The River City Faith Network
Richmond Baptist Association

TRANSFORMED!

News of Richmond Area Churches...Together...Changing Lives - JUNE 2020

The Prayer Guide highlights a different network mission emphasis for each day of the week with a photo of the RCFN staff member, a brief “GOD SIGHTING” story or testimonial from this COVID-19 era and specific prayer requests relating to that ministry. The use of the prayer guides for a week is an excellent way for a congregation, Sunday School class or missions group to get to know the staff and ministries of the River City Faith Network. The Guide is formatted so that it can be used for any seven-day period during the year.

GOAL: $125,000.00

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Material Available for the 2020 Camp Alkulana Offering and Week of Prayer for Associational/Network Missions

Offering Goal: 125,000.00

The promotional materials for the 2020 Camp Alkulana Offering and Week of Prayer for Associational/Network Missions will be available the last week of May at the RCFN Office. We will have available: Offering Envelopes, an 8½ x 11 Flier for the Camp Offering, and the Prayer Guide for the Week of Prayer. Other promo items that will be available for the Camp Offering are: bulletin inserts (5½ x 8½), posters (11x17), and the Camp Alkulana brochure. These promotional items are not dated so that your church can use them any time during the year when you emphasize Associational Missions. To download the order form, visit the Camp Offering section of the RCFN/RBA website at www.richmondbaptist.org. To place an order contact Danette Moen at 804-329-1701 ext. 101, FAX TO 804-774-7337 or office@rbaonline.org.

Camp Alkulana may not look the same this summer as summers before but Camp Director, Beth Wright has no plans to let these young people down. God is in control. Beth and the Camp Alkulana team are listening. Stay tuned to see what God has in store!
I think all of us would agree that the social isolation in which we are involved is becoming a bit wearying! I miss terribly seeing you at all in our churches. I miss the beautiful sounds of public prayers and union voices lifted in singing praises to our Lord. Along with you I miss choir anthems, good in-person preaching, responsive readings, testimonies, engaging Bible study with live face-to-face discussions, shared meals around the table, hugs and handshakes!! I miss seeing our grandchildren and children at anything but a distance! My family, like yours, now has far too large of a number of “uncelebrated” birthdays and other special occasions!

As we begin these moments together I want to lighten the mood a bit! Among all of the other helpful information of a serious nature that I receive daily concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic, I am fortunate to be on the email list of some folks who bring a smile and some laughter with bits of humor that they kindly share:

- A six-year-old child was asked if he understands why there is no school. He said, “Yes, because they are out of toilet paper.”
- Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to prevent COVID-19, but to stop eating.
- Safety tip: If you keep a glass of water in each hand, you can’t accidently touch your face.
- Help! Does anyone know if we can take showers yet, or should we just keep washing our hands?

Despite the weariness I am convinced that the time to return to “gathering, hugs, and handshakes” is on the way, and the time frame will vary from congregation to congregation. And that’s what I want to address today. Thom Rainer, prolific writer of many helpful books about church life, recently hosted a webinar toward which I nudged RCFN pastors. His topic for a panel of church specialists was “14 Preparations You Must Make Before Returning to Your Church Facility.” During the webinar Rainer raised for consideration 14 areas to which every church should give serious consideration in advance of reopening. I am highlighting these for each of you:

1. COORDINATE WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN THE COMMUNITY.
   - About your return date
   - Sends message that you care about your community

2. PROVIDE TOTAL CLARITY ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN RETURN INITIALLY.
   - Communicate, communicate, communicate regarding preparations being made regarding children, seating, cleanliness

3. PREPARE NOW FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES, IF NEEDED.
   - To provide social spacing at least at the onset taking into consideration volunteers and members.

4. CONSIDER NON-SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES
   - More than one third of adult workers are at work during the morning worship hour, a hugely missed demographic.

5. CONDUCT AN ALL-CHURCH CALLING CAMPAIGN.
   - People have questions and concerns to be answered and clarified.
   - Will discover ministry needs and opportunities.

6. MAKE RE-ENTRY A MAJOR EVENT.
   - Get your people to invite others to join them in coming
   - Consider an “Invite Your One” event
   - May use pre-events and reopen in stages

7. DECIDE WHAT YOU WILL DO ABOUT KIDS.
   - How will you provide for social distancing with children? Consider initially a family worship format.
   - Mirror what the community is doing in regard to the care of children; if local daycares are not allowed to meet, don’t provide church nursery until change comes to the community.

8. CONDUCT A THOROUGH FACILITY REOPENING CHECKLIST.
   - Go to RCFN’s website www.RichmondBaptist.org for your copy found under the “Documents” tab.

9. DECIDE HOW YOU WILL USE YOUR DIGITAL/STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICES.
   - Don’t abandon what you have learned; some of those you are reaching online will not come right away or perhaps ever.

10. MAKE PLANS FOR ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DO THE OFFERTORY.
    - Allow ways to avoid handling cash.

11. BE SPECIFICALLY PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SENIOR ADULTS.
    - Seniors will remain vulnerable and may be hesitant to return right away.

12. CONSIDER OFFERING SHORTER SERVICES AT THE ONSET.
    - Many will be nervous about returning.
    - Will you use congregational singing which can spread coronavirus?

13. DECIDE HOW YOU WILL HANDLE SMALL GROUPS OR SUNDAY SCHOOL INITIALLY.
    - Will onsite small groups and Sunday school classes be staged in while continuing digital gatherings or begun at the outset?

14. RE-TRAIN YOUR WELCOME MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS.
    - Consider how to welcome members and guests without touch while maintaining social distancing.
    - Think about how you will guide parents with small children to their appropriate places of ministry.

These fourteen items for consideration are not all inclusive but are a good beginning point for essential conversations for each gathering church well before you begin gathering again! Be prepared! Lead from in front so that your reopening will be the best possible for your people, your staff, and your community.

The time to regather will be here before you know it! I know you want to be ready and do it well!

With joyful anticipation and expectancy,

Mike
As we are in a new season in our lives, we pray that school will reopen in the fall. And as we prepare for that day, please continue to collect items the children will need. The first day of school can be a stressful one. Let’s be Jesus’ hands and give the children a few smiles knowing they will not be emptyhanded when walking in the door on that first day.

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

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**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)

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

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We are half-way through our pilot program of Alkulana Online, a virtual camp experience for campers! We launched on April 20, and will run for four weeks. In the weeks after our Stay-at-Home orders began in Virginia, members of our summer staff began meeting online. We wanted an immediate way to engage with our campers and alleviate some stress by connecting with them and reminding them of the fun and safe space they have at Camp Alkulana. We have had over fifty campers register and participate in our live and pre-recorded content so far.

Alkulana Online strives to:

1. Connect campers to each other and their counselors. We want to be the Alkulana Family in this really stressful time.

2. Provide enriching activities that lead to the same positive outcomes we strive for each summer.

Have fun! We want to capture that camp spirit through this online venue that reminds campers to let loose and be a kid! Alkulana Online offers several virtual interaction opportunities each day. Some interactions are pre-recorded content posted on our website or social media. Some interactions are live, facilitated through Zoom. We’ve had videos showcasing creek walking, basketball skills and a cooking class. We’ve had live interactions with games, poetry writing, and even a dance party. Each day ends with a pre-recorded bedtime story time and a live prayer time each night. It is a beautiful time of connection that reminds us all of our favorite place to be.
Camp Director Beth Wright and her team of counselors are coming up with new ways to stay connected during this time of COVID-19 Social Distancing.

Alkulana Online Youtube channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg_uaOKMgKRYojL3X_YFGsg?view_as=subscriber

Alkulana Online webpage
http://alkulana.org/?page_id=2100

LEAVING THE HOUSE?

As we start to be able to leave our homes and go back to church, work, shop, hair salons, etc. let’s remember to use the precautions laid out by Virginia Health Officials.

“Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Symptoms appear within 14 days of being exposed to an infectious person.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with sick people. Avoid non-essential travel.”
A hyperlink is attached to the DONATE box on our website. www.richmondbaptist.org. This is an easy way to give to the RCFN ministries. When you click on the DONATE button you can choose the RCFN or Camp Alkulana button. The RCFN one gives you the choice of donating to Church Hill Christian Wellness Center, Oregon Hill Baptist Center, South Richmond Baptist Center and River City Faith Network. The Camp Alkulana one also has the option of donating and or paying for Golf Tournaments, Silent Auctions, etc. at scheduled times. (You will need to scroll down past the logos.)

Maria Lynn will be joining her husband, Randy, on his summer sabbatical to serve as BGAV Venturers for the Tipi Wakan Ministry on the Standing Rock Reservation in Cannon Ball, North Dakota.

For the last 11 months Maria has served on Hatcher’s staff as the Ministry Facilitator and Coordinator. She has served so faithfully by coordinating the ministries, providing communication to our ministry leadership, organizing the calendaring for our facilities, creating the printed and electronic bulletin publications for worship, prayer services, and our monthly church publication, the Hatcher Herald. She has been the face and voice of Hatcher Church whenever anyone made contact with us.

She earned her Doctor of Ministry Degree from BTSR in May, 2019. Therefore, she was able to share her ministry skills in teaching and preaching and provide pastoral leadership. The church family of Hatcher has indeed been blest to have been the recipient of her love and guidance.

As they leave to serve, they go with our love and deepest gratitude and full support and prayers. Also, we are anxious to hear the marvelous blessings and results of what God is going to do through their ministry.
CHECK THE DATES AND TIMES OF EVENTS YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTENDING. MANY HAVE CHANGED OR BEEN CANCELLED.

If you need help finding the information for a specific event call Danette at 804-329-1701 ext 101 and she will help you.

COVID-19 hasn’t stopped ministry at RCFN. We, as God’s people, have just created new ways to do it. Thank you for your continued support.

www.richmondbaptist.org
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
JUNE 7………………….Hatcher Memorial
JUNE 14…………………Huguenot Road
JUNE 21………………International Community
JUNE 28…………………..Jahnke Road

2020 APRIL RCFN Budget Report

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Camp Alkulana Offering $199,000.00

YTD Budget Amount: $ 66,333.32
YTD Receipts: $ 40,446.04
YTD Expenses: $ 42,026.28

RCAFN Board of Directors’ May Meeting

Please set aside June 23, 2020 3:30PM as the projected date and time for our next RCFN BoD meeting based on the hope that social distancing restrictions will be more relaxed by mid-June in Virginia. We will plan to meet at the Richmond Baptist Building located at 3111 Moss Side Ave. Richmond, VA 23222, large conference room.

The River City Faith Network is a diverse family of churches working together to bring living water to transform our communities through the love of Christ and for the Glory of God.