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 made available by Central Virginia Raceway Ministries. Cookies may be brought to the RBA (River City Faith Network) Office, 3111 Moss Side Ave. April 13 –16, from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (329-1701) or the Dover Baptist Association Office, 11006 Lakeridge Pkwy, Ashland, VA (550-1980)

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

PHONE: (804) 317-0094 OR EMAIL: INFO@VARACEWAYMINISTRIES.ORG
The coronavirus occupies our local and world news daily. While COVID-19 does not need to produce panic, it does warrant thoughtful consideration personally and corporately. Has your church family given consideration to how it might respond in practical ways that lend the greatest support to your church and community spiritually and healthfully?

On March 7th I received a cogent email from The St. Paul’s Baptist Church from their Senior Pastor, Dr. Lance Watson. The email was thoughtful and came as the result of significant consideration. I have permission to share its contents with you as a way of spurring on and refining your process of preparation at your church.

Dr. Watson begins by acknowledging the inevitability of Virginia being impacted by the virus: “...it’s not a matter of “if” it will impact Virginia, it’s a matter of “when.” While we know this virus is primarily spread through close contact and respiratory droplets, we want to take precautionary measures to create a safe and healthy environment for us all to gather and worship. Before we get into the details of the plans, I want to speak first to our posture as Christ followers.

For many, the spread of this virus has caused fear and anxiety. Scripture is clear that God has given us a spirit of love, power and a sound mind: not fear. My prayer is that we would sense peace in the midst of these circumstances. This does not mean we should be careless or reactionary; but rather that we work together to serve our church and community in a way that demonstrates trust in our God Who is in control.

Secondly, our staff [at St. Paul’s] has been monitoring updates and responding according to CDC’s recommendations and will continue to do so. Plans will change and adjust based on the updates we receive, but as of March 7, 2020, here are the precautions we are taking to increase health measures and mitigate the spread of germs.

**SPBC.TV**

If you find yourself feeling sick, please stay home and join us digitally on [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org) at 9am and 11am on Sundays. We also stream live at the same time on “The Saint Paul’s Baptist Church” Facebook and YouTube pages. Philippians 2:4 reminds us to “look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

**BAPTISM**

Baptism is a sacred part of our faith journey, and we will hold Baptism as scheduled. We disinfect our baptismal pools regularly and will take every precaution to make baptism a safe experience. Until the crisis abates, we will not baptize anyone running a fever or anyone who has been caring for someone running a fever.

**OFFERING**

We strongly recommend that each of you sign up to give your tithe and offering online, if you have not already done so. It’s safe, convenient, adjustable and repeatable. Simply text 77977 to SPBCCRE (OR SPBCBELT OR SPBCELM) and follow the prompts. We will not pass offering baskets during the services until further notice, but will conduct “walk around” offerings at the conclusion of services on our way out of worship. In addition, there are “drop off” locations at each campus.

**COMMUNION**

We will not pass communion trays when we observe the Lord’s Supper at weekend services. Instead, our Diaconate will be at the doors distributing communion as we enter the worship experience. We’ll share communion just before the offering, and as we walk around for the offering, we’ll have trash dispensers where you can place your empty cup. As usual, we will provide pre-packaged, individually wrapped communion elements.

**DOORS**

To minimize your need to touch door handles, our volunteer greeter teams will hold exterior doors open to greet you, and all interior doors will remain open during our worship services.

**GREETING**

We are a warm and loving congregation and it shows. However, until this crisis concludes, we’re asking that you would replace hugs and handshakes with smiles and waves.

**IMAGINATION AND SMB**

Our volunteers are committed to wiping down check-in surfaces between all services with disinfectant wipes. We are also making hand sanitizer more readily available throughout our buildings.

We encourage you to take some time to understand proper prevention measures to avoid spreading the virus by reading through the CDC recommendations here.

Here are some of the basic measures listed on the CDC website:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

This is one church family and leadership team’s approach and response to the current health challenge. Your response will be conditioned by the specifics of your church’s ministries and situation but the practical suggestions above are valuable food for thought.

Many thanks to The Saint Paul’s family and Dr. Lance Watson for allowing me to offer the content of his internal email to his church family that the River City Faith Network family of affiliated churches might benefit. Dr. Watson concluded his email with the following admonition for his people:

I ask that you be prayerful for our world and community, specifically for those who are directly impacted by this virus.

Dr. Watson’s admonition is my plea to you as well!

Rejoicing with confidence in Him,

Mike
COMMUNITY MISSIONARY - REV. JENNIFER TURNER
400 South Pine Street            Richmond, VA 23220
(Located in Pine Street Baptist Church)
jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org  (804-648-1353)

Music and Worship Arts Camp
July 13-17, 2020
Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center
Lynchburg, VA

For children and youth who have completed grades 4–9
A special track (limited enrollment) for those who have completed grades 10-12

Camp internship positions available for college students/Music and Worship Arts Camp (MWAC) is a powerful opportunity to explore and expand our expressions of worship, and to grow closer as a family of faith – joining together to praise God who created us for relationship! The camp consists of worship times and special interest classes, as well as participation in a choral and/or instrumental ensemble. Each afternoon also contains free time to meet new friends while enjoying the Eagle Eyrie pool, the newly-expanded recreational facilities, and the on-site gift, coffee, and ice cream shops. We hope you will join us for a wonderful time of worship, music, fellowship and fun! Mark your calendars for April 1 when registration will open!

DESPERATE NEED FOR MEN’S SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHES
Please NO suits, dress shirts, ties or dress shoes! ONLY casual, comfortable, clean clothes for men on the street and in the heat.

Khakis, Jeans and Shorts (Especially sizes 32—36)

White Socks

New men’s boxer underwear

Short and long sleeve t-shirts “polo”

Light weight jackets

One Day Unlimited GRTC Bus Pass - ($3.50 each) Can be purchased at Kroger Customer Service Counters

Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Training
Virginia Baptist Resource Center
2828 Emerywood Parkway
Henrico, VA 23294

Date: April 19, 2020 - April 22, 2020
12:00 AM

This event is jointly led and sponsored by Virginia and Texas Baptist Chaplaincy. For more information and/or to register, https://texasbaptists.org/events/2020-bgav-chaplain-and-spiritual-care-training

Fresh Expressions National Gathering 2020
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fresh-expressions-national-gathering-2020-tickets-98016799887

Heritage Fellowship Church
2501 Fox Mill Road
Reston, VA 20191
This year Church Hill Christian Wellness Center is starting early for their Back to School Celebration. You can start now collecting and you choose which of these items will be your project.

**Back to School Celebration**

- **Regular Hours**: Monday 9:00am– 5:00 pm; Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am–6:00 pm; Friday – 9:00 am–2:00 pm
- **Contact**: glinda.ford@rbaonline.org (804-780-0053)
- **Location**: 2011 Fairmount Avenue, Richmond, VA 23223 (Located in Mount Tabor Baptist Church)

"Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."

**Toiletries**

- **Items Needed**: Socks and Underwear
- **Project**: Have Fun Collecting

**Backpacks**

**AAFVA Preaching Camp**

- **Location**: Little Union Baptist Church
- **Address**: 17150 Mine Rd, Dumfries, VA 22025
- **Dates**: May 15, 2020 - May 16, 2020
- **Time**: 12:00 AM
- **Email**: jerome.lee@bgav.org for more information.

**Virginia Church Library Association**

- **Conference**: Spring 2020 Conference
- **Dates**: Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16, 2020
- **Location**: Bon Air Baptist Church
- **Address**: 2531 Buford Rd., Richmond, VA 23235

**MC2: Missions Connection Celebration**

- **Workshop**: "Legal Hotspots and Risk Management Issues for Churches"
- **Date**: Thursday, March 26, 2020
- **Time**: 9:00 a.m.-11 a.m.
- **Facilitator**: Erika E. Cole, Esq. (partner with Whiteford, Taylor, Preston, LLP)
- **Location**: Hunton Baptist Church
- **Address**: 11660 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen VA 23059
- **Cost**: $10 Early Bird (until March 13), $15 at the door.
- **Registration**: Visit www.doverbaptist.org/event or call (804) 550-1980 to register.
We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. We believe that nature is one of the best places to accomplish this. At Camp Alkulana, children and youth have the opportunity to get out of the city and explore the natural world in the Allegheny mountains and the beautiful George Washington forest.

Campers tell us that this retreat into the “wilderness” gives them a chance to disconnect from “real world problems” and discover things about themselves and the world around them that they had never learned before. It also provides a wonderful landscape to challenge themselves with new activities like hiking, rock climbing, caving, and canoeing.

We strive, first and foremost, to create a space for campers that is safe—emotionally and physically. We know that when they feel safe, they are able to learn the life-changing skills that create quantifiable growth—like independence, problem solving, and responsibility. Feeling safe also enables them to connect with people around them and grow in relationship with God.

The camp’s grounds along a creek in Bath County has been our home since we moved there in 1917! Come, join us there!

Please mark your calendar for the SPRING Clean Up and Work Days. Plan to come to camp May 16th and May 30th to help us ready the facilities for our summer season. Painting, cleaning, yard work and light construction are all tasks on these volunteer days.
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 given away the week (APRIL 7—11) prior to Resurrection Sunday on APRIL 12. 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).

Appliances in great working order are sometimes requested. Can you fill this need?

The Church Financial Administration Seminar provides an opportunity for training for new and prospective church financial officers (e.g. treasurers) and financial staff. Those who are experienced financial leaders and staff will have opportunities to learn about the latest resources and approaches to church financial ministry. 

Virginia Baptist Resource Center  
2828 Emerywood Parkway  
Henrico, VA 23294  
April 30, 2020 9:30 AM—12:00 noon  
for more information contact: Jeff Cranford  
Minister in Residence for Church Finances  
804.921.3945  
jeff.cranford@bgav.org

You are invited to bring your elementary age daughters and come to an overnight retreat to learn more about being on mission for God.
**CHURCH NEWS**

**RRCB: Sunday: Mar. 15_ 2:30 PM**
Sanctuary: Harpsichord Recital with Jory Vinikour

**Sunday, Mar. 29_ 2:30 PM—Sanctuary:**
Organ Recital with Mary Brattskar (Oslo, Norway)

**Oak Forest Baptist Church** is looking for a part-time Director of Music: 5101 Courthouse Rd, Chesterfield, VA . Please send resume’ to Rev. Kirby D. Smith, ksmithofbc@verizon.net or for more information please call (804) 276-6547.

To learn more go to www.richmondbaptist.org

**CALENDAR EVENTS**

**March 24, 2020**
3:30 PM
RCFN Board of Directors’ Meeting, LCR
3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond

**April 5, 2020**
Palm Sunday

**April 6, 2020 9:30 AM**
RCFN Staff Meeting, SCR
3111 Moss Side Ave., Richmond, VA

**April 7, 2020 7:00 PM**
Raceway Volunteer Meeting, LCR
3111 Moss Side Ave., Richmond, VA

**April 10, 2020**
GOOD FRIDAY

**April 12, 2020**
Easter

**April 13, 2020**
Easter Monday
RCFN Offices are CLOSED

**April 14, 2020 6:30 PM**
CAST Meeting, SCR
3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond

**April 17, 2020 noon—3:00 PM**
Raceway Set Up
600 East Laburnum Ave. Richmond VA

**April 18—19, 2020**
RR Raceway Weekend
For Cookie & Volunteer times see the TRANSFORMED! front page

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**2019 ACP Online Survey Closes March 31**

LifeWay’s online **Annual Church Profile (ACP) Survey** is accessible for completion utilizing the unique log-in credentials assigned to each church. Please complete all 3 portions of the survey (questionnaire, BGAV supplemental survey, and leadership profile) as thoroughly as possible. You can log your information in to the online portal until March 31, 2020. If you want me to log it in for your please send me your information before the deadline. This will help me keep my records up to date. Paper copies can be mailed to the address given on the back of the newsletter or email to Danette Moen at office@rbaonline.org. Thank you so much.

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**HOLY WEEK**

April 5—April 12, 2020

It’s True! The **LORD has RISEN!**
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 seeking a PASTOR

Bethlehem, Penick
Derbyshire Cambodian
Ginter Park
Monument Heights

Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week

APRIL 5........................................Derbyshire
APRIL 12.............Derbyshire Cambodian
APRIL 19...............................First
APRIL 26...............................First Union

“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

THANK YOU for your continued support of RCFN

2020 February RCFN Budget Report

RCFN Monthly Budget Amount: $49,416.66
FEBRUARY Budget Receipts: $32,516.00
FEBRUARY Budget Expenses: $44,976.00

RCFN YTD Budget Amount: $98,833.32
RCFN YTD Budget Receipts: $50,141.87
RCFN YTD Budget Expenses: $91,981.01

Camp Alkulana Offering $199,000.00
YTD Budget Amount: $33,166.66
YTD Receipts: $15,020.04
YTD Expenses: $21,427.76

Writers’ Block is a new 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)