News of Richmond Area Churches...Together...Changing Lives —JANUARY 2017

### 2016 CHRISTMAS STORE Report

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<th>Families</th>
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<td>Oregon Hill Baptist Center</td>
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<td>South Richmond Baptist Center</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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Musings from Mike:

Some years ago I was so blessed by having the distinct privilege of crossing paths with the Sunday School evangelist, Leon Kilbreth. I was pretty young and I am not entirely sure just how old Mr. Kilbreth was at the time but I was pretty certain even then that he was well advanced in years. Of course in those days anyone who was older than fifty seemed pretty “advanced in years” but I suspect that he was at least seventy-five years old and may have been as much as eighty!

But despite his age Leon Kilbreth was a man full of energy and vitality. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, much his junior, would have described Mr. Kilbreth as a man of great “vigor” and I would have heartily agreed! Mr. Kilbreth was a layman with fire in his belly for reaching people for Christ through the ministry of the Sunday School and he expressed that fervor as he went back and forth across the country holding Sunday School revivals that lasted the entire week! Night after night he shared the fundamentals of good Sunday School work and taught excellent strategies for doing effective outreach.

On one of the nights of revival I remember his speaking of individuals he regularly encountered who were obviously much younger than he who lamented the aging process and inquired of him regarding what they should expect as they got older. Often they asked questions about when they could anticipate feeling badly. They wanted to know about losing their vim and vigor, almost as if they were looking forward to the experience. He would assure them that feeling badly did not have to be a given and that they could rightfully expect many more years of useful, meaningful life and ministry! Leon Kilbreth was a living example of one for whom aging was not inherently a negative experience. He was a man who seemed to awaken daily relishing the thought of each new day and its potential to make a difference. I found his approach to life refreshing!

In my own aging process I have found that each day can still be an adventure full of meaning, fulfillment and a sense of rich purposefulness. As I survey Scripture I am reminded of so many who, even in advanced years, found great usefulness in the redemptive and reconciling work that God is about. This knowledge has been a great encouragement!

We are told that when the time came for the children of Israel to enter the Promised Land and for Joshua to assume leadership, Moses, whose eye was not dimmed and who was full of vigor, went up to the mountain to die. His journey of leadership through the wilderness had begun at the age of eighty! The familiar story in the New Testament of the birth of Christ is intertwined with the birth of his cousin John the Baptist. Zacharias, serving among the temple priesthood was confronted by the angel Gabriel who assured him that his prayer for a child had been heard by God and that his wife Elizabeth “will bear you a son” to be named John. (Luke 1:13) Zacharias’ response, after the angel’s declaration, comes in the form of a question with a very revealing explanation: "How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years." "I am an old man and my wife is an old woman.” The possibility of a child seemed like such an impossibility. Age was in the way!

Do you sometimes feel as if age is in the way? “If only I were younger!” “If only so many years were not already behind me!” “If only I had begun earlier, sooner!”

What about your church? Is there a pressing concern about the reality of not enough “young people” and a predominance of those who are “advanced in years?” “If only we had more young people!” “If only there were a broader representation of ages in our church!” “If only we had some new blood here.”

Here, allow me to offer a word of encouragement to those who are feeling the press of time! God has a long history of doing marvelous feats in and through the lives of those who are “advanced in years.” He started nations with the “ole’ folks” known as Abraham and Sarah! Luke 1:37 declares, “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

For those who are still feeling invincible and ageless, allow me to offer this word. There is still a vital place for those who are advancing in years! Do not readily discount the possibilities for your church’s future by only counting the grey heads and lamenting the absence of fairer coifs. There are churches within our city who would be wise to seriously consider what it might mean to their future to learn to do ministry intentionally, skillfully and excellently with those advancing in years! There is a huge population of adults reaching retirement age at the rate of 10,000 daily who are honestly engaged in a spiritual quest after having already tried to find fulfillment in life in a myriad of other ways to no avail. Many of them are poorly prepared for retirement, are struggling financially and in need of strong council in areas of management. They are also folks who want to make their last years of life meaningful. To them God would declare, "For nothing will be impossible with God."

For some of our churches who feel that your church is in its last hours, I am convinced that God has a word for you as well, "For nothing will be impossible with God." With very little expense and a not-so-major shift in attitude and focus, you could launch a new and vital future ministering with and to those “advancing in age.” Instead of a few more months or years of survival, can you envision a half century of “thrival,” a new word for your vocabulary and new hope for continuing Kingdom viability. Some of our churches are no longer in a position that allows them to be all things to all people. Finances have become too strained. Personnel resources have become too scarce. But that does not mean there is not a ministry for you!

I hope that those of you who have spent time with me during these last moments will remember that regardless of which side of the “advanced in age” scale you are on, you can know with great assurance, "For nothing will be impossible with God." As the year 2017 unfolds, I pray that you will see most clearly possibilities with God without being strangled by the impossibilities that life circumstances readily present. I pray that you and your church family will enjoy a great year of abundant fulfillment and meaningful service with Him in His redemptive and reconciling work!

Rejoicingly,

Mike
The Church Hill Christian Wellness Center
bka “The Well” is doing a new thing for 2017. In August, in lieu of distributing backpacks, the Well will give out to kids of all ages—underwear, socks, and toiletries bags (the family size products are preferred). So, let’s start collecting now and by August we will have more than enough for the children that also need these things. If you are wondering why the change, there are several organizations in this area that are giving out backpacks in August and we don’t want to duplicate what others are doing.

Thank you for making THE 2016 CHRISTMAS STORE a success! Many children had a Merry Christmas because of you.

• 62 families shopped which consisted of 138 children.
• There were a total of 16 volunteers for Friday and 30 for Saturday!
• 9 Churches contributed toys, clothes or both.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you!

Glinda

SAVE THE DATES

2017 VBS CURRICULUM FAIR to be held Feb. 10-11 at The Resource Center at the School of Theology on the campus of VUU.

SPECIAL EDUCATION VALENTINE SOCIAL: February 10, 2017 (Monument Heights Baptist Church)

VA BAPTIST ALL STATE CHOIRS: March 3-4, 2017

FACING DARKNESS: One time showing March 30, 2017

VCLA Spring Conference: April 21—23, 2017

2017 VBS Curriculum Fair to be held Feb. 10-11 at The Resource Center at the School of Theology on the campus of VUU.

Event partner Cokesbury will offer special discounts on many products that you will be able to examine first-hand.

“WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PRESENT THE TRUTH TO PEOPLE, THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO DO.”
Franklin Graham, President and CEO, Samaritan’s Purse in FACING DARKNESS

All-State Choirs 2017!

FIRST REHEARSAL
January 14, 2017
Derbyshire Baptist Church
Richmond, VA

WORSHIP WEEKEND
March 3-4, 2017
Richmond’s First Baptist Church
FEBRUARY is the month SRBC asks the children to bring in their REPORT CARDS and PROGRESS REPORTS to the center in order to receive school supplies or a new backpack.

By February most if not all the supplies that were given out at the beginning of school are used up. If you have school supplies left over from past projects or if you would like to buy new supplies for the children I know it would be greatly appreciated.

By seeing the REPORT CARDS and PROGRESS REPORTS it gives those helping at the SRBC a chance to congratulate or encourage the children in their pursuit of success. (Or maybe a little extra encouragement to hang on.)

Please accept our thanks in advance.

Thank you so much!

To help church staff and church lay leaders understand and comply with tax laws, a series of FREE seminars sponsored by the Compensation Planning Ministry of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) will be held across the state in February and March 2017. The Richmond Seminar will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. The Seminar will begin at 9:30 am and end at 12:00 pm.

The seminars are designed for church staff and lay leaders who handle taxes and compensation. Attendees will get help with compensation planning for church staff (including retirement and insurance), handling minister’s taxes, and federal reporting requirements for churches. Jeff Cranford, Compensation Planning Specialist, Congregational Field Staff, BGAV, will lead the seminars.

The most important federal reporting obligation for most churches is withholding and reporting employee income taxes and Social Security (FICA) taxes, and a number of unique rules apply to churches and “ministers for tax purposes.”

For information or to register for the seminar, register online at BGAV.org/Tax-Seminars or contact Angela House, GuideStone Administrative Assistant, at 800-255-2428, ext. 5293, or angela.house@bgav.org.

When considering your Charitable Giving, please consider making a gift to the

RCFN of the RBA ENDOWMENT FUND!

It is a gift that will keep giving year after year!

The end of the year or beginning of the new year is a time when many are thinking about their taxes and finances. Would you consider joining those who have remembered the RCFN of the RBA in their wills?

Thank you!
OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTER

November 21st the OHBC gave out Thanksgiving food bags (with $10.00 grocery store gift cards) to 67 Households (which included 329 people).

THANKS SO MUCH!!!!!

Thank you for making THE 2016 CHRISTMAS STORE a success! Many children had a Merry Christmas because of you.

• 98 families shopped which consisted of 218 children.
• 19 volunteers for set-up and 40 for Shopping Assistance.
• 13 churches contributed gifts.

Thank you,
Jennifer and Wesley

NOW is the time to make reservations for the 2017 PARTY FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS VALENTINE SOCIAL

Friday, February 10
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Monument Heights Baptist Church
5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond

RSVP on or by February 8 to: Judy Rideout:
judy.rideout@comcast.net

November 21st the OHBC gave out Thanksgiving food bags (with $10.00 grocery store gift cards) to 67 Households (which included 329 people).

THANKS SO MUCH!!!!!!
BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Your RCFN Board of Directors last met on November 29th. The meeting was led by our new Chair, Don Sage and began with a celebration of the ministries of the South Richmond Baptist Center with Wesley Garrett, Community Missionary. Appreciation was expressed for Cecil Chambers, most recent Chair, and prayers for a full recovery from a recent auto accident were offered.

The Board welcomed four new members:

♦ Robert Thompson (First) Vice-Chair
♦ Dr. James Colvin (Leigh St) At-large
♦ Rev. Louis Jones (Gravel Hill) At-large
♦ Rev. David Peppler (Chamberlayne) At-large

The Facilities Committee reported much work has been completed on the Manchester Community Center addition to the South Richmond Center, including new roof and siding.

Personnel Committee recommendations to award the Assistant to the Executive Director position with 20 days annual leave was approved along with a new Bereavement Leave policy for all employees. Continuation of the employment of the current Executive Director who reaches Federal Normal Retirement Age at the end of December was approved.

It was reported that 17 churches have either begun giving or improved giving in 2016 over the 2015 year.

WMU reported that the World Day of Prayer at Lakewood was attended by more than 100 persons with an offering in excess of $500 received. It was a very good event.

The regular meeting schedule of the Board was determined for 2017.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS
Mr. Don Sage (Derbyshire) Chair
Rev. Robert Thompson (First) Vice-Chair
Mr. Richard Martin (Huguenot Rd) Treasurer

MEMBERS
Dr. Cecil Chambers (Skipwith) Past Chair
Dr. David Bailey (Grace) Chair, Personnel Committee
Mrs. Rosa Coleman (Carlisle Ave) SRST Chair
Dr. James Colvin (Leigh St) At-large
Rev. Bill Duganne (Stockton) At-large
Mrs. Ruth Guill (Huguenot Rd) Chair, Ministry Placement Committee
Mr. Bob Jones (Lakeside) Chair, Facilities Committee
Rev. Louis Jones (Gravel Hill) At-large
Ms. Vicki Jones (Bethlehem Fairmount) CHST Chair
Mrs. Carolyn Keller (Southampton) OHST Chair
Mrs. Mary Palmer (First) RCFN WMU President
Rev. David Peppler (Chamberlayne) At-large
Mr. Bob Shoemake (River Road) At-large
Dr. Bob Thompson (Lakeside) Chair, Endowment Committee
Rev. Heather Tiller (Woodland Hts) At-large

Do You Have Potential Alkulana Campers in Your Church?

Each year, community agencies and churches refer young people to Camp Alkulana’s summer program. Your church can play a role in this process too!

Camp Alkulana campers are ages 9-13, living in central Virginia who could not otherwise afford a camp experience. We specifically seek campers whose families are low-income or living in poverty. Additionally, campers should be ready for the independence and responsibility of attending a camp.

Are there members of your church community who fit these qualifications? Could they benefit from a summer camp experience at Camp Alkulana? We would love to work with you in referring appropriate campers! Camper spots are limited and we tend to fill up fast. So, if you are interested in referring someone, contact us early in March to begin the process. In addition to registration, your church community can serve campers by collecting gear for their trip, providing transportation to the RCFN to receive their free physical or to meet the bus for camp, writing letters, and helping communicate with parents.

Camp Alkulana is your associational camp! Together we can offer life-changing experiences to the young people in our church communities. Contact our camp registrar, Anna Tuckwiller, to get more information or to refer a camper: alkulana registrar@gmail.com, 804-329-1701, ext 112.
2017 Dates:

February 25
- 9:00am – 12:00pm: New Volunteer & Orientation
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm: Site/Team Leaders Training

April 22
- 9:00am – 12:00pm: New Volunteer & Orientation
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm: All volunteers

**Items to collect for 2017**
- New shoes for children and teens (athletic/tennis shoes)
- Underwear for girls and boys (boys prefer boxers; girls love the ones with designs, not all-white)

Check out Camp Alkulana's article on Potential Alkulana Campers in Your Church. If you don’t have anyone that meets the requirements but you would like children in your church to go to camp here’s a couple of suggestions:

1) Send a donation to Camp Alkulana for those that do qualify and are in need of help with their funding
2) Check out CrossRoads Camp for other children

Crossroads Camp & Conference Center
2247 Little Piney Road, Lowesville, VA 22967
Phone: 434-277-8465 http://crossroadscccc.com

I’d like to Thank everyone for your assistance and of course, your patience and understanding throughout 2016.

Blessings on you,
Danette
**PRAYED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY**

**RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK OF THE RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**
3111 Moss Side Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
Phone: 804-329-1701
E-mail: office@rbaonline.org
Website: www.richmondbaptist.org

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Transformed!** is published monthly by the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association

Contact: Danette Moen via phone (804) 329-1701 ext.101, email or snail mail at the addresses listed above:
- To submit an article: it must be received by the 4th of each month.
- To be added to or deleted from the mailing list, or
- 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 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

**THANK YOU for your continued support of RCFN**

**2016 RCFN Budget Report**

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**Camp Alkulana Offering**

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Visit [www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org) for *Employment Opportunities,*

*RCFN Remittance form,* *Information on our Associational Churches (church websites are linked to the individual churches), etc.*

We are working hard to update the website. Let us know if you would like anything updated or added. It is our goal to make the website user friendly as your “go to” place for information about the RCFN and its Affiliates.

**Jahnke Road Woodland Heights**

January 1.......................Westover
January 8.................Woodland Heights
January 15.....River City Faith Network of the RBA
January 22.................Camp Alkulana
January 29 ............Church Hill Christian Wellness Center

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

**RCFN Board of Directors’ Meeting**
January 24, 2016
7:00 PM
3111 Moss side Ave. Richmond, VA 23222