



Working together until Metro Richmond is...

TRANSFORMED



Embrace the Opportunity

Welcome 2021! We are ready to shed the gloom and heartache of last year, and we pray God will guide us into a new era of health and working together despite our differences.

The River City Faith Network will enter a new chapter too. God blessed us with the leadership of Executive Director Mike Robinson and the staff and volunteers during his tenure. Now he has retired and we will keep working together with some new members on the RCFN team. Following the BGAV model, the Board of Directors asked 2020 officers, committees, and ministry support teams to serve an additional year. We expect things to function more normally as we look past COVID-19. That means the RCFN Ministry Placement Committee will return to its work. We have the task of finding many of the servants God will use to lead us.

The RCFN Board of Directors consists of officers, chairs of committees and support teams, and at-large members from our Core and Champion congregations. Members of Connector congregations may serve on support teams too. (You can find details in our Bylaws, Policies and Procedures documents at www.richmondbaptist.org.)

Working together, the churches of River City Faith Network minister to change lives in Metro Richmond.

Richmond Area Churches. . . Together. . . Changing Lives

Individuals, small groups, congregations—many have stepped up to help meet the great needs around us (and beyond). We want you to know RCFN has great needs too. We need leaders that help us do more together than we can do alone. We need people who represent the diversity of RCFN. We need committed servants who will share their time and talents by leading RCFN's cooperative work.

Are you willing use some talent God has given you to lead RCFN? Do you know someone with talents that God might use lead us? Please tell us! Contact a Ministry Placement Committee member:

Nancy King, Chair: NancyKing53@gmail.com

Toni Meyers: ltmy4307@verizon.net

Rev. Jennifer Turner: Jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org

or E-mail office@rbaonline.org, phone 329-1701

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PLEASE TAKE NOTE

RCFN Board Meeting
January 26, 2021
 3:30 p.m.
 Skipwith Baptist Church

BGAV Church and Clergy
 Tax Seminar
 February 18 2021
 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Virtual/Registration Req.

RCFN Board Meeting
 March 23, 2021
 3:30 p.m.

Staff Anniversary
 Beth Wright
 Camp Akulana Director
 11 yrs- February 16, 2020



Steve Allsbrook
Interim Executive Director

God wired me as a "people person." I will work to get to know as many of you as I can, and I invite you to connect with me. I want to communicate with, connect to, and support the work of the River City Faith Network, its affiliated churches and you, their leaders.

To contact Steve,
e-mail, call, or text him:
execdir@rbaonline.org
804-399-2945
804-329-1701, ext. 102

Hello!

Call me Steve. Christ has sent me to serve with you as a member of River City Faith Network's staff team.

I grew up in North Carolina. My parents took me to church, and I decided to follow Jesus during Vacation Bible School in 1963.

The summer after my freshman year in college God called me toward ministry. I graduated college and went straight on to seminary. When I completed my Master of Divinity degree in 1977, Tabernacle Baptist Church near South Hill called me to serve as its pastor. I have served Christ in Virginia ever since.

I served as pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Farmville from 1983 to 1987. When Phillip Rodger-son, then state missions director for the Virginia Baptist General Board, invited me to join his team I moved to metro Richmond. For ten years I served Christ as a state missionary. My work focused on the district associations connected to the Baptist General Association of Virginia and their leaders. I met Dr. Charles Nunn and the team of missionaries who served Richmond Baptist Association then. I served in that ministry role for nearly ten years.

I was completing my Doctor of Ministry degree in Missions Administration when Dover Baptist Association called me to serve as its Executive Director of Missions. I led Dover until I retired in 2017. During that time I cooperated with the leaders of Richmond Baptist Association on a variety of joint ministry projects.

Mike Robinson and I had met before Richmond Baptists called Mike to serve as its Executive Director. God sent Mike to serve Christ among you, and Mike served

truly and well. He rejoiced with me when I crossed the finish line of full-time ministry. I rejoice with him now and trust the River City Faith Network will get to formally celebrate Mike's ministry and retirement later this year.

As Mike prepared to depart, the River City Faith Network's Board called me to serve as Interim Executive Director. I want you to know a few details and some expectations.

I will serve an average of 16-20 hours per week. I will spend a few of those hours in the office each week where I will work alongside Jo Ellen Schneider, RCFN's new Executive Assistant. I expect to spend most of my time in the field or working remotely.

God wired me as a "people person." I will work to get to know as many of you as I can and I invite you to connect with me. *I want to communicate with, connect to, and support the work of the River City Faith Network, its affiliated churches and you, their leaders.*

Please help me connect with you. I plan to contact various leaders in the limited time I will have here, but why wait? Feel free to contact me first. E-mail me at execdir@rbaonline.org or call or text me at 804-399-2945.

Count on me to pray for you. Please pray for the RCFN staff team, RCFN Board members, the Executive Director search team the Board will assemble, and for the other RCFN churches that, with you, form River City Faith Network. As Christ keeps on working in and through believers in RCFN I count it a privilege to serve Christ as one of you.

CHURCH OF THE WEEK February 2021

- 2/7 Woodland Heights
- 2/14 River City Faith Network
- 2/21 Camp Akulana
- 2/28 Church Hill Center

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION!

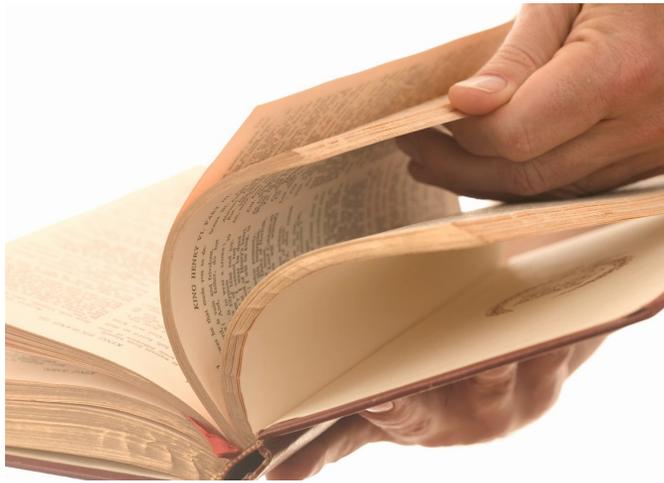
The VDH has now posted a link to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine. Please see their site for more information.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/>

Jesus said,

“The King will [say], ‘
Truly I tell you,
whatever you did
for one of the least
of these brothers
and sisters of mine,
you did for me.’”

—Matthew 25:40



Ministry Center Needs

The new year has arrived with new hopes and new needs. At South Richmond Baptist Center, Oregon Hill Baptist Center, and Church Hill Christian Wellness Center our community missionaries are just as busy as before. Many call on them for help, and Jennifer Turner, Wesley Garrett, and Glinda Ford need your help to answer those calls.

Please pray for our community missionaries and the people they serve in the Name of Jesus. Review the list of needs below. Maybe you will see a need you can help fill.

If you can help provide some of the needed items, you may contact the missionaries or bring the items to the Richmond Baptist Building. Most weeks someone is in the RCFN office Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Please call 804-729-1701 to let us know to expect you before you arrive. We will confirm the appointment and give you instructions for unloading your items. Thank you so much!

South Richmond Baptist Center (Satellite Ministry) needs:

- **Individually packaged snacks and juices** (e.g., Capri Sun) for the youth and children.
- **Dry Erase markers (assorted colors)** for the ministry
- **Postage stamps and greeting cards for all occasions** (e.g., birthday, praying for you, Mother's or Father's Day, thank you cards, etc.)
- **Bathroom Tissue (for those in need and for the ministry center)**
- **Paper Towels (rolls and tri-fold for the ministry center)**
- **Clothing for young men and grown men, shirts, shoes, and coats**

Through the winter, Oregon Hill Baptist Center is collecting:

- **Clean blankets and sleeping bags**
- **Waterproof and knit gloves for men and women**
- **Solid colored hats and scarves for men**
- **Sweatshirts with hoods for men and women**
- **Long John shirts and pants for men and women**
- **Hand warmers for hands and feet**
- **Rain Ponchos— one size fits all**

Would you like to help make snack bags for Oregon Hill's Homeless Ministry? Please contact Jennifer Turner for a list of items to include and dates when they are most needed. Thank you for any help you can give!

New 2021 IRS Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service changed optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning January 1, 2021, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup, or panel truck is:

- 56 cents per mile driven for business use, down 1.5 cents from the 57.5 cents rate for 2020
- 16 cents per mile driven for medical, or moving purposes for qualified active duty members of the Armed Forces, down 1 cent from 2020
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (this rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2020)

Churches that use the rate to reimburse staff for business-related mileage will want to note this change. See [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) or contact the RCFN office for more information.



Christmas Store Blessings in the Midst of a Pandemic

COVID-19 has changed how we conducted the Christmas Store ministry this year, but it did not stop the ministry. Thanks to our creative community missionaries and equally creative donors, God used our Christmas Store ministry to bless many in a way that was safe for everyone involved. To everyone who helped make this ministry possible, "Thank you!" It would not have happened without your generous support!

Glinda Ford, the community missionary who serves our Church Hill Christian Wellness Center, received a message and a photo from a grateful mother. The mother had lost her job. Her unemployment benefits were suspended. Who could help provide Christmas for her child? She turned to Glinda, and, because of what you made it possible for Glinda to share, that child found gifts under their Christmas tree!

His mother shared her heart-felt gratitude in her message to Glinda. Glinda is grateful too. She said, "I thank the RCFN family of churches and friends for their generous giving which blessed so many children. 2020 was definitely a challenging year. Your acts of kindness uplifted and encouraged those that participated in the Christmas Store."

Thank you to all who helped with the 2020 Christmas Stores. Many of our neighbors need help. Rev. Ford is still searching for a car donation for a family in need. Please contact her if you have any information that could help with this effort. May we count on you to help our missionaries answer more cries for help in 2021?



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Electronic Service Requested

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February 2021



THE **River**
City FAITH
NETWORK
Richmond Baptist Association

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