



RIVER ROAD CHURCH
BAPTIST



We eagerly anticipate seeing you at worship in-person

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RIVER ROAD CHURCH

SUMMER 2021 | VOL. X | ISSUE 1

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#BeTheChurch

Follow RRCB on Facebook & Twitter (@RRCBaptist) Instagram & YouTube (@RiverRoadChurch)

Pastor's Column

HOPE IS HERE... AND ON THE HORIZON

As I write this article, the past seven days has brought some swift, yet welcomed news for our community and nation. The Centers for Disease Control and Governor Northam, citing scientific data, have released guidance supporting the easing of masking restrictions in many indoor and outdoor environments.

The scientists tell us that fully-vaccinated persons (persons completing two weeks following their final vaccine dose) are not only at minimal risk of developing severe COVID symptoms, but they are also at minimal risk of transmitting the virus to other persons. The primary mode of disease transmission remains between unvaccinated persons.

This data suggests a few things, I believe. First, if you are able to receive a vaccine, and have not done so, I encourage you to do so soon. I personally believe it is an excellent way for us to live out God's call to be good neighbors to one another. Second, this suggests a major turning point in our ability to resume many

church and community activities. To say I'm excited about that is a tremendous understatement.

Third, in the midst of celebrating this good news, I believe it is important to remember that there are many unvaccinated persons in the River Road family, mainly children and persons whose health condition precludes getting the vaccine. As we continue to make plans for the continuation of in-person worship, Sunday School, music activities, social events, I want us to keep these family members in mind. For instance, as a symbol of our love and support of our children and youth, we may continue to wear our masks whenever we interact with them in worship, learning, and fellowship. Being sensitive to the needs of our family during this time of transition is but one way we model the Thoughtful Faith so characteristic of our life together.

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RRCB YOUTH SUMMER 2021 CALENDAR

June

June 6: Dessert Auction
@ 5 pm

June 13: Graduate Sunday

June 13: Pool Party @
Ridgetop Pool (2-4 pm)

June 21-25: CampRVA*

June 27-30: VBS &
Painting Youth
Room couches

July

July 6: TakeOut Tuesday
@ 5 pm

July 8: Kings Dominion*

July 11: Pool Party @
Ridgetop Pool (2-4 pm)

July 13: TakeOut Tuesday
@ 5 pm

July 14-16: MissionRVA*

July 18: Flying Squirrels Game*

July 20: TakeOut Tuesday
@ 5 pm

July 27: TakeOut Tuesday
@ 5 pm

August

August 3: TakeOut Tuesday
@ 5 pm

August 10: TakeOut Tuesday
@ 5 pm

August 17: TakeOut Tuesday
@ 5 pm

August 22: Pool Party @
Ridgetop Pool (2-4 pm)

August 24: TakeOut Tuesday
@ 5 pm

August 26: Oregon Hill Meal

August 28: Kickers Game*

*Indicates chaperones needed.
Reach out to Marnie if you can help.

SAVE THESE DATES!

After more than a year of challenges, here is a look at events and happenings for youth this summer. Save these dates and look for more information to come on all these things!



CampRVA

June 21-25

For all youth 6th-12th grade – Friends are welcome!

Come join us as we explore how God calls us to live in full color. Our camp, in partnership with Huguenot Road Baptist Church, Bon Air Baptist Church, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Second Baptist Church, and Derbyshire Baptist Church, will include Bible study, dinner, fellowship, missions, worship, and more. Worship will be creative and engaging. There will be tie-dying and a big game of capture the flag with color powder. It will be fun and memorable. The cost is \$60 per youth. Register by June 6 at www.camprva.org.

YOUTH SUNDAY

May 16 was Youth Sunday for River Road. It was a tremendous Sunday in which our youth showed their leadership and dedication in incredible ways. The music, words, and thoughtful faith these youth shared with us will be a lasting memory. I am grateful that I get to journey with these students each and every day.

BY MARNIE FISHER-INGRAM



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Wow! I can't believe it is summer! I am looking forward to having more opportunities for the children to get together for fun and fellowship. This summer many activities have been planned for children and their families.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 27-30 with a rain date on July 1. The theme this year is *Great Big Beautiful World*. We will kick off our VBS on Sunday, June 27, 5-7PM with a food truck, a skit, and activities. VBS will be from 9-11AM Monday through Wednesday. We are still in need of both youth and adult volunteers.

There will also be opportunity for older children to volunteer the afternoons on Monday, June 28 and Tuesday, June 29 at Shalom Farms. More information about this service opportunity will be emailed soon.

Along with VBS, other activities have been planned for children and their families, like playground picnics and water fun at Twin Hickory Park, pool parties, a movie night, and a night at the Flying Squirrels. During select Monday evenings in the months of July and August, all children can bring their dinners to the plaza and learn about ways to help show God's love to our neighbors. Small projects will be completed each evening that benefit people in our community.

Please look for weekly Children's Ministry emails for more information. If you do not receive these emails, please contact me at sandyrooney@rrcb.org or visit rrcb.org/connect.

BY SANDY ROONEY



A Hint of Things to Come



What a year we have had, friends! But with spring budding around us and vaccines moving forward, hope is beginning to well up! It will be so wonderful to reclaim freedom to go out, enjoy family visits, hug, gather, and worship, all of us together, in our sanctuary. In this hopeful spirit, our Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation has begun **working toward a churchwide event to take place early next year, with exact dates coming soon.**

rrcb.org/wow

We are planning a retreat weekend of good food, friendship, community, and laughter, along with learning and worship. Our planning team includes *Taylor Bostic, Bert Browning, Susan Halloran, Scott Leake, Eleanor Roberts, and Cathy Whitty, with staff members, Marnie Fisher-Ingram, Anna Miller, and Sandy Rooney.* As this group meets and starts the planning process, the prospect just gets more exciting.

Our theme for this gathering is **Wonder**, and it will be designed to help us reconnect, or maybe connect for the first time, with the astonishment and awe that comes with following our marvelous God. The weekend will consist of segments for the whole community and some times that are age specific. In addition, there will be topics of study and activities that you get to select based on your own interests.

Planning has already started in order to allow us this opportunity in 2022. Details will be coming to you throughout this year to bring all of us along so we can prepare together for this much needed time. If you will, please begin now by praying for guidance for our planning team, for the church community to be energized and ready to actively participate, and that God's greatness will shine through to all who participate.

MISSIONS

Comfy Care Kits

Order from Amazon Wishlist by June 4, 2021

Assemble Kits at the CARITAS Center

Saturday, June 12, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

rrcb.org/caritas for details and the Amazon Wishlist

The ladies in The Healing Place for Women need basic undergarments for everyday life. All incoming women for the CARITAS Center will be receiving these items in a 'Comfy Care Kit.' There is an Amazon Wishlist/Registry setup with all of the items needed for a total of 50 kits, sized small-XXLarge.

There is also the opportunity to tour the new CARITAS Center and assemble these kits onsite. Five volunteers are needed to tour and assemble the kits at the CARITAS Center (2220 Stockton Street, Richmond, VA 23224). The tour will be first and will take about an hour to walk around the facility, then you will be escorted to the assembling area. All volunteers must be age 18+ for this volunteer opportunity. Any questions, please call Laurie Gray (804) 998-3597.

First Sunday Food Shares

June 6, July 11, August 1

12:00-2:00 p.m., Lower Commons Entrance

rrcb.org/foodshare for the shopping list

We hope you will continue to support our monthly food collections. The need for food in the Richmond area is still great. Each month, your donations are helping fill the food pantries at both the Church Hill Wellness Center and the South Richmond Baptist Center.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, July 14, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

rrcb.org/blooddrive to make your appointment

During this uncertain time, the Red Cross is encouraging individuals to keep scheduled blood donation appointments and to make new appointments for the weeks ahead to ensure a stable supply throughout this pandemic. The Red Cross needs the help of blood and platelet donors and blood drive hosts to maintain a sufficient blood supply for weeks to come. It's important to remember that blood is perishable and cannot be stockpiled. The blood drive will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are by appointment only; no walk-ins.

CBF Global Missions Offering

Goal: \$8,000 | Collected: \$10,205

When you give to the Offering for Global Missions, you will help a person live more abundantly. 100% of your gift to the Offering will support CBF Field Personnel serving in the U.S. and around the world. Thank you to everyone for their gifts.

Fall Save the Dates

- Lloyd Jackson Ministry, Bland County: September 19-25
- CARITAS Bridge Week: October 9-15
- 16th Annual Camp Alkulana Golf Tournament: October 11
- Rise Against Hunger: October 16th

RIVER ROAD PRESCHOOL: #WEDIDIT

'Twas the end of the school year, when all through the halls
All the children were stirring, the tall and the small.
Their school bags were hung on their hooks with great care,
Packed up with treasures from this year to share.
The children were waiting to hear their names called,
As cars filled the lane to pick up them all.

With masks on our faces, thermometers in hand
Our teachers are some of the best in the land!
With extra handwashing, and cleaning some more
There are smiles under their masks when they walk in the door!
Rotations on playgrounds and isolation by teams
Had us running smoothly and efficiently it seems.

From Easter chapel that was spaced, to picnics in the yard
Juggler and magician from a distance, and a play in the courtyard.
Room centers spread out, with each child's supplies
Sensory fun for all—but individualized!

This year has been amazing, and filled with great fun
A year to be remembered for all that we have done!
This year was successful thanks to our great team,
Teachers, parents, students, church---it really does take a village
it seems.

As our academic year closes, the camp soon begins!
We can look back together—and call it a win!

BY DANIELLE SIMONE



Hope is Here... and on the Horizon continued

The Ad-Hoc Re-Entry Task force has been working toward and praying for this turning point for many months. I know you join me in thanking them for their all their hard work. I also want to express gratitude to you, River Road Church, for your resilience, patience, encouragement, and faithful stewardship as we navigated these choppy waters.

These past fourteen months have been very hard on all of us. In addition to the death and illness and loss all around us, one of

the more devastating things about this pandemic for me was my inability to worship and visit with you. I love you and I have missed you dearly. As you plan your return to in-person activities here, know that I'm ready and excited to see you.

Until then...

Daniel

2021 EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR KITTY DAVIS & BILL THURSTON

This year we would like to thank everyone who serves as Sunday school teachers at our church. We thank them for their time, talents, and the way they impact our congregation—from the teachers who work with our youngest church members in the infant room to all of the teachers supporting the many adult Sunday School classes. This past year, they've continued to reach out to their classes in creative ways and we are very grateful that they have continued to remain flexible while the church building has remained closed. We also want to thank our Sunday School directors for serving as resources for our Sunday School teachers. We look forward to seeing you greet us again soon on Sunday mornings. As a thank you, we've made donations in each of your names to the Fellowship Fund.

Dear God, thank you for these two Outstanding Educators of the Year, Kitty Davis and Bill Thurston. Kitty and Bill kept their special small groups connected during COVID when we needed strong connections so much. We honor these two and all of those who teach, mentor, and support the educational and spiritual programs here. Thank you for our pastors and staff for what they have done for over a year to reach out to all members in new and meaningful ways. We are so grateful for each staff member. We know that the time we spend in devotion, prayer, learning, searching for scriptural answers to questions and fellowship with one another is part of your desire for us. Guide each of us in our own spiritual journey. May your will for our church's educational programs always be our priority. Amen.

Kitty Davis

Ringling a bell and saying a prayer appropriate for the day and week ahead is how Kitty Davis begins Joyful Hearts each Monday. Kitty began Joyful Hearts, a women's Bible study, in 2008. This became a blessing for women of all ages and in all stages of life.



Marge Rusher honors Kitty

Currently, Joyful Hearts has about 25 members, and continued to meet through Zoom during COVID.

Kitty's love of literature and books continued when she began a book study group appropriately named, Book Lovers.

Kitty and George began a bridge group that has met for over 15 years. It was an opportunity for fellowship with RRCB members and outside participants once a month.

For many years, Kitty has taught in our children and youth ministries: nursery; 5th grade Sunday School with George; 2nd, 4th, and 5th grades; 4th and 2nd grades with Maxine and Fred Redford; Girls in Action (GA's) with Becky Spicer; and Sunday evening middle school with George and Chester Phelps.

As an adjunct professor at VCU, Kitty was often asked by Margaret Collins to be a speaker for the preschool teachers.

Kitty's grace, care, and knowledge of our church membership, is important as she supports members during times of grief and challenge by being present for them and sending notes of special thoughtfulness.

Thank you, Kitty, for your faithfulness in supporting education and spiritual programs and for your "big ideas" by starting new groups. As Dr. Slatton stated in his note about you, "We simply could not have done without her. Here's to another of those I always regarded as God's gift to the church."

Bill Thurston

Three ways Bill and Amy Thurston can drive to River Road Church, on those drives, you will pass by or near several very nice churches that one could attend.

BUT NOT BILL

When you see Bill on Sunday what do you notice? Impeccable dress, tailored suit or sport coat, perfectly coiffed hair with a just a touch of gray, starched white shirt, neatly trimmed facial hair, hand tied bow tie. Someone so dressed might be reluctant to get behind the wheel of a bus, driving our members from Lakewood and more to and from church for Sunday service.

BUT NOT BILL

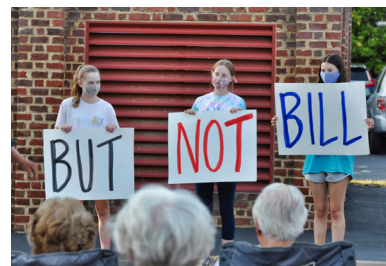
Christian Education and Spiritual Formation is not all on Sundays at 10AM. On Wednesday mornings, men of the church set their alarm clocks to gather at church for The Huddle. The Huddle takes on theological topics, discussion, and "light" reading. Faced without an opportunity, some might say "of well, there's nothing there for me" and give up.

BUT NOT BILL

Finally, back to the anchor or cornerstone: Sunday School. When one of our adult classes was in need of a strong leader and teacher, Bill was up for the challenge. Since then, the New Horizons class has been revitalized. Some outside the class may have said "who me? *BUT NOT BILL* Some teachers rotate once a month, others every other week, some take the summer off.

BUT NOT BILL Some teachers let the dated curriculum dictate what is taught. *BUT NOT BILL*

Many very fine people have received this award before, *BUT NOT BILL...* until this year.





RIVER ROAD CHURCH
BAPTIST

E N D O W M E N T F U N D

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS Ransone Hartz has served on the Board of Directors of River Road Church, Baptist Endowment Fund for 25 years, including 20 years as President of the Board; and,

WHEREAS during his service the Endowment Fund more than doubled in size and made more than \$4.5 million in grants to River Road Church, Baptist and causes supported by the church; and,

WHEREAS as president he supported new initiatives for the Endowment Fund, including new spending policies, grants supporting the church budget, and overseeing the Fund's 50th Anniversary celebration; and,

WHEREAS throughout his service to this Board of Directors, to his church and to God, his steady and consensus-seeking leadership style, his thoughtful consideration of new ideas, and his kind and generous spirit have served as inspiration and a model of living faith to us and to other people whose lives he has touched; and,

WHEREAS he has consistently demonstrated a deep love of River Road Church, Baptist and her people and served the church with distinction, using his gifts in service to our Lord Jesus Christ, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of River Road Church, Baptist Endowment Fund, express its heartfelt gratitude to Ransone Hartz, our respected and wise colleague; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these declarations of esteem be recorded in the permanent records of the minutes of the River Road Church, Baptist Endowment Fund on this date, May Twenty-Second, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One.



Food Trucks & Fellowship



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