



RIVER ROAD CHURCH

BAPTIST

+ thoughtful faith +

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explorer

GRATEFUL FOR GENEROSITY

By the time you read this, you should have received in the mail your 2019 year-end giving statement. We kindly ask that you compare your own record of giving to River Road Church with the statement provided from our financial office and promptly report to us any discrepancies.

As I saw the shipping container filled with these giving statements headed to the post office last week, it was astounding the number of people who give so generously and regularly to River Road Church. Each of those giving statements represents a person or family who joyfully wants take part in all that God is doing in and through our church.

Our church ended 2019 in a positive financial situation thanks to your generous gifts. We funded completely our mission and ministry commitments because of your sacrificial giving. You are a talented and vibrant and big-hearted church and I want to say *Thank you!*

It's really remarkable all that we were able to accomplish together last year. We finished our staff hiring process. We hosted the new executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Dr. Paul Baxley. We began a strategic relationship with Greg and Sue Smith, missionaries in Fredericksburg, Virginia. We

hosted renowned organist and conductor Huw Williams from Bath Abbey in the United Kingdom, we nurtured relationships with sister congregations with a pulpit swap with Rabbi Hal Schevitz and Congregation Or Atid and we held a joint Thanksgiving worship service with Quiocasin Baptist Church.

We sent mission teams (of all ages!) to Panama, Camp Alkulana, Lynchburg, Greenville South Carolina, Lumberton North Carolina, and many other places across Virginia and beyond. We nurtured our growing children's and youth ministries and we're gearing up for an exciting 2020 of missions and ministry together.

Friends, we can do so much good for God's Kingdom when we put our hearts, our money, and our faith together. Every gift helps us achieve the mission God has given us to reach out to our community and beyond with love and light.

I thank you for your giving in 2019. I humbly ask you to continue your spirit of generosity in 2020 as we look forward expectantly to all God has in store for River Road Church!

Peace,

I never fully understood the concept of "church family" until Margie's [Davis] illness and subsequent death. The church was there to pray with us and to offer encouragement during her illness and again, to offer prayers and guidance though the days following her passing. At every step of the way someone was there to offer love and assistance: Daniel [Glaze] and David with their prayers and counseling; Daniel with a poignant message at our celebration of life for Margie; Ann Bagwell and her committee in ensuring the smooth progression of that service and making all in attendance welcome; Diane Shoemake and her committee for attending to the many, many details involved with the reception; and the support and outpouring of sympathy from so many members of the church.

We are indebted to all.

—Pat Dickinson

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Inquirers' Class

Sundays, February 2-23

9:00 a.m., Chapel Hall

Sandy Rooney and Marnie Fisher-Ingram will be leading an Inquirers Class for 4th-8th graders who are interested in exploring what it means to be baptized and a member of the church each Sunday morning of February at 9:00 am in Chapel Hall. Students will be sent to Sunday School immediately following. Sign up by January 29 by contacting Sandy or Marnie.

Youth Sunday Nights

February 9 & 23

- 4:15-5:00: River Road Camerata
- 5:00-5:45: Youth Choir
- 5:45-6:15: Youth Snack Supper
- 6:15-7:30: Youth Program

Events

- February 2: 1st-5th Grades Roller Skating
- February 2: Youth Super Bowl Party
- February 7: Middle School Event
- February 8: Preschool Fun Morning
- February 16: Worship at Lakewood
- February 21: High School Event

PANAMA MISSION TRIP

Donations Deadline: Sunday, February 2

Trip: February 8-16

River Road Church, Baptist is continuing our mission to Panama to serve with the *Fundación Cristiana Médico Social* (Medical Social Christian Foundation) to provide medical and dental services to indigenous people and those in need in the communities of Gallinaza in the province of Veraguas, and los Guzman in the province of Coclé. This year we will also be involved in a construction project with a Kuna congregation who are building a new church in the very remote jungle community of Mortí, in the Darien Province.

The team is partnering with four other churches and 23 people led by co-team leaders Judy Collins, Joe Teefey, Norma Hays, and Sue Smith, a CBF missionary. Seven team members are new to the Panama mission this year. The team members are: Bonnie Livick, Christie Lessels, Emily Sumner, Gray Snowden, Ruth Snowden, Joe Teefey, Judy Collins, Laura Lee Chandler, Norma Hays, Steve Larson, Bill Thurston, Daniel Ingram, Geoff Sundberg, John Heisler, Lawrence Heisler, Russ Collins, Meador Horne (Orange Baptist), Janet Moore (Second Baptist,

Richmond), Jerry Hill (Second Baptist, Richmond), Marty Cash (Second Baptist, Richmond), Dianne Duke (Urbanna Baptist), John Smith (Urbanna Baptist), Sue Smith (Fredericksburg Baptist).

Our church will commission the team during worship on Sunday, February 2, 2020. We hope you will commit to pray for them as they are on mission in the name of Christ, providing love and care to our Panamanian neighbors.

After a five-year partnership between the Virginia Baptist and Panama Baptist Conventions concluded in 2016, the Virginia Team was asked to serve again due to the relationships developed with the Medical Social Christian Foundation and the Cooper family (founders).

Please bring donations to the designated bin at the Missions Table in the Lower Commons

- Sunglasses (adults and kids; reading sunglasses are okay)
- Toothbrushes (adults and kids)
- Not collecting reading glasses

Missions Save the Dates Look for More Information

- February 8-15: CARITAS (offsite; Sign-up Genius coming soon; contact Laurie Gray)
- March 14: Rise Against Hunger (sign up coming soon)
- April 26-May 1: Hands & Hearts Nickelsville Mission Trip (rrcb.org/nickelsville; contact Laura Lee Chandler to sign up)

HISTORICAL HALLMARK

Beginning in January 1946, services which were being held in the Chapel at River Road Church included a 'very fine quartet' to provide leadership for music during worship services. Soon after, a children's choir was organized by Miss Mayme O'Flaherty, organist. She was authorized by the church to spend five dollars a month to purchase music and begin a music library for the church.

First Sunday Food Share

Sunday, February 2

River Road Church has a long history of working in many capacities with our three Baptist Centers: Church Hill, Oregon Hill, and South Richmond. On the first Sunday of each month, you are invited to bring a bag of food for the Centers and place it in one of the green grocery carts in the Upper or Lower Commons. To best serve our centers and their communities, the center directors are requesting smaller-sized products.

Suggested Shopping List:

- cans of vegetables and fruit
- cans of soup and canned entrées (example: Spaghettios)
- cans of meat: small cans of tuna, chicken
- cans of pork and beans or other beans
- boxed macaroni and cheese
- packages of powdered milk
- boxes of cereal
- rice and dry pasta
- peanut butter and jelly

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Tuesday, February 4

7:00 a.m., Reception Room

All men are invited for breakfast, fellowship, and partnership in prayer. Please make a reservation by calling the church office.

Evening Bridge

Tuesday, February 4

7:30 p.m., LC #102

Anyone who likes to play bridge is invited to join us. Contact Kitty or George Davis (804-285-9782) for more information.

FIXERS

Thursdays, February 6 & 20

8:00 a.m., Reception Room

The FIXERS (Frequently Ingenious, eXtremely Energetic, Righteous Servants) are dedicated to keeping our beautiful church facility in top working order. The FIXERS meet for breakfast and fellowship, then break into teams and work on projects around the church. Please contact Daniel Ingram (804-288-1131) if you can make it.

Here's a test:

- Do you know what a weed looks like in a mulch bed?
- Do you know which end of a screwdriver to hold?
- Does holding a broom not intimidate you?
- Do you like free breakfast?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, you are qualified to join the FIXERS! Even if you didn't answer "yes" to any of the questions, you're still qualified to join the group. Men and women of all ages are encouraged to come. (As you can tell, our standards are not very high.)

Men's Group: The Huddle

Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m., Reception Room

The Huddle is a small group of men who minister to each other, make a plan to bring their lives together on a regular basis, and keep faith in that plan and each other. For more information, please contact Bill Thurston (804-514-3360).

Yoga, 5:45-7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Thursday, February 6 | Mondays, February 10, 17, & 24

Hatha Yoga is a gentle form of stretching exercise that offers many health advantages. Darcie Anderson is our instructor. There is a \$10 fee for each class you attend. Beginners and newcomers are most welcome.

The Comma Club Luncheon & Program

Tuesday, February 11

12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

The program will feature the true life story of the heroic Four Chaplains - a Catholic, a Jew, and two Protestant Chaplains in the US Army who in February 1943 gave up their own life preservers to others as a US military ship was sinking. The program will be presented by Dr. Carroll Londoner and Dr. Dean Decker, both retired university professors. Please make your reservations by Friday, February 7 by calling the Church Office, or filling out the form online rrcb.org/seniors. Lunch is \$12 per person. *The group is primarily made up of senior adults, though it is not a requirement; anyone interested in a*

FLO Luncheon (For Ladies Only, 50+, Single Again, Just Single, and Caregivers)

Friday, February 14

11:30 a.m., Hondos Prime (Innsbrook)

RSVP to Jean Ellis (jean782carter@verizon.net or 804-272-7672) and let her know if you would like to carpool.

E. Carl Freeman Concert Series

Piano Recital — Dmitri Shteinberg

Sunday, February 16

2:00 p.m., Sanctuary

WMU Connectors — Friends Helping Friends

Tuesday, January 21

6:30 p.m., Brio Tuscan Grill

The Connectors is open to all women and you're invited. Bring a friend! RSVP to Ray Nelson at rayzor846@gmail.com.

Interested in helping others in our Richmond Community? The WMU Connectors gathers on the third Tuesday during the months of September thru April with programs and speakers that will expand your knowledge of needs in the area. Friends helping friends by doing the Lord's work together.

Date Nights for Couples

Take a Night to Reconnect
Friday, February 14 & March 28, 6-8:30 p.m.

Couples will gather at church and receive some fun and interesting questions for your discussion during the evening. During this February date night, questions will focus on your present. Each couple may spend the time wherever they choose. Take a walk, eat out, go to a favorite spot... enjoy some time talking together. Childcare is provided for those who need it for only \$5 per child. Sign up required for childcare and more information at rrcb.org/datenight.

If you missed Date Night #1, it's not too late. Questions are still available for you to do this at a time of your own choosing. Date Night #1 envelopes are located in the church office and are bright red. Pick one up and have fun! Doing this will also give you a platform for Date Night #2, although it is not necessary.

Youth Fundraiser & Shrove Tuesday Party

Tuesday, February 25
5:45-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Families and adults of all ages are invited to a pancake supper to support this summer's Youth Mission Trip. The youth will serve pancakes, bacon, and fruit for dinner, and the cost is \$5 per person (\$20 family max). After dinner everyone will celebrate with activities including mask making, fake tattoos, a cake walk, coloring, and a photobooth. RSVP online at rrcb.org/shrovetuesday or call the church office. If you are interested in providing food, please contact Marnie Fisher-Ingram.

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