



2022 Annual Report
River Road Church, Baptist

CHURCH CLERK

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021 **1877**

New members by transfer of letter or statement, 2021	9
Baptisms, 2022	9
Deaths, 2022	20
Removal by letter transfer or personal request, 2021	0

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022 **1875**

New members by transfer of letter or statement:

Bonnie Gates	David Courtland Tetlow
M. David Gates	Patricia (Trisha) Grizzard Tetlow
William (Will) Calvin McClain	Rolfe Downing White
Laura O'Neal	Sarah (Sally) Haughton White
Louis O'Neal	

New members by baptism:

Catie Burkett	Abby Leshner
Michael T. Cipolletti	Camille Stoakley
Elisabeth Parker Dixon	Clyde Stoakley
Alexander Gary	John Straw
Mary Alice Halloran	

Deaths:

A. Meryl Baskett	C. Page Highfill
Margaret (Marguerite) Louise Phelps Bostic	Thomas (Tom) A. Ligon
Norman Gale DeLong, Jr.	Sue Tipton Moon
Harold (Griz) Dixon	Nancy Caroline Wells Moses
Peggy Ford	Samuel Watts (Sam) Phillips
Marge Gaccino Giddings	Maxine Dolan Redford
Floyd (Bill) D. Gottwald, Jr.	Elaine Shirah Sharry
James Robert (Bob) Harper	Thomas (Tom) Edwin Starke
Jean Padgett Hart	Melvin Reid Taylor
Betty Page Layne Hazelwood	Carl Frank Wentzel, Jr.

Baptism of members who joined in 2021 by profession of faith:

Sheridan Kathleen Elizabeth Cowardin	Ellington (Ellie) Marie Dixon
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After 25 years of faithful service, Emily King retired from the position of church clerk. I am grateful for her guidance in the transition and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know this fascinating lady better.

Over the last year, River Road Church, Baptist welcomed new and returning members. We celebrated baptisms for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. We grieved together and celebrated the lives of members of our church family who passed away. Through all life and faith stages, we strive to support and strengthen each other to share Christ's light with the world.

Laura Thorne, Church Clerk

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

In his annual letter to the congregation, dated January 7, 2022, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze stated his own hopefulness for the year ahead: "Through our Coordinating Group [for Continuous Improvement and Congregational Vitality] and through everything we do together as a church, we have an opportunity to build upon the growth and vitality and relevance and mission of River Road Church. We want to share the great gift of being connected to this family with all who may be seeking a caring and loving church home." The pastor concluded with one of his oft-repeated observations: "Wherever God calls us, God is already there."

The COVID-19 pandemic, which for Richmond dated to mid-March 2020, remained a part of everyday life into a third year. In January 2022, Sunday by Sunday, more members of the congregation and visitors were choosing to worship in person rather than through the livestreaming option. Little by little, the worship services regained some of the "normal" pattern associated with a River Road Church, Baptist service including the passing of offering plates by the deacons. For communion, the church still used pre-prepared sealed plastic containers. With a lessening in COVID outbreaks and more vaccinations, fewer individuals elected to wear a mask. Despite encouraging signs, it was very likely that livestreaming of the worship service would remain a part of the "new normal," especially as it gave persons a choice and reached a possibly larger and wider audience. Zoom video conferencing also remained an option for meetings both for health reasons as well as convenience.

Dr. Glaze's message on January 23 was based on John 2:1-11, the story of Jesus turning water into wine. He concluded the sermon with references to the two years of the pandemic and with a call for hope and the continuance of the church's mission. The pastor said: "As much as I want to stand here and say everything's going to be okay and in just a few more weeks, everything will be back to normal, I can't do that. That would be dishonest. But here's what I can do. I can ask you to pray. I can ask you to pray that God will again perform the miracle of turning water into wine. We can pray that God will infuse our church family with a real and palpable sense of God's presence and a clear sense of direction. We can pray and then we can get to work."

"We can continue to reach out in love and hope here at the corner of River and Ridge. We can continue to bring food to those who are hungry through our Baptist Centers. We can continue to offer emergency assistance to Richmond's residents through the Fellowship Fund. We can support Camp Alkulana here in Virginia and our missionaries around the world. We can continue to provide faithful Bible study, a safe place for children in our preschool, and opportunities for mission service here in our city. We can refuse the temptation to turn inward and care only for ourselves, and we can swing the doors of this church open wide, and engage this neighborhood in mission and meaningful community. We can continue to proclaim the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ, and offer to this world the gift that we have been given. In other words, we can participate with Jesus' turning water into wine once again. This is my 2022 prayer for River Road. May we be the kind of church that celebrates and lives out this extravagance of God. May we be the kind of church that seeks to partner with God in turning the water of this world into a rich wine of love, grace, and new life."

And throughout the year of 2022, the people of River Road Church did continue to practice each of those elements within the pastor's prayer. Likewise, early in the year, the pastor referenced the newly-appointed Coordinating Group for Continuous Improvement and Congregational Vitality. In his sermon of February 6, which was entitled *Deep Water* and which told the story of Jesus instructing Simon to "put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch," the pastor stressed: "We want to build upon the great ministry we have found in this place now and in the future. It is deep water to which Christ is calling us.

The first step is to consider where we have already been, telling the story of our church, those brave charter members and all who came before us, to remind us of our best because it gives us hope to head out into those frightening deep waters, to wade out into the deep waters again.” At year’s end, there was a Wednesday evening program led by the Coordinating Group which shared its insights and expectations.

In February, a program was offered to help spark new perspectives and new beginnings. Over the weekend of February 25-27, which was declared “A Weekend of Wonder,” members were encouraged to discover a new sense of awe and creativity. The event was largely coordinated by the Rev. Anna Perry Miller who preached on the Sunday of the weekend. The event included world-traveled illusionist, Nate Staniforth, and several sessions provided by various individuals who shared their creativity.

Members were afforded an opportunity “to consider where we have already been” by observing Founders’ Day on April 10. The worship bulletin contained a capsule history and flowers were placed in the Sanctuary in memory and in honor of the founders and those who had been members across the years.

In 2021, the pandemic had postponed any constructive planning for observing the church’s 75th anniversary; but with signs of overall improvements, the church’s leadership recognized some windows of opportunity and quickly and effectively planned a meaningful celebration. Hopeful that the community’s health would permit, a fall weekend, October 28-30, was announced as devoted to the celebration of the delayed anniversary. A 75th anniversary coordinating committee was convened by the Rev. Anna Perry Miller and the Rev. Lacey Wondree, and various assignments were made. Fred Anderson and Tuckie Paxton were asked to create a history timeline and together they examined the annual reports submitted by the church historians since the church’s 50th anniversary in 1996. As church historian, Fred assembled the material and compiled a new history book for the last 25 years. It was entitled *A Time for Every Purpose*; and it was published by the church just in time for the anniversary weekend. The book was dedicated to the memory of Barbara Jackson who had led the History Committee for 12 years and who had created the church archives. The book served as documentation of the last 25 years with a brief overview of the founding period which served as an historical resource for the Vitality Committee. Carole Royall and Byrd Latham of the History Committee took the timeline and created a large history exhibit for the Lower Commons.

The celebratory spirit kept spreading and the Arts Committee mounted a large display which showcased some of the church’s artists and their creations. The Chancel Committee offered a floral arranging workshop for the Saturday of the anniversary weekend and named the event in memory of Sarah Drummond who was a guiding force in the church’s floral arts ministry. The attendees created floral designs for the windows of the Sanctuary so that on the anniversary Sunday the very handiwork of nature joined in the praise of God.

Fortuitously, for Friday, October 28, Dr. Robert Gallagher, Minister of Music, had already scheduled an organ concert at River Road as part of the *E. Carl Freeman Concert Series* and in sponsorship with the Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The concert featured Johann Vexo, an organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France.

Judy Dixon, a master watercolorist within the congregation, painted a watercolor of the Chapel as well as a detailed watercolor of the distinctive crest which fronts the Chapel. She presented her creation to the church and it was used as the cover for the new history book as well as for the worship bulletin for the anniversary Sunday. Members were given an opportunity to secure prints and greeting cards of the painting.

On Wednesday evenings, for our Thoughtful Faith Community, the Rev. Anna Perry Miller invited persons representative of various programs of the church to share what the last 25 years had included within their areas. Fred Anderson and Tuckie Paxton of the History Committee presented an overview of the last quarter-century using photographs and commentary. There also were programs devoted to music, missions and education. The final program in the series was the presentation by the Vitality Committee.

The pastor invited two renowned guest speakers. On September 11, the church welcomed the Rev. Dr. Paul Baxley, executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and a former member of River Road Church. Dr. Baxley's message was entitled *Embodying Bold Faithfulness*. For the anniversary Sunday, October 30, the pastor scheduled Dr. Diana Butler Bass, a popular speaker, author, and teacher. She joined a long, grand processional which included ordained members of the congregation and other guests. The worship service included the Rev. Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel and the Rev. Dr. James H. Slatton, both pastor emeritus of the church, as well as the Rev. Chester L. Phelps, Minister of Youth Emeritus. Cathy Tuck Whitty, Chair of the Board of Deacons, extended the Call to Worship.

Dr. Bass preached on the New Testament lectionary text, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, which she termed "a letter of gratitude for a church's steadfastness and growing faith." She also noted that the larger text dealt with "persecution and afflictions," topics not usually associated with joyous occasions; however, she observed that there have always been "apocalypses" in which Christians offer a unique perspective: "Welcoming all, accepting all, we love everyone that we can love. We agape everybody. When there's an apocalypse, you give thanks to God and grow in trust and love, and love, and love." In the afternoon of the anniversary Sunday, Dr. Bass lectured to an audience which included church members and interested persons from within the larger community. Her lecture topic was "The Spiritual Practice of Honestly Engaging Our Past to Live Into Our Future." In between the morning service and the afternoon program, the congregation enjoyed a barbeque luncheon.

The 75th anniversary even played into the messages sent by the Stewardship Committee in their promotion of pledges for the new fiscal year. The committee used the imagery and story of the church's outdoor fireplace as a reminder of the sacrifices of the founders and the support needed by the present members. (Note: The Stewardship Committee's update of mid-January 2023 reported pledges exceeding the goal of \$1,250,000 by some \$30,000.)

One of the last Wednesday evening programs of the year featured Tuckie Paxton's retelling of the fireplace story as members gathered near the visible symbol of the church's beginnings. The members present that evening departed with a fresh insight into the church's story as well as a sweet taste as they enjoyed s'mores.

The celebration of the 75th anniversary was a time of remembrance, reflection, and renewal. It was a time for the purpose of revisiting the dream and revitalizing a vision for what may yet be. On November 30, in a Wednesday evening program, the Coordinating Group for Continuous Improvement and Congregational Vitality or by its short name, Coordinating Group or the Vitality Committee, shared their work. Carl Collier offered an overview, noting that they had been meeting twice a month since March. He noted that each board of the church was represented. He shared that the committee had been examining and researching strategies aimed at expanding involvement, increasing diversity and enlarging outreach to the community; and in offering a vision statement, he emphasized a vision of being "welcoming of all" and "rooted in service."

Some statistics were presented which included that there were currently around 200 persons in Sunday morning worship and that 21% of the members are age 75 and above with a median age among the

membership of 57. Catharine Broadnax listed “the five pillars” which were positive characteristics or offerings of the church: Inviting and Welcoming; Music; Thoughtful Faith and Christian Education; Caring for One Another; and Missions. She observed: “How do we become so good in these strengths that it is catching on within the community.” Several plans were shared for the committee’s focus in the new year including securing a consultant, learning from the research of a futurist, expanding research, and opening an email address for congregational feedback and ideas. Dr. Glaze shared that as far as worship attendance, the livestream is undercounted while the in-person attendance is almost what it was prior to the pandemic; and he concluded with statements of his own hopefulness.

Among the musical offerings of the *E. Carl Freeman Concert Series*, the Spring Choral Concert held on June 5 featured the Chancel Choir and Camerata performing several works with the renowned organist David Briggs at the organ. He studied organ at King’s College, Cambridge, and held positions at several English cathedrals. At the time of the River Road concert, he was artist-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. On June 6, once again, River Road hosted a concert performance of the world-famous St. Olaf Choir. Earlier, on March 11, Dr. Gallagher presented a Bach organ concert; and in the news as well as in the hearts of the people was the war in Ukraine which Russian troops had invaded in late February. Dr. Gallagher closed his concert by inviting everyone in the Sanctuary to stand and sing the hymn, “When Will People Cease Their Fighting?” It was an emotionally moving experience.

Other concerts in the first half of the year included a harpsichord recital presented by Jory Vinikour, the University of Richmond Schola Cantorum, and “Broadway, Spirituals & More”—a voice recital by John Tibbetts, baritone, with Raymond Chenault, pianist. The concert series offerings for the balance of the year were as follows: the Choirs of Girls and Boys of Washington National Cathedral; an organ recital by Nathaniel Gumbs, director of Chapel Music at Yale University, which would be long-remembered by the audience for his elaborate foot work at the organ and especially for his closing selection, a rousing improvisation on the hymn “We Shall Overcome”; an organ concert by Johann Vexo of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France; a concert by Vox Humana, Richmond’s newly-formed chamber choir, under the direction of William Bradley Roberts; and the annual Christmas Concert of the Chancel Choir. The well-attended and well-received Christmas Concert featured Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols*, Biebl’s *Ave Maria*, and Durufle’s *Gloria* as well as traditional carols of the season. (Note: The Gumbs organ recital was a last-minute substitution when the Duo-Organist concert scheduled with Lynn Trapp and Jennifer Pascual had to be postponed due to a performer’s health issues.)

River Road Church, Baptist hosted the Richmond Symphony and Chorus in their presentation of Handel’s *Messiah* on December 2. It was a grand opportunity for the church to fill its pews with visitors from across the Richmond metropolitan area.

In the area of education, the Lenten Bible Study followed the book on the Ten Commandments by Adam Hamilton. The Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation presented its Outstanding Christian Educator Award to Scott Leake, a teacher of the Life Class. On Sunday, September 18, the Friendship Class observed its 60th Anniversary by sitting together in the morning worship service and by gathering for a luncheon. Included among the guests for the occasion was Mary Jane Hite Walters of Virginia Beach, a member of one of the founding families of River Road Church, Baptist.

Passport awarded nine scholarships in the second year of the Chester Phelps Passport Seminary Scholarship. Among the recipients for 2022-23 were two River Road members: Beth Rooney Bailey and Meg Rooney. The scholarship is made possible through a partnership of Passport with River Road Church, Baptist.

In the worship services, there was a series of presentations by members of the church, both clergy and laity, under the title of “Stories that Shape Us” which were glimpses into life and faith experiences. In the summer, Taizé vespers were offered on Wednesday evenings in the chancel of the Sanctuary. They were led by Dr. Michael Hawn, a highly respected teacher of hymnody, and Dr. Ken Wilson, a church member whose lifetime career was in church music.

The River Road Preschool Development Center celebrated its 50th Anniversary. On October 16, the Sunday morning worship service focused on the Preschool and a large number of Preschool families were present. The guest preacher was the Rev. Chris Burton, vice-president of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.

Danielle Simone, director of the Preschool, was awarded the Virginia Infant Toddler Network Director of the Year for the Central Region. The Preschool piloted LENA Grows, a “talk pedometer” focused on increasing language acquisition. As part of the recognition of its director, the Preschool was awarded \$2,500 in classroom materials for use in the pre-toddler and toddler classrooms.

On May 15, in a church business meeting, without opposition, the collecting and administering of the Fellowship Fund was moved after 70 years from the Board of Deacons to the Board of Missions. The change was to be made within the bylaws. The rationale behind the motion had been provided earlier, citing “the duties of the Board of Missions and [its] ongoing relationships with community missions partners.”

On Ascension Sunday, May 29, the Rev. Lacey Wondree, the church’s Ministries Coordinator, delivered a sermon in the River Road pulpit. Her message was entitled *Reimagining Presence*.

Each year the church designates a Sunday as Youth Sunday, and the youth assume the roles of worship leaders. Youth Sunday, held on June 12, carried the imprint of River Road Church in all aspects. The bulletin covers featured artwork by Eleanor Roberts and Mollie Ingram. Each aspect of the service was filled by the youth: acolytes were Jack Ryan and Marty Halloran; the voluntaries included a Bach piece sung by the River Road Camerata, Ashley Glaze playing “River Flows in You” on the piano, and James Gray, pianist, playing a piece by Beethoven. The call to worship was given by Eliza Sundberg; the Welcome and Announcements were handled by Eleanor Roberts, Amanda Rooney, and Helen Halloran; the invocation was given by Emelia Roberts; Scripture readings were presented by Jackson Koskinen, Claire McAllister, and LJ Straw; the children’s sermon was shared by Catie Burkett, Liz Dixon, Ashley Glaze, Mary Alice Halloran, Mollie Ingram, and Abby Leshner; a pastoral prayer was offered by Ella Glaze; and the offering sentences were given by Frank Halloran with the offering collected by fourteen members of the youth group. The Youth Choir, with Eleanor Roberts as soloist, presented the anthem *Draw the Circle Wide*. The River Road Camerata sang an anthem, *Panis Angelicus*. The sermon time was shared with two youth preachers: Paige Newcomb and David Cipolletti. The benediction was pronounced by Braden Leshner; and James Gray played an organ postlude, Scarlatti’s *Sonata in D major K 288*. It was a Youth Sunday long to be remembered by the congregation.

In the fall of ‘22, a new opportunity opened for the church. It began hosting the GreenSpring International Academy of Music which offered music instruction for children in various instruments.

Among the church staff there were changes. Following the resignation of LeAnne Lane who served as office manager from 2008-22, Griendora McDowell joined the staff as financial administrator. Susan Young, administrative assistant from 2008-22, who was the voice most often heard by members when

telephoning the church, retired on January 21; and in April, Laura Monfalcone Kuipers began employment in the administrative assistant position.

Fred Anderson, Church Historian

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

After an extended time including disjointed gatherings, missing one another, doing our education and spiritual formation differently, and all that COVID brought our way, 2022 brought hope and enthusiasm for renewing our commitment and desire to provide new avenues for church family growth as well as individual growth through Christian education.

The 13 elected members of the Board of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation met in person at 4:00 on the second Sunday of each month (taking the regular break during the summer months). The Board is organized into three committees which support staff in their ministry to the different age groups within the congregation. A new addition was the group meeting to plan for Young Adults under the leadership of Beth Rooney Bailey. Chairs for age groups in addition to the Young Adults were: Children's Committee—Melanie Butterworth; Youth Committee—Carl Collier; and Adult Committee—Rose Browning.

YOUNG ADULT

- Sunago—group meeting every other Tuesday evening by Zoom (except during summer)
- Sunago Sunset Series—in-person meetings in backyards throughout the summer
- Theology on Tap—once a month on Thursday nights
- Two beach retreats to Outer Banks, NC in the summer
 - July 29-31—Senior retreat for graduating seniors
- Other summer projects
- December 22—Christmas Party at home of Colin and Beth Bailey

CHILDREN

- First half of 2022 including rebuilding the Sunday School attendance by children. Teachers were very faithful to keeping communication free and open as well as planning lessons every week. Some ages were combined in order to have small groups together.
- By February worshipcare volunteers were being recruited in order to have plenty of child care.
- By Celebration Sunday, September 11, the Sunday School age groupings were changed to be more developmentally appropriate.
- Children's church beginning again in September
- April 10—Easter Egg Hunt (Palm Sunday)
- June 17-July 1—Vacation Bible School, theme: "Come to the Table"
- July 11-14—Passport Kids Camp
- October 16—Preschool Anniversary Celebration
- October 21—Family Night and Trunk or Treat
- October 30—75th Anniversary Celebration
- November 27—ADVENTure Lunch
- December 10—Child care for parents to have time to shop for Christmas
- December 16—Pizza party and tacky light tour
- December 24—Christmas Eve 4:00 service led by children and youth—Christmas Eve Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols

YOUTH

- First half of 2022 small group of youth gathered for Sunday School; Marnie Fisher-Ingram and Beth Rooney Bailey teachers
- September Sunday School began with a new emphasis of rotation of four different teachers
- March 15-27—Youth Summit in Williamsburg
- May 15—Senior Night to honor and bless seniors; last youth group of school year
- May 22—Dessert auction to benefit summer youth trips
- June 19-25—Bluefield Mission Trip in Bluefield, VA, sponsored by CBF and Bluefield College
- June 12—Graduate and Youth Sunday
- June 27-July 1—Vacation Bible School assistants
- July 18-23—Passport Youth Camp at Greensboro College
- August 4—Served breakfast at Oregon Hill Baptist Center
- August 13—CampRVA Back to School bash at Derbyshire Baptist Church
- December 10—Christmas VBS assistance
- December 18—Prison Ministry Shopping
- December 18—Christmas party scavenger hunt
- December 20—CampRVA movie night at Byrd Theater

ADULT

- Sunday School classes met by both Zoom and in person in order to meet the needs of all
- February 25-27—Weekend of Wonder retreat at church
 - Adult committee actively meeting beginning in February of 2021 to plan Weekend of Wonder
 - Large attendance (over 100)
 - Well received
 - Renewal of fellowship, good times, and interest for those attending
 - Excellent evaluations
- Wednesday night Thoughtful Faith Community series and dinners began again in March
 - March-May Programs:
 - March 2—Ash Wednesday service
 - Starting March 9—Lenten Bible study, “Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today” by Adam Hamilton; led by adult Sunday School teachers beginning with Scott Leake
 - May 18—Recognition of all Sunday School teachers
 - Revealing with congratulations the “Christian Educator of the Year”—Scott Leake
 - End of year celebration
 - September-December Programs:
 - Healthy Discussions and Listening Skills
 - A Look at the last twenty-five years as a church
 - Vitality Committee
 - Fireside carols and story around the fireplace
 - Starlight service
- February 12—Winter Woodland Walk at Henricus Park
- March 10—Group Hike at Pocahontas State Park—March 10
- Labyrinth set up in Fellowship Hall during Holy Week
- April 14—Maundy Thursday service, communion around tables in Fellowship Hall
- April 15—Good Friday service—Tenebrae service

- April 24—Earth Day lunch and film, “A Life of Our Planet” by David Attenborough
- May 22—Churchwide hike and box lunch at Forest Hill Park
- September 11—Celebration Sunday with emphasis on being together to start a new Sunday School year; picnic and fellowship in the afternoon
- June 9, July 21, August, 25, and September 29—Theology on Tap nights
- July 13, 27, and August 10—Summer Taizé Vesper Services with leadership of Michael Hawn and Ken Wilson
- July 16—Afton Tunnel Hike with large turnout
- October, Small planning group begins meeting re: Pilgrimage theme for 2023
- October 8 and December 10—Wonder through Movement with Briar Chatterjea
- October 14-15—Evolving Faith two-day virtual conference
- October 20—Crabtree Falls Hike
- October 30—75th Anniversary Celebration—worship, lunch, and lecture with Diana Butler Bass

The members of the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation thrive on assisting the fine ministerial staff of River Road Church to offer a variety of activities for both education and personal growth. We challenge the membership to become aware of offerings and make every effort to participate.

Diane Shoemake, Chair

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons for 2022 was comprised of 57 members. The elected officers were:

- Chair—Cathy Whitty
- Vice Chair—Ann Domyan
- Treasurer—Steve Larson
- Secretary—Richard Seward

Digital Committee:

- Laura Lee Chandler—Sign Up Genius coordinator for deacon duties, including greeting, communion, receptions, and funerals
- Karen Collier—editor and coordinator of deacon duties webpage and handbook

In 2022, in response to the ongoing pandemic, the board held hybrid meetings, offering both in-person and Zoom attendance. As the year began, we were not passing offering plates or communion trays due to COVID restrictions. An offering plate was positioned on a welcome table in the narthex for members to place their offerings. On communion Sundays, baskets were used to share the communion elements with church members as they entered the Sanctuary. Deacons signed up to greet at each door using the baskets to offer the elements of communion. Bulletins were distributed by the ushers via the Ushers Committee. We began passing the offering plates during worship in April, and in September we began serving communion in our traditional manner and resumed having church receptions.

Two ad hoc committees were formed at the February meeting—one for the Fellowship Fund and the other for social events (deacon dinners, church receptions).

The ad hoc committee for the Fellowship Fund was to review the history and current operation of the deacons’ Fellowship Fund and to make recommendations as to possible changes. The individuals

appointed to the committee were Ann Domyan, Harper Alford, Jean Cauble, Raj Chatterjea, Cam McGuire, Susan Phillips, and Steve Larson, those serving together with Daniel Glaze.

The ad hoc committee for the Fellowship Fund, having conferred with an ad hoc committee of the Board of Missions, moved that the Board of Deacons accept the committee's recommendation that the collection and administration of the Fellowship Fund be transferred to the Board of Missions, and with the agreement of the Board of Missions by vote of its membership, to seek together the appropriate amendments to the church by-laws to reflect the change in administration. Both boards voted in favor of the motion. At the church business meeting in May, a vote was taken and the motion approved to amend the church by-laws to authorize the Board of Missions to assume administration of the Fellowship Fund from the Board of Deacons.

In February, David Breckenridge, Minister of Pastoral Care, shared with us about how to best communicate and care for our deacon care groups. Subsequently, several meetings included a time of sharing by certain deacons about ways they cared for their group. Deacon dinners and gatherings were held in May, October, and December, when we enjoyed fellowship in the church courtyard and by the fireplace.

The deacon chair serves as the chair of the Coordinating Council, which consists of the pastor and the chairs of the Board of Deacons, Board of Missions, Board of Administration, and Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. The council meets quarterly to facilitate communication among the boards, the congregation, and the pastor. We held three breakfast meetings in 2022 for this purpose and to share ideas.

As we transitioned from pandemic to living with COVID as endemic, 2022 was a year of gradually coming back to our traditional practices in our lives—at home, at work, in our communities, and here at church. As 2022 closed, the board had resumed all the traditional responsibilities of deacon, in some ways amended to include precautions in hopes protecting the health of all. Meetings continued to offer Zoom participation as an option. Communion was served traditionally, but using pre-packaged elements for safety's sake. Receptions were carefully planned to ensure refreshments could offer hospitality while encouraging safety in doing so. Deacons making visits to members of their care groups followed safety precautions as required and preferred by the member visited. As we learned to live with COVID in our midst, the ministries of our church adapted accordingly, including those that are the responsibility of the Board of Deacons.

As 2022 drew to a close, board officers for 2023 were elected: chair, Ann Domyan; vice chair, Steve Larson; secretary, Richard Seward.

Looking to the new year, may we continue to encourage one another, to grow and nurture one another, and be open to new ideas as we seek to further Christ's kingdom through the ministries of River Road Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Whitty, Chair

BOARD OF MISSIONS

We persevered through COVID, and although not everything opened up at once, it was nice to be able to get out and do hands-on projects, in person, again. Here is a nearly-inclusive, somewhat-alphabetical list of ongoing BOM efforts for 2022.

- Baptist Centers: Every month, the First Sunday Food Share was set up in the Lower Commons. Carol Cruickshanks coordinated the collection and delivery of food to one of the three Baptist Centers at Church Hill, Oregon Hill, and South Richmond.
- Bland County: Steve Lowery led our team on the Lloyd Jackson Memorial Bland Mission Trip from September 18-23. An extensive wheelchair ramp was built, among other projects.
- Camp Alkulana: Our church hosted a dinner/auction on April 30, attended by over 200 people. Scott Leake cooked the dinner. Bill Rusher led a small but effective work crew to camp on June 4. A benefit golf tournament was held at Belmont Golf Course on October 29.
- CARITAS: In February and October, Scott Leake cooked and delivered dinner for 160 and 80 people respectively. Other volunteers supplied desserts. The Youth packed lunches. Collections were taken up for washcloths, towels, and men's shower shoes, undergarments and socks. A new Helping Hands system was started at the women's shelter. Laurie Gray was elected to the Junior Board of CARITAS.
- CrossOver Clinic: The Sewing Circle, led by Margaret Phelps, generally had 15 in attendance at meetings at the Quioccasin location. That building was purchased by CrossOver during the year. Daniel Glaze was elected to serve on the CrossOver board.
- FeedMore—Meals on Wheels: Led by Mary Iva Jones, the Friendship class has carried this mission forward for decades.
- Micah at Oak Grove Elementary: Susan Ryan and others continued to tutor at the school, and over 100 teachers and staff members each received a \$75 check for their faithfulness during the COVID period. This was thanks to some surplus BOM funding and an anonymous gift.
- Nickelsville Mission Trip: Laura Lee Chandler led us in assembling craft supply bags on January 26, which were later sent to Jan and Tony Johnson. The actual mission trip to Nickelsville was postponed until April 2023.
- Prison Ministry: In-person visits with the boys at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center resumed. Christie Lessels organized several informational meetings on Wednesday nights with RRCB's local prison ministry partners.
- Red Cross Blood Drive: Led by Bonnie Livick, RRCB hosted events on July 13 and November 7, and we exceeded the units-of-blood goal each time.
- Renew Crew—Ramps—project:HOMES: George Davis led wheelchair ramp building projects in April, August, and November.
- Rise Against Hunger: Austin Clark led an intergenerational food packaging event that was held at RRCB on May 21. A much larger community event was planned offsite for MLK day, January 16, 2023, for which RRCB will provide the bulk of the funding, and many volunteers.

Of course, that list does not tell the whole story. We also conducted annual offerings for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions in April, and for our local River City Faith Network in May and June, and for our state Baptist General Association of Virginia Alma Hunt offering in September.

Seasonal offerings included Back-To-School collections for Church Hill Wellness Center in August, Thanksgiving baskets for Oregon Hill in November, Thanksgiving Offering for Welborne UMC

Community Food Pantry in November, and collections for the Christmas Store for Church Hill in December.

Several unique, one-time, events happened in 2022, as well.

- Laura Lee Chandler led an effort to transform the Upper/Lower Commons stairwell. The stairwell was cleaned and painted. Carpet squares and a table were installed. Three quilts made by Julia Nixon were hung, with professional signage beside each quilt. It is beautiful.
- Early in 2022, a surplus of \$25,000 from the 2021 church budget was distributed by the BOM to 10 different entities. The four major beneficiaries were the Fellowship Fund (\$5K), Oak Grove Staff (\$5K), Ukraine Relief (\$5K), Richmond Hill (\$4K). Additionally, \$1,000 went to each of the following: Passport Scholarships, CBFVA Scholarships, Bland Missions, Nickelsville Missions, CrossOver, and CARITAS.
- Our church raised \$27,165 for Ukraine relief in 2022. We are blessed to have Dean Miller on the BOM, who through his work at the BGAV has guided our funds towards Baptist affiliates in the region. Some of that total, \$2,370, has reached Lubos Dzurik directly. Lubos was an intern at RRCB while he was at seminary. His family has taken in at least 20 refugees from Ukraine.
- The responsibility for the administration of the Fellowship Fund was transferred from the Board of Deacons (BOD) to the Board of Missions (BOM). This was voted on by the Church at a business meeting on May 15, 2022. For background, here is part of what was presented for consideration, “The Fellowship Fund was established over 70 years ago, when the church was relatively new, to respond to needs in the congregation and community when they arose. At that time, the church did not have a BOM, and requesting entities on behalf of individuals were comparatively few. In recent years the income and requests of the fund have grown significantly. The duties of the BOM and ongoing relationships with community missions partners offer opportunities to identify more quantifiable ways to use the funds to make the greatest impact in our community.” In other words, the Fellowship Fund is a better match for the BOM. Policies and procedures have been established within the BOM to continue to honor the intent of the Fellowship Fund, as stated in BOD policies and procedures, which is “to help with rent or mortgage payments, utilities such as gas, oil, electricity and water, medical expenses, funeral expenses, and emergency lodging.”

In closing, it is an honor to serve on the Board of Missions with such driven and dedicated members.

Submitted by Bill Rusher, Chair

FACILITIES USE COMMITTEE (BOA)

The Facilities Use Committee of the Board of Administration is responsible for making recommendations to the Board relative to the establishment, review, revision, and implementation of policies concerning use of the buildings and grounds of the church by church groups, non-church groups and individuals. When specific requests are received from these groups, the Facilities Use Committee reviews the request for approval or disapproval. If approved by the Committee, and it also requires Board of Administration approval, the request is then presented to the Board for approval.

During 2022, the Facilities Use Committee received and approved the following requests:

- A request that the Church of the Incarnation use our Chapel for Sunday morning services. (This was later cancelled by the Church of the Incarnation.)
- A request that Diana Butler Bass, the speaker at our 75th Anniversary celebration, be permitted to sell her books at her workshop event.

- A request that the GreenSpring International Academy of Music use designated areas of our church for providing musical instruction to students through private lessons and various musical ensembles.
- A request that the Richmond Symphony Chorus perform Messiah in our Sanctuary on December 2, 2022.
- A request from the RRCB Arts Committee to take orders for note cards with a painting by Judy Dixon on them as a fundraising project in connection with our 75th Anniversary celebration.

Harper Alford, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE (BOA)

The Finance Committee met monthly throughout 2022 to support the Board of Administration in carrying out its responsibilities to oversee the financial operation and condition of the church. Finance Committee activities and actions during the year included:

- Recommending a 2022 church budget to the Board of Administration for its approval and subsequent recommendation to the congregation, which unanimously approved this proposed budget at the business meeting on January 30, 2022.
- Reviewing revenue and expenses of the church on an ongoing basis to monitor performance against budget, identify potential challenges, and initiate appropriate action, as necessary.
- Reporting the financial results and financial position of the church to the Board of Administration on a regular basis.
- Reviewing the designated funds to ensure that funds were expended in accordance with the donor intentions.
- Reviewing and approving the preschool budget for the 2022-2023 school year and assisting with various financial matters related to the preschool.
- Considering budget requests from officers, boards, councils, and standing committees of the church in preparation for recommending a 2023 operating budget.
- Requesting a grant of \$325,000 from the Endowment Fund to support the 2023 operating budget.
- With information provided from the House and Grounds Committee and Building and Property Council, coordinated funding for identified priority projects. Offered a proposal on behalf of the House and Grounds to the Board of Administration to authorize the expenditure of up to \$500,000 of operating reserves to complete urgent structural repairs requested by the House and Grounds Committee to include steeple repair, louvers installation, masonry repair, and the associated labor and materials. The proposal was approved by the Board of Administration on September 18, 2022, and subsequently by the congregation at a business meeting on October 9, 2022.

Highlights of the church's financial results for the year were:

- Total revenue increased by 157K from the prior year to 2.038Mill and was 5% (92K) above the budgeted revenue. Offerings with pledge finished the year behind budget 55K while offerings without pledge (members) were 26K ahead of budget and offerings without pledge (non-members) were 19K ahead of budget. The River Road Church Preschool continues to be an increasingly important contributor to the revenue of the church with an overhead offset of 242K in 2022.
- Total expenses were 1.921Mill which was 215K (12.5%) above prior year actual and 25K (2%) below budget.

- Excess of revenue over expenses for the year was 117K. The Finance Committee recommended to the BOA that this excess revenue should be distributed as follows:
 - The full 117K to the Provision for Future Expenses—Facility Upgrades. This is to help limit the impact on usage of the Operating Reserve for the approved facility repairs and replacement. This recommendation was approved by the BOA on January 22, 2023.
- The church ended the year in a very liquid position with cash and cash equivalents totaling 2.087Mill.
- Preschool through the calendar year-end (four months into its fiscal year), reported revenue ahead of last year by 15% (108K) while expenses were higher by 12% (36K). The preschool has in its budget an overhead offset contribution of 242K to the church revenue.

In summary, the church had a very successful 2022 as we returned to more traditional operations. We are grateful for the leadership of those leading our ministries and blessed by their financial stewardship as they guide us on our faith journey. We continue to monitor the mix of revenue sources for the church operations as church life adjusts to new realities post pandemic. We continue to benefit from the River Road Church Preschool ministry and the financial contributions it makes to our congregation. As 2023 begins, we will continue to keep our eye on predicted economic conditions and work the congregational funds to support our staff, our members, and our communities as a faithful congregation.

Buddy Sumner, Chair

Members: Hilton Almond, Fred Bagwell, Jean Cauble, George Davis, Robert Gray, Ransone Hartz, Kate Knerr, Steve Lessels

HOUSE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE (BOA)

The House and Grounds Committee had a very busy and engaging year at River Road Church, Baptist. The following comprises a high level review of our committee's specific activities and involvement over the course of this past year:

1. We had a productive church workday in the spring to perform cleanup, mulching, weeding and other miscellaneous activities around the church grounds. A second scheduled fall/winter workday was ultimately postponed due to inclement weather and interference with other church facility commitments.
2. The church was painted in the early fall of this past year. The project was executed safely, at/under budget, and to the satisfaction of the committee.
3. Several small projects were executed in the Lower and Upper Commons, and preschool areas which included painting, area rugs, new speed bumps, a door replacement adjacent to the playground, removal of carpet and the installation of carpet/carpet squares in various different classrooms.
4. The church's administrative area received some small improvements in the form of painting. Additional plans to improve the church parlor with updated furnishings, light fixtures, painting, etc. were initiated for future implementation.
5. Keeping the church buildings watertight continues to be a challenge that requires constant diligence and effort, several projects have been completed or are underway in this area:

- a. Water infiltration from the steeple into the balcony was addressed. The roof in steeple bell tower was refurbished and the drainage piping was repaired/replaced and insulated. The plaster roof above the balcony was repaired and refinished.
 - b. A stop gap assessment and spot repair of the church's roof to address falling/failing slate was performed.
 - c. Flat roof repairs were made at the colonnades, over the choir room, and over two roof areas on the Chapel roof.
 - d. Gutter refurbishment was completed at the eave of the Sanctuary. This has been a source of water infiltration in the brick veneer that line the side walls of the Sanctuary building.
 - e. Additional gutter and downspout repairs were performed around campus.
 - f. An additional steeple roof repair initiative which required a good amount of the church's operating reserve, was requested by the Finance Committee and approved by the congregation to perform additional steeple work which will include the replacement of two levels of lead coated copper roofing and balustrade. Also included in the scope of the project is the installation of wind driven rain louvers in the four openings in the bell tower of the steeple.
 - g. This implementation will greatly improve drainage requirements and stop water infiltration in the steeple at the source. This project has kicked off and it is estimated that this will work will be completed by mid- to late-summer 2023.
6. The Chapel chimney flue was lined to prevent interior damage and the crown was repaired.
 7. Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall chimney inspections are in the process of being performed. Subsequent repair and restoration are anticipated in 2023.
 8. The services of a roofing consultant were engaged to review the condition and status of the approximately 40,000 plus square foot of roofing we have on the church property. The purpose of this inspection was to identify the extent, if any, of moisture intrusion into the existing roof assemblies, document observed roof system deficiencies, determine the overall condition of the existing roof systems, and to estimate the remaining service life of the in place roof assemblies.

The consultant produced their final revision of this report which we received in mid-December 2022. Review is ongoing and we look forward to sharing the study findings and recommendations in the coming year.

9. A small group led by Peggy Pruden completed an effort to "refresh" the Reception Room with painting, furnishings, light fixtures, and a small fire protection strobe relocation. They are interested in renaming the room to The Founders Room, in dedication to the church's founding members.
10. Bill Rusher and George Davis continued with their various electrical projects around the church.
11. The FIXERS assisted, as they always do, with various projects around the church campus.
12. Contract renewals for HVAC and lawn maintenance were negotiated and implemented.
13. A stormwater maintenance/inspection quotation was received, executed, and added to the church's recurring service contracts.

14. New logo mats were ordered and installed in the front and side entry doors at the Narthex.
15. Several HVAC repairs were completed along with the replacement of a water heater in the Kitchen.
16. A list of projects that require masonry repair and restoration around the property such as brick repointing, mortar joint repair, brick replacement, grinding, etc. were prioritized and a masonry contractor was engaged to price these repair & restoration efforts. The prioritization and costing of these projects were helpful in determining future years projects and budgeting for the same. This is an ongoing activity that will ebb and flow as specific prioritized projects are addressed and added to the list.

I'd like to thank the members of this committee for their work and faithfulness to our charge. Special thanks to Daniel Ingram, Minister of Administration, who worked tirelessly to communicate, stay ahead of the wave and keep things between the lines.

Thanks to Jack Heisler, Charlie Early, and Rick Scherer who assisted on with the specific projects of church painting and preschool and administrative area needs.

I'd also like to offer gratitude to George Davis, R. C. Moore, and Tom Gilsdorf for their continued dedication, counsel, patience, collaboration, and advice. It is greatly appreciated.

River Road has a large physical plant that has commended to us. As stewards of this great and beautiful property, we owe it to our founders, to current and future congregational generations, and to the glory of God to care for what has been entrusted to us as we continue to fulfill God's ministry on earth here at the corner of River and Ridge.

Should you have any specific questions or inquiries related to this report, feel free to contact me directly. I am honored to serve as chair of this committee at River Road and look forward to our continued work in the coming year.

John T. Whitty, Chair

INSURANCE COMMITTEE (BOA)

On November 17, 2022, Jean Ellis and Daniel Ingram met with Lynn Scanlon, our insurance representative, via a Zoom call. The church policy and coverages were reviewed in detail. The main changes were to the building coverages, as these are updated annually to maintain replacement cost coverage per the commercial building index for our area. Due to inflation and supply issues, the building index went up quite a bit. It was decided to accept an increase in the property deductible from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to help offset some of these costs. We also amended the Worker's Compensation section to include the payroll for the on-duty police officers. The renewal quote of \$71,020.00, for the term of 01/01/2023 to 01/01/2024, was received the week before Christmas. We discussed the quoted premium at that time, and agreed to accept it. This premium represents an increase of 16.5% over the prior year, 01/01/2022 to 01/01/2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Ellis, Chair

KITCHENS COMMITTEE (BOA)

It was with a happy heart when Wednesday night dinners got back to a regular schedule on March 2, 2022.

The chef from Second Baptist supplied us with meals until May. Meals started again on September 14. By October we had no chef so we ordered meals from restaurants in the area. This worked out very well. A new chef, Stanley Barnett, was hired. We have had excellent meals. Stanley is a joy to work with.

The church is concerned that more people do not take advantage of Wednesday night suppers and programs. You don't know what you're missing!

I have thoroughly enjoyed working the Wednesday night suppers and pray someone will take leadership of this important task. I also want to thank everyone who worked with me over the years. I couldn't have done it without you all.

Betty Damon, Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (BOA)

The BOA Personnel Committee was involved in various RRCB personnel events and milestones in 2022, including:

- completing Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze, Pastor, 2022 performance evaluation
- Rev. Daniel Ingram, Minister of Administration, sabbatical (approved in 2021)
- Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram, Associate Pastor to Youth and Their Families, sabbatical (approved in 2021)
- assisting church leadership with the retirement of Susan Young and hiring of Laura Kuipers, Administrative Assistants
- reviewing and approving 2022 staff performance evaluations
- reviewing and approving 2023 personnel budget and housing allowances
- reviewing and approving preschool tuition adjustment for staff members
- reviewing and approving temporary, part-time Fellowship Fund manager
- supporting the pastor's 2023 sabbatical proposals
- voting on various staff salary adjustments
- assisting church leadership with the departure of LeAnne Lane, Office Manager, and transitioning to an independent contractor for Financial Administrator, Griendora McDowell

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Seward, Chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (BOA)

The Stewardship Committee is grateful to the congregation for its generous response and to the members of the staff that assisted us with the campaign. We were fortunate to have the 75th anniversary celebration concurrent with this year's campaign. We adopted the theme "Honoring the Vision" and a campaign logo incorporating an image of the fireplace around which the original congregation gathered for worship.



The committee adopted a goal of \$1.25 million, a four percent increase over the previous year's amount. We are happy to report that the goal was reached.

Stewardship Campaign Update—January 11, 2022

- \$1,280,173 has been pledged with 215 pledge cards received
- 196 family units who pledged \$1,159,746 for year 2022 have pledged \$1,201,269 for year 2023, a 3.6% increase
 - 71 families increased their pledges by a total of \$53,495
 - 109 families kept their pledges the same
 - 16 families decreased their pledges by a total of \$11,972
- 19 family units who did not pledge last year have pledged \$78,904 for year 2023
- We have not heard from 22 families who pledged \$74,400 last year

Last year our pledges totaled \$1,205,000. A modest yet achievable goal for this year was \$1,250,000, a 4% increase.

We have reached and surpassed our goal!

Many thanks to all who pledged, to the members of the Stewardship Committee, and the church staff who assisted the work of the committee.

The members of the committee collaborated in sending a hand-written thank you note to each person/family who pledged this year.

Respectively submitted,
Bob Shoemake
Carl Collier
Tom Gilsdorf
Chris Gobble
Ed Pruden, Chair

CHANCEL COMMITTEE

The Chancel Committee is made up of the following subcommittees: flower teams and special events, weddings, funerals, paraments, and flower ministry. Betsy Lowery is the chair of the Chancel Committee.

Margaret Almond and Julia Tyler chair the Flower Teams and Special Events Committee. This committee was very active this year in preparing for the 75th anniversary of our church. Jane Terry, Diana Mahoney, and Margaret Almond organized the flower decorating for this celebration. A flower arranging demonstration was held on the Saturday before the celebration. Church members were invited to attend. Teams were organized to make arrangements for each window in our Sanctuary. In addition to this, Jane, Diana, and Margaret designed magnificent arrangements for the chancel and narthex areas of the Sanctuary. Everything was outstanding. Easter and Christmas decorating was organized perfectly, as well. Lilies, poinsettias, and wreaths were ordered from Stranges on Broad Street again this year. Members of the church and the FIXERS were invited to assist in putting up and taking down all decorating. It was so nice to see everyone work together to make these holiday celebrations beautiful.

The Wedding Committee is led by Margaret Almond, Bonnie Way, and Betsy Lowery. Four beautiful weddings took place this year.

The Funeral Committee is chaired by Janet Bagby. Janet has organized and trained a team to assist her in orchestrating a funeral in a very meaningful manner. This team is Karen Cothran, Karen Collier, Mary Beth Scherer, and Paul Honaker. Deacons were notified through emails and Sign Up Genius to assist during a funeral. Excellent care continues to be provided to families going through the loss of a loved one.

Betsy Lowery is the chair of the Paraments Committee. She follows the liturgical calendar and changes the paraments as needed. Members of the Chancel Committee assist as needed.

Deb Gray and Betsy Lowery chair the Flower Ministry. Teams of two ladies are organized per month to break down the altar flowers. These ladies do a lovely job making small arrangements for our church members to pick up and take to individuals going through a difficult time or celebrating something special.

Betsy Lowery organized the altar flower calendar for the year. With the help of Cassandra Ducca and Lacey Wondree, our church members were able to choose a Sunday to honor or remember a loved one. We are very thankful for the continued love and support of this service. We have flower teams who diligently work together on Fridays to arrange the altar flowers for each Sunday. These ladies share their time and talent graciously.

In addition to the chairs of these committees, the Chancel Committee is blessed to have so many dedicated women and men who offer their time to support all chancel jobs.

Betsy Lowery, Chair

COLUMBARIUM MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Columbarium Memorial Garden Committee, also known as the Columbarium Committee, is charged with the oversight of the Columbarium and its associated garden. Primary responsibilities of the committee include the periodic review of the guidelines for the use of the Columbarium and maintaining the appearance and dignity of the garden. Located behind the Chapel, the Garden was dedicated on Palm Sunday of 1997 to receive ashes from cremation and is available to current and prior members of River Road Church and their immediate families.

The Columbarium wall is composed of a total of 368 niches (48 large and 320 small). Each large niche can accommodate up to four urns, while each small niche can accommodate up to two urns. Currently there are 28 large niches and 243 small niches available for purchase. Plaques are mounted on the niches to commemorate those inurned within.

There is also a “common ground” where ashes can be buried. Plaques mounted on the Chapel wall in the Garden commemorate those whose ashes are buried in the ground.

The committee meets on an ad hoc basis. It met on November 28, 2022, in virtual session. At this meeting, committee members discussed maintenance necessary in 2022, including integrating the lights into the timer system, pressure washing, aerating, seeding, and mowing.

Plans for 2023 include re-pointing the brick in the walls and on the ground, as previously approved by the committee. The costs of this maintenance and repair of brickwork will be funded by the Columbarium Operating Reserve. A future project to be considered is the updating of landscaping beside the columbarium, north of the Chapel and the irrigation of that area. Replanting pachysandra in the natural areas in the columbarium has also been discussed.

Also mentioned for 2023, is sending information to church members reminding them of the availability of the Columbarium. Placing pamphlets on the tables in the narthex was also suggested.

The committee wishes to express its appreciation for the periodic assistance provided by the RRCB FIXERS in maintaining the physical structure of the Columbarium and its associated gardens.

The Columbarium provides a beautiful and sacred place for members of our faith community to choose as a final resting place for themselves and their family. The Columbarium Committee will continue to ensure its lasting and meaningful value.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Lessels, Chair

Members: Fred Bagwell, Caroline Brown, Lisa Cipolletti, George Davis, Gladys Fleming, Martha Lou Greene, Anne Kirkup; Daniel Ingram, Staff Liaison

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee's singular focus this year was to work together with the Communication Specialist and Digital Congregations on the Communication Audit project. Digital Congregations was hired at the end of 2021 to work with RRCB. The Communication Audit focused on our current communication streams, the data derived from each communication's reach and what people did with the communication piece (where we could obtain that data). The Communications Specialist and a few members of the Communications Committee worked constantly with Digital Congregations during this process and the Committee as a whole gave input at critical intervals. The intention of the audit was to learn where RRCB can have efficiencies in communications and options in our future communication streams to create an engaged community.

The Communications Audit resulted in a Communications Plan delivered at the end of 2022. Going into 2023, the Communications Committee will work with the Communications Specialist to assist in the final look of the Communication Plan and update the congregation on the process.

It is important to note that our Communications Specialist is outstanding in her work, cares deeply for the congregation, and goes above and beyond to get our messages out to the members. RRCB is very lucky to have such a dedicated Communications Specialist. (She is the one who put this whole Annual Report together!)

The Communications Specialist continued to work closely with the missions and music ministries to promote their projects and events, as well as the rest of the ministerial staff and other church groups. Specifically, the fall was a busy time that required a lot of communications support—a few of those included Celebration Sunday and a visit from Rev. Dr. Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator of CBF; River Road Preschool's 50th anniversary; and the church's 75th anniversary.

The main outlets for communication are weekly emails, church website, and social media—Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. (The RRCB Twitter account—@RRCBaptist—was retired in 2022 since our demographic is not found on Twitter.) Church emails are sent out four times a week: *e-Spire* newsletter on Tuesday afternoons, Thoughtful Faith Community supper reservations on Thursday mornings, worship reminder on Friday afternoons, and prayer email on Sunday evenings. Other reminder emails are sent out as needed. If you do not currently receive emails from the church, you can sign up at rrcb.org/connect.

Sunday worship is livestreamed weekly on the church’s YouTube Channel. The services remain available on the YouTube Channel to watch later. Edited videos highlighting moments from worship, Sunday School lessons, or general church activities are also shared and posted on YouTube. Special services, memorial services, concerts, and other special events are occasionally livestreamed on the YouTube Channel, as well. Our highest viewed video of the year, with over 1,200 views, was the sermon by Dr. Diana Butler Bass from our 75th anniversary weekend. Dr. Bass shared the video in her weekly newsletter, *The Cottage, Sunday Musings, “Gratitude and Apocalypse”* (<https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/sunday-musings-955>).

Events and announcements continue to be posted on the church website. Those can be found on the front page of the website by scrolling down. Upcoming events, prayer list, and birthdays and anniversaries continue to be compiled on the Be The Church page (rrcb.org/connect). There are a lot of resources and information available on the church website. We continue to encourage members to use our website to keep up-to-date of church activities and to sign up/register for events and activities.

Social media is a powerful tool that we have available to us. Not only is it used for promotion and posting photos and videos of church life, but it also allows the congregation to share posts with their social media friends and family. If posting about church-related things on your personal profiles, please tag the church! This is helpful for both the church social media presence, but it’s also another touchpoint of sharing the church outside of our community. *Pro tip: the more you engage with the church posts (like and share) on social media, the more likely you are to see church posts!*

If you haven’t already...

- Like/Follow on Facebook: @RRCBaptist
- Follow on Instagram: @RiverRoadChurch
- Subscribe on YouTube: @RiverRoadChurch

We continue to use outdoor banners to promote weekly worship services; community events (VBS, Trunk or Treat, Sounds Like Summer, etc.); and highlight anniversary milestones (River Road Preschool 50th Anniversary and RRCB 75th Anniversary). As our congregation has returned to more in-person gatherings, it is important to remember that word of mouth is still one of the most effective forms of communication. Personal invitations go a long way with others.

Laurie Gray
Communications Committee Chair

Cassandra Ducca
Communications Specialist

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The History Committee took an active role in aiding the church’s observance of its 75th anniversary. The church’s archives were a ready resource for anniversary-related needs. Carole Royall and Byrd Latham conceived and constructed a large historical exhibit with the invaluable assistance of Cassandra Ducca,

Communications Specialist, and Laurie Gray. The exhibit concentrated upon the last 25 years of the church's life and ministries, 1997-2022, and followed a timeline format. The exhibit was mounted in the Lower Commons area and required the use of the exhibit cabinet as well as several other display tables and easels. It was a well-visited site during the anniversary observance weekend of October 28-30 and for the following weeks. Included among the artifacts in the exhibit was a portable organ which had been used for worship services on the church's property before the construction of the Chapel.

Fred Anderson made extensive use of the archives for the research and writing of a history book entitled *A Time for Every Purpose* which included a brief overview of the early years of the church and focused upon a year-by-year accounting of the period since the publication of the church's first history book on its 50th anniversary. Fred especially drew upon the annual reports of the church historians across the last 25 years. Tuckie Paxton also perused the annual reports and noted items which should be included in the new history. Several committee members—Martha Lou Green, Steve Pugh, and Tuckie Paxton—served as readers of the history manuscript. Carole and Byrd used the timeline in the book as inspiration for events, ministries, and missions to highlight in their exhibit which carried the same title as the book. The book was published by the church and copies were made available for the membership. The book was dedicated to the memory of Barbara D. Jackson who led the History Committee for 12 momentous years, 2000-2012, which included the establishment of the church archives in its present secure location and the beginning of digitizing photographs in the collection.

During the year, the History Committee requested the pastor to arrange two photographic sessions which produced a photograph of the three living pastors of the church together, Dr. Glaze, Pastor, and Drs. Slatton and Clingenpeel, both pastor emeritus, as well as a photograph of the current ministerial staff. These photographs were taken by Warren Johnson and were professionally framed and included in the anniversary exhibit and the new history book.

The on-going work of the committee includes the filing of church publications and maintaining the archives. At year's end, Carole and Byrd again shared their design skills in arranging the annual nativity exhibit in the History Committee's cabinet in the Lower Commons. Once again, they used the treasured nativity set which had been presented in years past by Joyce and Harold Gibson as a gift from her aunt, Frances Still.

The History Committee continues to need additional storage space for the growing archival collection. A continuing goal is to upgrade media holdings to current technology and to continue digitizing portions of the collection.

Fred Anderson, Chair

MUSIC COMMITTEE

In 2022, most aspects of River Road's Music Ministry were able to return to their status before the onset of COVID. Most importantly, music for our Sunday morning worship service in the Sanctuary was restored to normal.

Chancel Choir was engaged in their important ministry every week. Chancel Bell Choir rang with regularity. Youth Choir and Camerata sang for worship, also. Chancel Choir sang for four memorial services in 2022, as we remembered the lives of Chandler Williams (husband of long-time choir member, Robbie Williams), Griz Dixon, Dr. Phillip Geissler (son of Bev Geissler), and Marguerite Bostic.

Aside from its regular ministry of magnifying the worship of God on Sunday mornings, the **Chancel Choir** sang movements of John Rutter's *Requiem* during the season of Lent. They were originally scheduled to sing this meaningful and poignant choral work on All Saints' Sunday of 2021, but this needed to be postponed out of concern for everyone's health. The choir also presented its Annual Spring Concert on June 5 with River Road Camerata and guest organist, David Briggs (Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York). On December 11, the Chancel Choir and River Road Camerata (with harpist Anastasia Jellison) presented an Annual Advent/Christmas Concert that was extremely well attended. A portion of that concert was conducted by David Gulick, with Bob Gallagher serving as organ accompanist.

In September, Ally Yablonski joined the Chancel Choir as a soprano Choral Scholar. Ally's keen interest in conducting led Bob Gallagher to ask her to conduct on All Saints' Sunday, when the Chancel Choir sang Joseph Haydn's *Little Organ Mass* with orchestra. Ally rehearsed and conducted at a very high standard that morning, and she has also conducted several other anthems during the fall. It has been a pleasure to welcome her to River Road's Music Ministry.

Towards the end of 2022, Ken Wilson offered to edit and send out a mid-week Chancel Choir newsletter. This newsletter keeps the choir apprised of upcoming rehearsals and services and provides links to the choir roster, the anthem schedule, the attendance sheet, and other useful information.

Music Associate, Paul Honaker continued to assist with administrative and musical tasks that facilitate our choir rehearsals, services, and concerts. This includes working with several volunteers who organize the tools and resources of our ministry in the music suite.

Chancel Bell Choir, directed by Charles Todd enhanced worship at several services, including the celebration of the church's 75th anniversary and Christmas Eve. They continue to rehearse on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. in the south transept, which allows for more space between ringers.

Youth Choir, open to all 6th-12th graders, was conducted by Ally Yablonski throughout the fall. They sang for several Baptism services in the Chapel, for Youth Sunday, and for the Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. Youth Choir rehearses 30-45 minutes on Sunday evenings right before Youth Snack Supper.

River Road Camerata, which rehearses every Sunday afternoon right before Youth Choir, sang for morning worship, Suzanne and Will McClain's wedding, both services on Christmas Eve, and two concerts. Camerata continued to work on challenging music, including works by Bach, Franck, Reger, Parry, and Dale Wood.

Children's Choir, formerly Crusader Choir (Grades 2-5)—During the spring of 2022, children's choirs of all ages were meeting on Sunday afternoons. Some rehearsals were held outdoors out of COVID safety concerns. Other rehearsals were held with singers widely spaced. By the fall, it became apparent that Sunday afternoons were not the ideal time for this activity. Rehearsals for all children's choirs were moved back to Wednesday evening, dovetailing with the Wednesday evening dinner. Several parents pointed out that their children had various weekday activities that curtailed their ability to come to River Road on a Wednesday evening. Towards the middle of the fall, rehearsals for grades 2-5 were moved to Sunday mornings, 9:30-9:55 a.m. During Advent and Christmas Eve, several children were prepared to sing in worship. As of the end of 2022, the music ministry was continuing to consider what would be the best time to offer a rehearsal for this age group.

Carol Choir (pre-K-Grade 1), directed by Claire Lukenbill returned to holding rehearsals on Wednesday evenings after an intra-COVID period of rehearsing on Sunday afternoons. Claire carefully plans her rehearsals and has established an excellent relationship with the children and their parents. The positive response of the children to her enthusiastic leadership is notable. Outside of her work as an alto section leader and Carol Choir director at River Road, Claire teaches first grade in the Chesterfield School System. Claire is assisted by Rev. Dr. Ken Wilson, who has vast experience with choirs of all ages. On Sunday mornings, Claire, along with Ken, also brings music to young children in worshipcare.

UK Choir Pilgrimage—2024. Throughout 2022, Bob Gallagher has been communicating with his colleagues at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church as they plan a combined choir pilgrimage to Bath Abbey and three cathedrals in the West of England. This will take place July 20-30, 2024.

Taizé Summer Vesper Services. This form of worship is a meditative, prayerful time with simple songs, scripture reading, silence. There were three opportunities for these special worship times: July 13, July 27, and August 10. They were held in the chancel and began at 7:00 p.m. on each occasion, under the fine leadership of Dr. C. Michael Hawn and Rev. Dr. Ken Wilson.

Concert Series Events in 2022

- March 11—My Favorite Bach—Organ Recital by Bob Gallagher. At the conclusion of the recital, the audience was invited to sing the hymn “When Will People Cease Their Fighting” in recognition of the war in Ukraine, which they did with fervor.
- March 20—Harpsichord Jory Vinikour gave a dazzling memorized performance of Bach’s *Goldberg Variations* on Bob Gallagher’s French double harpsichord
- April 3—William and Mary Choir. Dinner for the choir was organized by Roy and Jane Terry, with help from a crew of volunteers
- April 10—University of Richmond Schola Cantorum
- May 1—John Tibbetts, baritone and Ray Chenault, pianist
- June 5—Annual Chancel Choir Spring Concert, featuring Chancel Choir, River Road Camerata, and organist David Briggs. The choirs rehearsed and performed a shorter program than usual due to COVID safety concerns (choral music by Gardiner, Britten, and Parry). Due to these same concerns, the Music Committee did not encourage the Social Committee to hold a reception in honor of the choir this year.
- June 6—St. Olaf Choir. Members of the music committee served as ushers. Paul Honaker provided excellent signage so that ticket holders could navigate their way through our building. Dinner for the St. Olaf Choir was provided and prepared by Terry’s, Browning’s, Robbie Williams, and several other volunteers.
- August 28—The Washington National Cathedral Girls and Boys returned to sing the concert, which is the outgrowth of their annual retreat at Roslyn Retreat Center.
- October 14—Nathaniel Gumbs, Director of Chapel Music at Yale University, performed an exciting recital that included music by female and African-American composers. Dr. Gumbs was able to appear on very short notice. The organ duo team of Jenifer Pascual and Lynn Trapp, originally scheduled for this date, was postponed to due Dr. Pascual’s breast cancer diagnosis and treatment during the fall. A reception hosted by the Music Committee was held in the parlor.
- October 28—Recital by Johann Vexo, Choir Organist of Notre Dame Cathedral and Titular Organist of Nancy Cathedral. This recital was co-sponsored by the Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

- November 20—The choral ensemble, Vox Humana, directed by William Bradley Roberts, performed its second River Road concert. The program included a wide variety of musical styles and was received with enthusiasm by a large audience.
- December 2—Richmond Symphony Chorus and Orchestra performed Handel's *Messiah*. Jane Terry served as liaison between River Road and the Symphony.
- December 11—Annual Chancel Choir Advent/Christmas Concert with River Road Camerata and harpist, Anastasia Jellison.

In the fall, River Road welcomed **GreenSpring International Academy of Music** to the Music Suite and Upper Commons and Lower Commons classrooms, where music students of all ages take lessons on a variety of instruments, including harp and piano. GreenSpring has held lessons on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons/evenings. More information about GreenSpring can be found at their website: www.greenspringmusic.org.

River Road Church is the beneficiary of a music program and a musical tradition of the highest caliber. This committee extends its heartfelt thanks to all the musicians and members of this congregation who have provided leadership and support for our worship and other musical experiences.

Prepared by Sallie Sparks, Chair

2022 Music Committee Members: Rose Browning, Tom Gilsdorf, Deb Gray, Tyler Hays, Anne James, and Phyllis West

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT CENTER COMMITTEE

The River Road Preschool Committee met for its set quarterly meetings in 2022 as well as had a subcommittee plan the 50th Anniversary of the Preschool celebration. Caroline Koskinen continued as chair and Peggy Pruden as vice chair. Sandy Rooney stepped down from her role as the Curriculum Coordinator in the preschool to fully devote her time as the Minister to Children for the church. Her membership on the committee continued as well as her role as the teacher representative between the preschool committee and preschool staff members. Danielle Simone was recognized as the Director of the Year by ITN for working to increase professional development for teachers and was awarded \$2,500 in supplies from Kaplan. It is also noted that there has been an increase in classes and enrichments over the last three years.

River Road Preschool exceeded its budget for 2022 by \$31,765. It contributed \$271,594 to the church. A staff increase of 2.5% was approved to recognize inflation and dedication of staff that all planned to return. A strategic planning line item was added to the budget to cover larger items such as furniture and equipment. A future goal is to provide laptops to all teams within the preschool. The line item started at \$5,000.00 and will be evaluated for the following school year. A 3% increase in tuition was approved for the 2023-2024 school year as tuition has been static for two years and most area preschools increased their tuition for the 2022-2023 school year.

The preschool calendar was altered for the 2022-2023 school year to continue to maintain a close alignment with the Henrico County Public School calendar that shifted the start date for students to begin before Labor Day. Teacher work week began August 22, 2022, and the first day of school for students was August 30. Class sizes returned to pre-COVID numbers as allowed by the Virginia Department of Social Services.

The summer camp schedule went out to parents with their contracts for the 2022-2023 school year. Six weeks of camp was held with extended day option and enrichments for all weeks. Approximately 75% of the school participated in camp.

Beth Crews retired in May 2022, but all other teachers returned for the 2022-2023 school year with some shifts in days/hours per week. The music teacher left to pursue a different career path during the 2021-2022 school year and a long-term sub replaced her. Kelsey Fort, a two's teacher, stepped into that role for the 2022-2023 school year. Kay Starke returned to the preschool to lead the LIFE religious education curriculum for the four's and JK classes. Peggy Watkins returned to serve in a mentor role one day a week and as a two's instructional assistant. A new position of Fun Fitness instructor was added and William "Coach Will" Phillips joined the staff in this role for the 2022-2023 year.

There were several policy changes that were submitted by Danielle and Beth and approved by the committee. The application fee was increased to \$75 due to the high volume of applications and understanding that prospects are sending applications to multiple preschools. The registration fee of \$100 was waived for teachers with two children enrolled in the preschool program for the second child only. Instituted an increase in substitute teacher pay starting in the 2023-2024 school year to remain competitive with area private schools substitute pay. The enrollment age for pre-toddler classes was voted to be changed to 12 months of age for the 2024-2025 school year. This allows children to be more mobile. Children will be required to be potty trained prior to moving into the four-year-old age group. The pre-toddler and toddler classes will register as the two-year-old age group classes do with either a Tuesday/Thursday, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, or a Monday-Friday option. The one day a week option was eliminated based on parent interest for more days per week. The committee voted to eliminate the four-day option for three- and four-year-old classes and only have a three- or five-day option for the 2023-2024 school year, again based on parent interest at this time. It was noted that this could change based on future parent requests. Peggy Pruden brought a request forward to the committee that ministers and church staff receive the same discount in place for teachers of staff at the preschool. This request was approved and given to the personnel committee which also approved it.

George Davis reached out to Danielle and suggested a scholarship fund at River Road Preschool be established. He suggested a \$1,500 line item be included in the budget. This amount for the 2022-2023 school year was contributed from funds given to the preschool by Nancy Moses upon her death. The remainder of funds she left went towards a new religious education curriculum. A structure for the future of this scholarship fund will be worked out and reported back to the committee with a possible creation of a sub-committee.

The Preschool Committee reached out to all church ministers in the form of a drafted letter to request increased ministerial presence at preschool events throughout the school year. The committee felt that would be an important link in helping to foster the efforts of our church to grow in its role of being an actively contributing member of the community and increase membership by building relationships with preschool families looking for a church home.

On October 16, 2022, the River Road Church Preschool celebrated its 50th anniversary during Sunday worship service and a reception that followed. Former teachers and directors were invited to join for the celebration. The preschool had a week of special in-house celebrations which culminated with the joint Trunk or Treat event hosted by the preschool and church. Beth Howe was instrumental in the social media marketing of the event and a key support staff on the celebration planning committee. The Rev. Chris Burton, a former RRP parent, was the guest preacher. Danielle Simone participated in the service by giving a preschool ministry moment. Margaret Collins and Wendy Graves participated by reciting prayer

and reading scripture. Children from the preschool sang two songs during the service. Many preschool teachers were present and attended the reception. A plaque was presented at the reception to Margaret Collins and Danielle Simone on behalf of the church that recognized all past directors. The plaque was hung in the main hall of the preschool. Also, during the reception, a short narrative was shared about all past directors in their honor and a slideshow of current and past preschool pictures was played. Margaret Collins wrote a very kind note of thanks to the Preschool Committee on her appreciation of the service in honor of 50 years of the preschool and being presented with the plaque.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Koskinen, Chair

USHERS COMMITTEE

The Ushers Committee for 2022 coordinated with the Deacons to provide ushering and greeting duties for all in-person services at River Road Church.

The Ushers Committee at mid-year was reorganized as it was prior to the pandemic with four teams (one for each Sunday of the month). The captains were John Hays, Carl Collier, Charlie Sorrell, and Steve Bailey. Other members were Bobby Hubbard, Tim Clingenpeel, Richard Cloe, Doug Phelps, Gene Harris, Jack Heisler, Colin Bailey, Richard Seward, Gary Burnet, Jon Williams, and Devin McGuire.

The attendance numbers for the 2022 services were up from 2021. The attendance averaged 163 per regular service during the first half of year. The average attendance for the second half was 195. The attendance for the Christmas Eve services totaled 648. It is noted that many members attended services online.

John A. Heisler, IV, Chair

COMMITTEES WITH NO REPORTS TO SUBMIT

- Board of Administration
- Safety Committee (BOA)
- Arts Committee
- Auditing Committee
- Baptismal Committee (five Baptism services were held)
- Building & Property Council
- Lord's Supper Committee
- Member Engagement Committee (hosted two summer concerts)
- Nominating Committee (report provided for November Business Meeting)
- Recreation Committee
- Social Committee
- Tellers Committee
- Transportation Committee

