South Richmond Baptist Center
Thanksgiving bags
2 boxes of Stuffing mix
1 Canned Ham
1 Bag of sugar
2 cans of Pumpkin mix
2 cans green beans
2 Mashed potato mix
1 Jar of Gravy
1 can of cranberry sauce
Thank you for your donations!!
Contact Wesley if you have any questions (232-017)
Please deliver items to the Center on or before November 18th.

Church Hill Christian Wellness Center
Thanksgiving cards
$10.00 Kroger gift cards to be added to Food Bags.

Oregon Hill Baptist Center
Please deliver items to the Center November 16—20 (10:00 am to noon) If these times don't suit then please contact Jennifer Turner to set an appointment to deliver.
Instant Stuffing &/or Potatoes &/or Rice
Flavored Rice (Rice-a-Roni, etc.)
Canned Hams (small, non refrigerated)
Yams/ Sweet Potatoes
Apple Sauce
Green Beans
Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Chicken Soup
Cans of Fried Onions
Corn
Muffin or Cornbread Mix
Macaroni & Cheese
Pre-made Pie Crust already in Pie Pan (Graham Cracker)
Instant Puddings to make pies (Chocolate or Vanilla)
$10.00 Gift Cards from Kroger or Food Lion (to be used toward purchase of Turkey or other perishable items)
Thank you for your donations!!
Contact Jennifer if you have any questions (648-1353)
You will see it elsewhere in this edition of the “Transformed!” but in case you didn’t notice it, I will say it again, “It’s not too late to sign up for the 5th RCFN Annual Meeting!”

Matt Thornhill is highly respected as a person who looks insightfully at data and trends with a keen eye to analyzing accurately how to apply what he learns from the information his organization researches.

I know! When one begins to think about presentations of data, numbers and statistics the response is to glaze over and look for a good place to nap but I can assure you that what Matt will share with us on Sunday, October 20th, will be anything but dry and boring! Matt will share specific action steps that can be taken to transform the future of our RCFN churches. Most of you will be surprised by what you will hear. His insights will be eye-opening, thought-provoking and practical.

In today’s culture with its sadly, sometimes well earned suspicion of traditional institutions, all too many of our churches struggle with survival trepidation and question whether they will even be in existence five to ten years from now. Far too many of our elderly members are hoping and praying that their church and their pastor will be around long enough to assure that they receive “a decent burial.” Is that really a picture of ecclesiastical thriving?

Hardly!

Is faith and the command to make disciples any less applicable to tomorrow than today and yesterday?

Hardly!

Matt will give us strong direction for a future that is full of hope and optimism engaged in meaningful ministry that assures not just survival but one that is characterized by thriving for decades to come. So contact RCFN Executive Assistant Danette Moen by email at office@rbaonline.org or by phone at 329-1701 ext. 101 to sign up by end of business on Tuesday, October 15th. Or text me at 804-356-9663 to say, “I’ll be there!” at Derbyshire Baptist from 3:30—5:30 pm on Sunday afternoon, October 20! See ya’ at Derbyshire!

Now, allow me to shift gears!

At our RCFN Staff Meeting on Monday, October 7th, we hosted two guests, Mr. Travis Woods, Jr., and Rev. Ernest Moore, Jr., both from the Richmond City Office of Community Wealth Building (OCWB). These dedicated Christian gentlemen came to share with us information about the services offered through OCWB and how members of Richmond’s faith community can play a vital role in reducing poverty and assist in elevating 40% of Richmond’s adult population and 50% of Richmond’s child population out of crisis and into a life of thriving by the year 2030!

OCWB operates with 9 internal departments to help with employment, wealth building and poverty reduction. OCWB currently partners with 33 outside entities including state government, several universities, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, corporations, foundations and community volunteers. In 2018 the OCWB business services team conducted 50 employer events such as job fairs and other employment opportunity events. To serve the city’s unemployed and its underemployed it operates four Career Stations in the following locations:

- Marshall Street Career Station
  900 E. Marshall St, Suite 160
- Southside Community Center
  6255 Old Warrick Road
- East District Innovation Center
  701 N. 25th Avenue
- Huguenot Community Center
  7945 Forest Hill Avenue

These four Career Stations in 2018 served 13,400 persons, providing training programs and workshops for 2,430 individuals and matching more than 700 with case managers for intensive job coaching.

We discovered that we can refer individuals from our centers directly to OCWB Career Centers even if they are homeless and involved in substance abuse situations. OCWB is very interested in the work that Jennifer does with the homeless and were impressed with the internet services provided as well as the locker ministry that is available through our partnership with Pine Street Baptist.

At our next staff meeting we will concentrate on determining the individual or family who will become the focus of our mentoring/coaching process. In addition we will look at how to measure success in this endeavor and some of the steps it will take to realize substantial goals within the process of equipping someone to move from crisis to thriving. While there will certainly be economic benchmarks along the way, there will need to be spiritual markers that denote the vitality of progress.

Where do you fit in? As specific needs in the life of our mentee are identified, we will pass that information along to our affiliated churches. A ready example might be the need for reliable transportation to and from work - a trustworthy vehicle. When that need is revealed and sent out, I can imagine a widow or widower whose deceased spouse’s former car is sitting in the garage where it may have been idle for several years. Honoring the generous spirit of the deceased spouse, the widow or widower might offer the car to be launched once again into usefulness in memory of their loved one. What a wonderful tribute to their spouse and what a game changer in the life of a person or family in dire need!

I believe the opportunities for dynamic witness and generosity will be myriad. And the blessings will be magnificent! Be praying for all of us who are a part of RCFN as we enter a new era of generously giving a hand up to those who will in time come to a place of no longer needing a hand out!

Excitedly,

Mike
5TH RCFN ANNUAL MEETING  
October 20, 2019  
3:30 PM  
Derbyshire Baptist Church  
8800 Derbyshire Road, 23229  

It’s not too late to still signup for the 5th RCFN Annual Meeting. Email your reservation to office@rbaonline.org or call RCFN Executive Assistant, Mrs. Danette Moen at 329-1701, ext 101. Reservations for box suppers are being taken until the end of business on Tuesday, October 15th! Cost per box is $5 with a maximum charge of $15 per family—a real bargain!! To miss the insights Matt Thornhill will bring will be a tragic loss; be there! You’ll be glad you came!!!!!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
Mr. Matt Thornhill  
Christian, Futurist  
Founding and Managing Partner, Institute for Tomorrow, whose insights are sought around the world.  

2020 RCFN PROPOSED BUDGET IS FOUND BELOW!

Two significant items of business at the 5th RCFN Annual Meeting are the election of members of the 2019-2020 and forward RCFN Leadership Team presented by the Ministry Placement Committee and the adoption of the 2020 RCFN Proposed Budget presented previously to the Board of Directors and presented by the Stewardship Committee to the body.

The 2020 Proposed Budget as presented is approximately $50,000 higher than the 2019 Approved Budget but the actual increase in expenditures over 2019 is far less, in the range of $12,000. Though the previous budget was much lower, the actual cost of our Camp Alkulana ministry in 2018 was just over $192,000 and will be slightly higher in 2019, the current year not quite completed. Final numbers will not be available until year’s end. Through numerous fund raisers such as the Annual Golf Tournament and the Camp Silent Auction as well as through grant writing, Camp Alkulana has been very successful at raising the difference between budgeted and actual expenditures and has done so for several years. This year the Proposed Budget will more accurately reflect the actual cost of doing Camp but also shows the place that fundraising and grants occupy in its funding stream.

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Writers’ Block:

For young Billy, summer means saying goodbye to city life and traveling seven hundred miles to visit his grandparents on their Tennessee farm. It means long, humid days of snapping beans, milking cows, hunting for fossils in rocky fields, and trips into town for ice-cream sodas and comic books at the five-and-dime. It means muggy nights spent on the front porch with family, the boys gathered around the big Philco radio, listening to The Lone Ranger over the low hum of crickets. But most of all, summer means time spent in the long shadow of Grandpa, a massive Welchman, keenly observant, frugal of words and actions, but rich in experience and country wisdom. On this remote patch of farmland, Grandpa’s word is law: “Always be learnin’ who you are. It’d be the only way that yer ‘I’ can ever be more than your ‘Me.’ Knowin’ where you came from makes you part of somethin’ larger than yerself, and from yer beginning, ‘you were meant t’ be larger than yerself.”

Now William Hardison looks back on those summer days with nostalgic fondness and his own hard-earned wisdom. In doing so, he rediscovers deeper lessons hidden within the adventures he so often took for granted as an energetic child.

And along the way, he invites you and me to ponder: When you look back on your childhood, what long-forgotten treasures might you unearth?

William Hardison is a retired minister and former adjunct professor of Christian Spirituality at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. He is well known for his gift of vivid storytelling. Fellow author Anthony Romanello remarks, “Bill Hardison has given us a gift—a book I didn’t want to end, and one I will read again and again. His stories come alive in the telling and remind me of what it takes to be fully alive.”

A member of the National Storytelling Network, Dr. Hardison is a contributor to Character.org, a nationwide movement bringing fresh attention to the development of character in the lives of children through education. Dinosaurs in the Cornfield is his first book and deals with the development of positive character traits learned through the telling of legacy stories. Bill lives in Richmond, Virginia with his wife, Carolyn, and is the former pastor of Westhampton Baptist Church, also in Richmond. He and Carolyn remain active members at Derbyshire Baptist on Derbyshire Road.

You can find Dinosaurs in the Cornfield on Amazon.com.
Gifts are needed for children ages birth through 12 years old (Shortages reported for the 7 to 12 year olds). Suggestions: Clothing (jeans, sweaters, sweatpants, girls’ stretch pants, leggings, socks, underwear, coats, hats, and gloves in regular and large sizes); Games; Toys; Books; Bicycles (helmets and locks). 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.

Deliver your gifts: Monday, December 2 and Tuesday, December 3 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 4 between 9:00 a.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; to be interpreters for Spanish speaking shoppers; and to help pack-up leftover items on Friday, December 6. If you can volunteer, call Jennifer Turner, OHBC, at 648-1353. or Wesley Garrett, SRBC, at 232-0174.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Spanish interpreters for Spanish speaking shoppers
The Privilege of Play

by Art Wright

Art has been involved with Camp Alkulana since 2003. He has been a counselor, a mentor, and (as the camp director’s husband) gets volunteered for any variety of duties each summer and throughout the year. He provides lifeguard training, leadership in many of our adventure activities, and loves to close out each day by leading a campfire sing-a-long with our campers. These days he spends most of his camp days chasing his own children around the camp.

One of the things that I’ve loved year in and year out at Camp Alkulana is lifeguarding. We have a great lifeguarding staff; they arrive at camp a little bit early to go through the Red Cross training together, and then work hard to keep the campers safe during aquatics activities during summer camp. We do a lot of water activities: swimming and lessons in the swim hole, canoeing, a partially underwater cave, snorkeling, and so forth. These are some of the highlights of the summer for many kids.

One evening during each session we take the campers to local pools for a “pool party.” They always have a blast. This past summer I was lifeguarding for one of these groups, and I had an epiphany of sorts as I watched them play in the water and jump off the diving board: everywhere I looked in the pool, children were laughing and smiling, having fun, and completely uninhibited in their play. This moment was a snapshot of what childhood should be like. Children learn, grow, develop socially, and stay mentally and physically healthy through play. Play is the most important thing they do. Google “the importance of play” sometime. You’ll see. (By the way: play is important for grown-ups, too!)

And yet: it struck me that for so many children today, pure, uninhibited play is a rare privilege that few enjoy. Screen time, unsafe neighborhoods, homework constraints, lack of free time, less playground time at school, and other things all cut into children’s opportunities for free, self-directed, creative play. And yet children need opportunities for true, uninhibited play to grow and develop in healthy ways. As I watched the children playing in the pool, I saw no fighting, no arguing, no stress. They were simply doing what kids do best: thriving through playing. I’m so grateful that Camp Alkulana creates safe spaces for children to enjoy the privilege of play.
**CHURCH NEWS**

**CALENDAR EVENTS**

October 20, 2019 3:30—5:30PM  
RCFN’S 5TH Annual Meeting  
Location: Derbyshire Baptist Church  
8800 Derbyshire Road, 23229  
Bryant Hall  
Box Supper by Reservation,  
$5 per person; $15 per family  
Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, October 15 End of Day  
******

October 31, 2019  
WATCH OUT FOR THE LITTLE ONES  
******

November 4, 2019  
10:30 AM Social; 11:00 AM Prayer Time  
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
Location: First Baptist Church  
******

November 12, 2019 6:30 PM  
CAST Meeting  
3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond VA 23222 (SCR)  
******

On or before November 18, 2019  
SRBC Thanksgiving Basket Delivery  
******

On or before November 19, 2019  
OHBC Thanksgiving Basket Delivery  
******

On or before November 19, 2019  
CHCWC Thanksgiving Basket Delivery  
******

November 19, 2019 3:30 PM  
Board of Directors Meeting (LCR)  
3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond VA 23222  
******

November 28—29, 2019  
HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
RCFN Offices are CLOSED  
******

December 3, 2019  
#GIVING TUESDAY  
******

December 10, 2019 6:30 PM  
CAST Meeting

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**HAYMARKET: Haymarket, VA**  
Associate Pastor of Outreach Position  
if you are interested in finding out more about this position please go to  
https://www.richmondbaptist.org/home-1/employment-opportunities/

**Annual Church Profiles**  
are here again. I will have paper copies of the ACPs at the RCFN Annual Meeting, Oct. 20, 2019.  
Email copies have been sent. You may also use the hyperlink on the RCFN website if you choose.

**DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2019**  
Thank you so much for getting this information to us.

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**VIRGINIA BAPTIST HANDHELD FESTIVAL**

January 31-February 1, 2020  
Mount Vernon Baptist Church  
Glen Allen, VA  
11220 Nuckols Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23059

**Better Than Ever (Fifty Plus Retreat)**

October 21-23, 2019  
Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center  
Lynchburg, VA

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**ANSWERING THE CALL**  

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**Happy Thanksgiving to you!**
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 USPS 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.

Pray for the RCFN Churches and Friends seeking a PASTOR

Bethlehem, Penick
Derbyshire, Cambodian
Ginter Park
Hatcher Memorial
Monument Heights
Westover

Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week

NOV. 3 .........................Saint Paul’s (Belt)
NOV. 10 .........................Saint Paul’s (Elm)
NOV. 17 .........................Shalom Fellowship
NOV. 24 .........................Skipwith

Jesus said, “I’m telling you, open your eyes, take a good look at what’s right in front of you...It’s harvest time!”  (John 4:34—35) MSG

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

THANK YOU for your continued support of RCFN

2019 September RCFN Budget Report
RCFN Monthly Budget Amount:  $ 45,050.00
SEPTEMBER Budget Receipts:  $ 29,091.00
SEPTEMBER Budget Expenses:  $ 41,425.00
RCFN YTD Budget Amount:  $ 405,450.00
RCFN YTD Budget Receipts:  $ 357,203.43
RCFN YTD Budget Expenses:  $ 487,275.27

Camp Alkulana Offering $161,000.00
YTD Budget Amount:  $ 120,749.94
YTD Receipts:  $182,856.15
YTD Expenses:  $172,018.75

Writers’ Block is a periodic feature in the “TRANSFORMED!”
It is designed to give exposure to Christian authors related to the RCFN whose work sometimes goes virtually unknown. Inclusion in this column is in no way an endorsement of the viewpoints or opinions expressed by the author. Authors are encouraged to submit their information.
(See the RCFN website: www.richmondbaptist.org )