.

Two nominations for Board Members At-large were presented by the Ministry Placement Committee. Rev. David Peppler, Sr., Pastor, Chamberlayne Baptist, and Rev. Louis Jones, Pastor, Gravel Hill Baptist, were approved to begin serving on the Board of Directors beginning immediately.

Treasurer Richard Martin reported that the RCFN is still operating at a deficit slightly in excess of $8,000 which is lower than the deficit of nearly $21,000 at this time last year. Good fiscal management remains a necessity.

Jennifer Turner offered a letter of gratitude for time awarded by the board at the conclusion of her twentieth year of service as Community Missionary to coincide with Pastor Philip Turner’s sabbatical at Pine Street in August.

Joyce Clemmons, Clerk/Historian, offered a letter of resignation from the Board due to health issues and expressed her extreme pleasure at having had the opportunity to serve.

The Board received with gratitude a donation of $3,000 from Dover Baptist Association earmarked for the RCFN Community Centers.

Mary Palmer, RCFN WMU President, reported on the successful Fall Celebration hosted by Patterson Avenue as well as the upcoming Global Hunger Day on October 9th and the World Day of Prayer to be held at Lakewood Manor on November 7th at 10:30 AM.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 29th at 7:00 PM, hosted by Skipwith Baptist.
Oct. 21-23: **Ginter Park Baptist Church** celebrates 100 years of mission and ministry.

Nov. 19: **Southampton Baptist Church** will be hosting their 7th Annual “Browse the Bazaar” from 9:00AM TO 12:00PM.

**Lighthouse International Church**, formally African Christian Community has relocated from it’s home of 13 years, Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church, to it’s new home at Latin Ballroom, 2300 John Rolfe Parkway, West End of Richmond. They are in need of Hymn Books to be used at their new location. Please contact Rev Dr Calvin Birch at 804-714-7450 or Danette at the RCFN office. They can be delivered to the RCFN office.

**FOR MORE “CHURCH NEWS”** ([www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org))

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**From Lighthouse International to Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church:**

“We remain very grateful to the loving folks of Hatcher for their deep-hearted generosity and their missionary enterprise demonstrated towards ACCC/LIC and the Liberia Community (LAVA) over these past 13 years. Through our partnership with Hatcher, Lighthouse International Church has served and continues to serve the immigrant population in particular as a Gateway, a beacon of hope, a center for healing and fellowship, and as a sacred shrine by which adults, children, and youths encounter God and maximize their God-given gifts and potentials.”

Rev. Dr. Calvin Birch

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**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Nov. 7, 2016

10:30 AM: Social
11:00 AM: Prayer
Lakewood Manor

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**ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILES**

A blank form was emailed to Pastors, Secretaries and ACP coordinators. If you need a copy emailed or USPS mailed to you, please call Danette at the RCFN Office.

Thank you so much!
Pray for the RCFN of the RBA Churches seeking a PASTOR

Gayton River Road
Jahnke Road Woodland Heights

Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week

November 6........Shalom
November 13.......Skipwith
November 20.......Southampton
November 27.......Stockton Memorial

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

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.