Dr. Fred Anderson  
Executive Director  
Virginia Baptist Historical Society  
will be honored  
at the  
Annual Meeting of the Virginia Baptist Historical Society  
May 16, 2017, 7:30 PM  
River Road Church Baptist  
8000 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Amanda Tyler  
Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty  
The public is invited to this celebration to honor the faithfulness of one of Virginia Baptists’ finest servants!

Dr. Fred Anderson, who has served Virginia Baptists and Richmond Baptists with unparalleled distinction is retiring. While there will be numerous celebrations to honor his acclaim, the celebration mentioned above will be one that you will not want to miss. Fred has touched countless lives with his renditions of various figures prominent in Baptist history. He has helped all of us to better appreciate our Baptist heritage as well as our place in the larger Christian family. His efforts have all been excellent and his contributions superb. He cannot be replaced and will be greatly missed at the forefront of Virginia Baptist life. I hope you will plan to join me in honoring Fred at River Road on the 16th!

The Rev. J. Michael Robinson,  
Executive Director, River City Faith Network of the RBA

CENTRAL VIRGINIA RACEWAY MINISTRIES  
Sponsored by Dover, Middle District & River City Faith Network of the RBA  
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 through Central Virginia Raceway Ministries.  
Cookies may be brought to the River City Faith Network / RBA Office, 3111 Moss Side Ave. April 24-27, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (329-1701) or the Dover Baptist Assoc. Office, 11006 Lakeridge Pkwy, Ashland, VA (550-1980) (SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE DETAILS)
Musings from Mike:

Much of last week was invested in a conference in Alpharetta, Georgia for associational Directors of Missions. Among the presenters for the week were Mark Clifton, author of *Reclaiming Glory, Revitalizing Dying Churches*, and Richard Blackaby, co-author of many books including *Flickering Lamps, Christ and His Church* and *Living Out of the Overflow, Serving God Out of Your Intimacy with God*.

As many of you are aware, the Southern Baptist Convention loses 900 churches each year. Fortunately, 1200 churches are planted but the lost resources and resourcefulness of the 900 lost churches is staggering! The vast majority of those losses are in America’s cities, 77% in communities of more than 100,000 like Richmond and 90% in communities of more than 10,000 population. So, the losses are largely in the most concentrated population centers of America where the imperative for the Gospel of Christ is most needed.

In one of his workshops during the week, Mark Clifton enumerated from his research markers that seem to most predictably characterize churches that die. I have included them in a list that follows.

Churches that die…
...tend to rely on programs as their primary focus
...tend to rely on personality strength for leadership and attraction to the church
...resent the community for not responding as they once responded
...value PROCESS of decision over the OUTCOME of decision
...value THEIR preferences over the NEEDS of the unreached
...resist passing meaningful leadership to the next generation
...cease gradually to be part of the fabric of their community
...while once a community church become commuter churches
...anesthetize the pain of death with an overabundance of activity and maintain a great passion for outdated governance and programs
...confuse caring for the building with caring for the church and the community

Whether a dying or thriving church, every church should take these markers seriously and engage in self examination to determine if any or how many of them apply. It is better to see the danger signs well in advance and respond appropriately than to have to react to them once they are already in place!

What to do if, as a result of the self examination, too many of the markers are present? Well certainly, the best response is not simply to throw up one’s hands in defeat. One important step is to realize that success as a church is not simply being a smaller version of a larger church. That false notion of success has led far too often in the sure demise of churches who tried to duplicate successful ministries of larger churches while doing too little to truly address the needs of their community and the unique context of their situation. Instead, it is far healthier to understand that success is making disciples who make disciples that result in community transformation within the present context of the church.

When, following self examination, the markers presenting themselves seem too numerous to overcome, there are several options that readily present themselves:

1. Give the building to a new church plant.
2. Give the building to a partner.
3. Share the building with a new plant.

But there may be a better option! Consider replanting from within! The following strategies for refocusing the efforts of the dying church will usually reverse the effect of the negative markers that were apparent during the self examination.

1. Engage in new passion for the Bible and the practice of Biblical preaching.
2. Focus on being a disciple and a reproducing disciple maker who makes other disciples who reproduce by making other disciples.
3. Allow a new passion for the gospel.
4. Renew your passion for prayer.

Put into practice several replant imperatives:

1. Pray without ceasing.
2. Love and shepherd the church’s remaining members.
3. Exegete and serve the community.
4. Simplify your strategies.
5. Without neglecting others, give renewed emphasis upon ministry to and with young men.
6. Again, make disciples who make disciples.

Replanting for God’s glory becomes an act of worship that requires us to lay aside those other things which we rely upon to bring us comfort, security and meaning other than the cross and the Christ of the cross.

Did you know that the pastors who preach to more than 2,000 weekly would fill only one jetliner? The pastors who preach to less than 250 weekly would fill a major league baseball stadium! Large churches alone CANNOT do all that needs to be done to reach North America with the gospel of Christ. But, if the vast numbers of smaller churches became successful, THAT would become a real GAME CHANGER! North America CAN be reached with the gospel of Christ in a manner unparalleled in America’s history!

Think of that!!

Optimistically and joyously,

Mike
Listed below are the items that should be included in the toiletries bags for our Back-To-School Celebration. Please send regular sizes for these bags. Fill the bags or put as many of these items in the bag as you can.

- Deodorant
- Soap
- Wash cloth
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Floss
- Lotion

Don’t forget to collect underwear for boys and girls of all ages. August will be here before we know it.

COMMUNITY MISSIONARY - REV. GLINDA F. FORD
2011 Fairmount Avenue, Richmond, VA 23223
(Located in Mount Tabor Baptist Church)
glinda.ford@rbaonline.org (804-780-0053)

Hours: Monday 9:00am– 5:00 pm; Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am–6:00 pm; Friday – 9:00 am–2:00 pm

SOUTH RICHMOND
BAPTIST CENTER

The Food Ministry is in need of food for the monthly distribution period. Regular sized canned food of all types are needed throughout the month.

Volunteer Help is appreciated on Wednesdays prior to the distribution day for bagging food, (10:00am-12:00pm is the best time) 40-50 bags of groceries are usually prepared.

Distribution days are every 3rd and 4th Thursday at 1:00pm

COMMUNITY MISSIONARY - REV. WESLEY GARRETT
700 East Belt Blvd. Richmond, VA 23224
(Located in St. Paul’s Baptist Church—Belt Campus)
wesley.garrett@rbaonline.org (804-232-0174)

MOTHER’S DAY is only a month away. Help us help other’s CELEBRATE their mothers.

We need 30 Mother’s Day cards by April 30th. “Like a Mother to me” cards are also needed.
**Oregon Hill Baptist Center**

“Sharing the Light of Christ”

**Mission Madness**

April 21—23, 2017

6 Teens and 2 Adults will be attending a local youth mission retreat called Mission Madness. The cost is $55.00 per person. Any donations towards this event would be greatly appreciated.

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**COMMUNITY MISSIONARY - REV. JENNIFER TURNER**

400 South Pine Street  Richmond, VA 23224

(Located in Pine Street Baptist Church)

jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org  (804-648-1353)

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**Want to do Something ** **BIG?**

**Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days at Camp Alkulana**

May 20 and June 3, 2017

*Great bonding opportunity for groups*

Help us get ready for the summer season! Plenty to do:

⇒ Yard work
⇒ Light carpentry
⇒ Spring Cleaning
⇒ General repair

Leave Richmond early, eat breakfast on the way.

Arrive at camp by 10:00 and work until 4:00 with a lunch break around 1:00. (Bring a bag lunch!) Stop in Staunton on the way home for dinner.

For more information and to let us know that we can count on you, call or email

Anna Tuckwiller, Camp Registrar: 329-1701, ext. 112 during Beth’s time with her new baby.

Beth is coming back in April. You can also use campulkulana@gmail.com.

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**MEN’S**

**SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHES NEEDED**

- T-shirts
- Jeans
- Khakis
- Shorts
- Tennis Shoes

NEW! Men’s Underwear

Please, NO CHILDREN’S Clothes at this time.

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Please, NO CHILDREN’S Clothes at this time.
Join the Flying Squirrels in a celebration of faith and family. These two nights include special pre-game concerts by national recording artist as well as player testimonials. Special group rates are available!

**Faith & Family Nights 2017 at the Diamond:**

**Saturday May 6: Gates open @ 4:30pm—Game Time @ 6:05pm;**

**Saturday, August 10: Gates open @ 5:00pm—Game Time @ 6:35pm**

Join the Flying Squirrels in a celebration of faith and family. These two nights include special pre-game concerts by national recording artist as well as player testimonials. Special group rates are available!

For more details go to https://www.richmondbaptist.org/news-events/
Silent Auction and Dinner
To benefit Camp Alkulana
Saturday, April 22  5:30pm
Chamberlayne Baptist Church
215 Wilkinson Rd Richmond, 23227

$10.00 per person (includes dinner) or buy a table of 8 for $70.00.
Vegetarian option is available.
Reserve and pay online at www.alkulana.org, call 804-399-7563 or email juliewo71@gmail.com.

Sam Mattison Memorial Spring Golf Tournament
Saturday, April 29, 2017, 10:00 AM
Lake Chesdin, VA (shot gun start)

It's time to get ready for the Third Annual Sam Mattison Memorial Golf Tournament this spring, which will benefit our WHBC Food Ministry. The format for the tournament will be Captain's Choice, with a banquet following play. The cost for each player is $60. We are seeking sponsors (multiple levels available), with proceeds going to the Food Ministry as well. Individual holes may be sponsored for $75. Should you or someone you know desire to be a sponsor, please contact Brian Kelley at brian.kelley9@verizon.net. Your support is appreciated! (Other organizers include Dwane Miller, Bill Vickery, Martha Mattison, Kathy Wright, Susan Moore, and Larry Sprouse.)

WMU—Standing Rock Mission Team
April 22
- 9:00am – 12:00pm: New Volunteer & Orientation
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm: All volunteers
  (Virginia Baptist Resource Center)

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)
- Socks for children and teens, preferably colored and no show, no white)
RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST
2016-2017 E. Carl Freeman Concert Series
Arcadelt Ensemble: Songs of Love and Strife
on Sunday, March 26 at 5:00 PM
For Free Tickets     https://www.eventbrite.com/

BETHELHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
(Penick) is having a Monthly Time of Music until September. The April concert features The Finney’s, Frankie and John on the 23rd at 4:00 PM. The May concert will feature Smokey Wilson. A Love Offering will be collected at each concert.

SWIFT CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH is sponsoring a Spring Celebration on April 23 featuring Dennis Swanberg and the Southern Gospel Group, Legacy 5. Tickets are available in the church office or online at WWW.swiftcreekbaptist.org for $10.00 each.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH is sponsoring the Sam Mattison Memorial Spring Golf Tournament to benefit their Food Ministry.

LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH is looking for a bookkeeper. Contact Calvin Birch at (804)-714-7450 or cbirch@drew.edu.

HOLY WEEK
April 9—15

EASTER MONDAY
Monday, April 17, 2017
River City Faith Network of the RBA offices will be CLOSED.

It’s True! The LORD has RISEN!
LUKE 24:34 (NIRV)
Pray for the RCFN of the RBA Churches seeking a PASTOR

Jahnke Road    Woodland Heights

Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week

April 2............Deaf Mission_First
April 9............Derbyshire
April 16............Derbyshire Cambodian
April 23............First Baptist
April 30............First Union

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

RCFN Board of Directors’ Meeting
May 23, 2017
7:00 PM
3111 Moss Side Ave.    Richmond, VA 23222

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

2017 RCFN Budget Report
MARCH Budget Amount: $43,747.00
MARCH Budget Receipts: $23,558.00
MARCH Budget Expenses: $9,436.00
YTD Budget Amount: $87,494.00
YTD Budget Receipts: $26,701.00

Camp Alkulana Offering
Offering Goal: $156,000.00
YTD Receipts: $5,028.00
YTD Expenses: $18,784.00

Visit www.richmondbaptist.org for* Employment Opportunities, *RCFN Remittance forms, *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.