

Baptist in  
Heritage,  
Ecumenical  
in Worship  
and Outreach



# The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

March 25, 2003, Vol. 63, No. 11

## The Season of Lent

Lent is the season in which we anticipate Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem and the self-giving nature of love shown in his passion and death. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and extends for forty weekdays through Saturday of Holy Week. Sundays are excluded from Lent, being regarded as feast days in the midst of the forty-day fast. Because Lent is the most strongly penitential season of the year, the liturgical color purple is again used. The symbol of the crown of thorns represents the suffering of Christ, which reaches its apex during Holy Week.

The Revised Common Lectionary readings for the First Sunday in Lent (Year B) are:

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2003

11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sanctuary

Sermon by Dr. Cecil E. Sherman  
Anthems by the Chancel Choir

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following  
the worship service hosted by the deacons

## CONCERT

5:00 p.m.

Alicia Romeo, Harp  
Elzbieta Szmyt, Harp  
Amy Roberts, French Horn

A reception sponsored by the Music Committee will follow the concert.

Monday, March 31, 7:30 p.m. - Extra Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal



## WEDNESDAY DINNER PROGRAM

April 2, 2003

5:30 p.m. Dinner      6:30 p.m. Program

**The Ministry of Interfaith Services of Henrico**  
Terry Willie-Surratt

*(See inside for details)*

# Wednesday Dinner Program

## The Ministry of Interfaith Services of Henrico

### Terry Willie-Surratt

River Road Church has a long association with the ministry of Interfaith Services of Henrico. Its former director, Alice Matthews, was an able administrator of ISH and a personal friend of many at our church. Terry Willie-Surratt succeeded her as Director of ISH. The Pastor's Forum welcomes for the first time Ms. Willie-Surratt as she shares with us about this important benevolence ministry.

Terry Willie-Surratt, M.S.W., J.D. has been involved as a professional in the social work arena since 1991. During her career she has worked as a supervisor, as an Associate Director of a non-profit agency providing legal advocacy and crisis intervention to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and as Director of Area Social Services for The Salvation Army. She is currently the Community Resource Developer for the Henrico Department of Social Services.

Having served as a practitioner in a variety of settings, she has effected change for various underserved populations through advocacy and community education.

She received her BSW from North Carolina A & T State University. She earned a master's degree from the University of South Carolina and her JD degree from University of Cincinnati. She lives in Henrico County, with her husband, Jack.

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## Why You Are How You Are: Elaine & Israel Explain It All

### Adult Retreat 2003

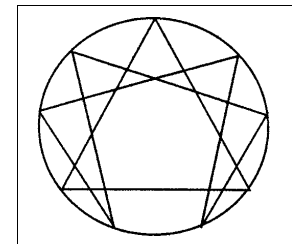
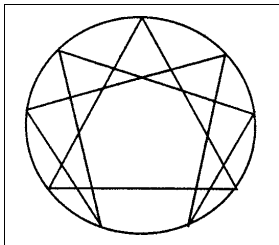
Fellowship Hall  
Friday-Saturday, April 4-5

led by

Elaine Boomer

and

Israel Galindo



This retreat will offer a way of understanding yourself through the use of the Enneagram, an ancient tool for spiritual discernment, and Family Systems Theory. By identifying your Enneagram "type" you will discover your spiritual potential and gain insight into:

- ◆ Your primary motivations for work and relationships
- ◆ Your repertoire of personal assets
- ◆ Your areas of strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ Your primary ways of relating to others
- ◆ Your fundamental spiritual orientation
- ◆ Ways to grow in maturity, wisdom, and healthier relationships

#### Retreat Costs:

\$25.00 per person includes: Retreat materials and book, two meals, and childcare during the retreat (childcare by reservation only, deadline: March 30). **Reservations must be made to the Adult Education Ministries office, 288-1131, by this Sunday, March 30.**

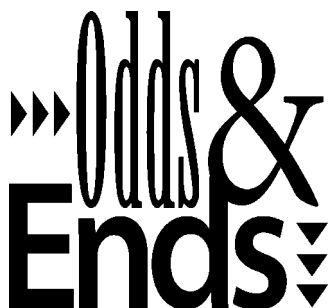
**AT HOME:** Carolyn Camden, Maxine Rogers, D'Este Richardson

**IN HEALTHCARE:** Marguerite Mills, Parham Road Rehab; Eleanor Phillips, Cedarfield

**IN HOSPITAL:** Corella Ricketson, Johnston-Willis; Dot Sherman, MCV

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Nancy and Robert Gagnon upon the birth of their daughter, Chloe Gwendolyn Dawn Gagnon on March 22. Bertie and Charles O'Neal are the grandparents.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Elizabeth and Lt. Matthew White upon the birth of their son, William Matthew White on March 21. Miriam and James Southerland are the grandparents.



**WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU FOR APRIL 2:** The adults will have spaghetti with sauce, apple sauce, salad bar, rolls/garlic and apple cobbler with ice cream. The children will have spaghetti with sauce, apple sauce, rolls, salad bar and ice cream.

**THE BOOK LOVERS' GROUP** will meet on Thursday evening, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Reception Room. Barbara Holdren will moderate the discussion of this month's selection, Five Quarters of the Orange. Tragedy, revenge, suspicion and love are the ingredients of this book by Joanne Harris, author of the acclaimed Chocolat. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call **Kitty Davis** at 285-9782.

**LOOKING FOR SOME FUN? EVENING BRIDGE IS THE PLACE TO BE!** We're always looking for more singles or couples who like to have a good time playing bridge. The next gathering will be on **Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m., in the Reception Room**. Call **George** and **Kitty Davis** at 285-9782.

**THE MOMS' GROUP** will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 1, from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., in the TwentySomething classroom. We will have a demonstration for making bow baskets and discuss other spring crafts for children and families. Child care is available for \$5.00. Please join us! RSVP to **Amy Hubbard** at 282-0117 or to **Cathy Michiels** at 364-3719.

**THE MORNING BRIDGE GAME WINNERS** were **Mary Gauldin**, first place, and **Alyne Kennedy**, second place. The next game will be played April 17, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., in the Reception Room. The hostess will be **Jeanne Baily**, 288-8129.

## WHY IS THERE SUFFERING IN THE WORLD? HOW CAN GOD "ALLOW" EVIL?

These and other timeless questions will be discussed at the next meeting of the **Modern Theologians Discussion Group** when it looks at the book, Encountering Evil. This book of essays, critiques, and rejoinders, edited by Stephen Davis, examines the theological and philosophical aspects of evil and suffering in a back-and-forth format that "makes the issues clear and causes the debate to come alive." The group will meet on **Thursday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m., in the church parlor**. **Newcomers are welcome!** Even if you have not had a chance to read the book, come join the group for an always interesting discussion. Call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, for more information.

## THANK YOU!

The House and Grounds Committee would like to thank the approximately 20 hard-working church members who came out last Saturday morning to help get the church grounds "spruced up." Energized by donuts, juice and coffee, members weeded, pruned, spread mulch, fertilized, cleaned up the parking lots, and repaired light fixtures. Thanks to each of you.



## CALLING ALL BABYSITTERS!

The Moms' Group is compiling a list of potential babysitters from the membership of River Road Church, Baptist. This resource list will be made available (by request) to the parents of young children in the church. The list will include the babysitter's name, age, or grade, phone number and zip code. If you are a middle school, high school, or college student and would like to have your name added to this list, please call **Amy Hubbard** at 282-0117 by April 1.

**ENVELOPES FOR PLACING YOUR EASTER LILY ORDER** will be in the pew racks this Sunday. The cost will be \$10.20 per lily, and checks are to be made payable to River Road Church, Baptist. Please write the wording exactly as you wish it to be printed in the bulletin for Easter. **Orders cannot be accepted after Sunday, April 6. Please place the envelopes in the specially marked box on the Narthex table.**

# Children's Ministry News

**Vacation Bible School** is **June 23-27**. This year preschoolers and children will participate in "Under Construction," which is a Habitat for Humanity Vacation Bible School. We need teachers. If you are willing to teach in Vacation Bible School this summer, please complete the form in this issue of *The Spire* (next page) and return to **Barbara Massey**, or place it in the envelope on the door of the office of the Minister to Children.

**Parents of Fourth and Fifth Graders:** Crosspoint, a Christian Sports Camp, is the week of July 7-12, at Bluefield College, in Bluefield, Virginia. If you want your child to participate, please reserve a space now. A \$50.00 deposit is necessary to make a reservation. We have only 12 spaces for campers, so call now if your child plans to attend.

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## Student Ministry News

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS—MARCH 30, 2003**

Middle School—Chester Phelps

Senior High—Ed Pruden

**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIPS** will meet on Sunday evening at 6:30. This Sunday is a vesper service. Weather permitting, the service will be held in the courtyard. **Laura Ludvigsen** will provide snack supper at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### YOUTH WEEK - A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the youth week activities. The Sunday school classes gave glowing reports and the worship service was upbeat and meaningful. The Wednesday evening program gave adults new insights about youth programming and worship. Thanks for a job well done!

Special thanks to **David Gulick** and **Margaret Phelps** for their musical direction, to **Caroline Seward** for her worship leadership and to **Mark Mathews** for his willingness to serve as acolyte.

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## **RIVER ROADSTERS TO ENJOY VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO NORFOLK SCOPE ARENA FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2003**

What is the Virginia International Tattoo? It's an annual non-stop, high energy, two-hour extravaganza of music, ceremony and entertainment presented in the grand tradition of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Nova Scotia International Tattoo. This is the largest indoor Tattoo on the East Coast outside of the Halifax. The trip includes round-trip motor coach transportation, dinner at the Breezy Pont Officers' Club, evening performance of the "Virginia International Tattoo," refreshments aboard the motor coach, driver gratuity and tax and gratuity on inclusions. Dinner includes a garden fresh salad, roasted new potatoes or rice pilaf, vegetable medley, fresh baked dinner rolls, chef's selection of dessert, coffee or tea and one of the following entrees: Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus (a generous portion of mid-western black angus beef) OR Flounder Roulades (plump filet of flounder wrapped around back fin crab imperial, served with champagne sauce). **Please write entrée selection on check. The cost per person is \$84.00 and is due March 28, 2003.** Please make checks payable to River Road Church and mail to **Eunice Wolford** at 12001 Wexwood Drive, Richmond, VA. 23236. All uncommitted tickets, as of April 1, must be returned to the Virginia Arts Festival. If you have any questions or want to make reservations, you may call Eunice at 794-4651.

## EASTER OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

Living the Call is the theme of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's 2002-2003 **Offering for Global Missions**. Some of the projects funded by the offering include:



- ❖ **Bibles for international students.** The goal is to give international students a contextual copy of the Scriptures in their mother tongues or a version that is bilingual or in easy-to-read English.
- ❖ **Youth ministries in Manhattan and Brooklyn, New York.** Hell's Kitchen and Crown Heights remain two of the most impoverished areas of New York City. Mentors will be established to help teens on a one-on-one basis and connect them to local churches.

As member congregation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, please consider a generous contribution to the **Easter Offering for Global Missions**.

River Road members desiring to contribute to the Southern Baptist Convention's **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** may do so by checking the appropriate box on the offering envelope.

Envelopes for the Easter Offering can be found in the Sanctuary pew racks. 100% of both offerings is used for missions.

**FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARE:** The response to **First Sunday Food Share** has been gratifying. About five hundred pounds of canned goods and nonperishable food items were collected in February and March. Food was delivered to the South Richmond Baptist Center in Bainbridge and to Lamb's Basket, a food pantry sponsored by ISH (Interfaith Service of Henrico) on the north side. Thank you for your support of this community missions program! Remember that **April 6** is the date of the next **First Sunday Food Share**.

**EASTER BASKET PROJECT:** River Road is once again participating in the Easter Basket Project sponsored by ISH (Interfaith Services of Henrico). A basket can be prepared for a child, a teen, or an elderly man or woman and should be labeled according to age and gender. (Note: ISH has reported that it often runs short of baskets for teens and seniors.) Toys, toiletries, devotional material, and clothing are among the suggested basket items. The church has a supply of baskets and travel-sized toiletries to be used in this project. A list of suggested basket items is also available. These can be picked up from the Missions collection tables in the lower level entrances on Sunday. Easter baskets will be collected through Palm Sunday, April 13.

**WMU DAY GROUP:** The Day Group will meet on Tuesday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the Reception Room. Edward S. Stratton, Treasurer of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, will be the speaker. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Members are reminded to bring canned goods and nonperishable food items for the Baptist Centers' food pantries. Visitors are welcome!

**WMU EVENING GROUP:** The April meeting for the Evening Group will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, at the home of Wyatt Heisler (Note: This is a location change). Our speakers that evening will be **Rob** and **Donna Brown** who will discuss their medical missions tours to the Caribbean. We will collect **ISH Easter Baskets**, so please bring a wrapped basket for specific age and gender and remember that teenage and senior baskets are always in demand. We will also continue our canned food drive for the Baptist Centers' food pantries. For more information and/or directions, contact **Wyatt Heisler**, 741-9320, or **Becky Spicer**, 360-1447. Visitors are welcome!

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Would you be willing to teach in Vacation Bible School this summer? If so, please fill out the form below and return to **Barbara Massey**.

### Vacation Bible School June 23-27

Yes, I want to teach in Vacation Bible School, June 23-27.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to teach:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_Preschool, age 3

\_\_\_\_\_Elementary, grades 1-2

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_Preschool, ages 4-5

\_\_\_\_\_Elementary, grades 3-5

# Sunday Responsibilities

**Acolyte:** Joseph Fields-Johnson

**Deacons' Coffee:** Barbara Boyd, Doug Pace, Charlie Sorrell, Rob Spicer

**Flower Distribution:** Barbara Harvie, Jody Myers

**Greeters:** JoAnn Cizek, Karen Collier, Karen Cothran, Harold Gibson, Ken Lantz, Marshall Parker

**Sound:** Mark Mathews

**Tellers:** Dan Bryant, Judy Collins, Ellis Cunningham, Ted Gary, Mary Mateer

**Ushers:** Norvell Camden, Drew Collier, Sid Hays, Ken Lantz

**Worship Care: Infants**—Byron and Mary Brantley Holmes;

**Toddlers**—Anne James, Elinor Powell;

**Two-Year-Olds**—Ray Nelson, Anne McIlwain;

**Three-Year-Olds**—Rebecca Chandler, Emily Phillips;

**Fours and Fives**—Lucy Sigmon, Sam Hays

## Minister On Call

Weekend: March 26-27

Chester Phelps  
755-6464

If you are unable to reach this minister immediately, please leave a message on the church office voicemail at 288-1131. The voicemail will be monitored by the on-call minister.

## Adult Sunday School News

**Formations** Sunday School literature begins a five-lesson unit of study entitled “*Passion and Resurrection*.” Mark’s Gospel presents Jesus’ ministry in two contrasting territories. The first half of the Gospel is set in Galilee in northern Palestine, a mostly rural area of peasant farmers. There, Jesus called his disciples and attracted other followers, performed miracles, and taught crowds, small groups, and individuals alike. After chapter 8, however the setting shifts southward to Jerusalem. In that city, Jesus was betrayed, arrested, tried, and crucified. Finally, after Jesus’ resurrection, a divine messenger instructed three women and the other apostles to connect with Jesus again in Galilee. This Easter unit focuses on the last half of Mark’s Gospel. Three times, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and resurrection (8:31-9:29; 9:30-10:31; and 10:32-45). The first prediction marks the turning point from a discussion of Jesus as powerful miracle worker to suffering Messiah, followed by the disciples’ rejection of that identity. Then, Jesus corrects the apostles, teaching them about discipleship. Finally, in Mark 14-15, Jesus’ predictions come true. The first session in this unit contrasts the communion of the Last Supper with Jesus’ betrayal, followed by the second session’s focus on Jesus’ honest expression of his suffering. The third session describes Jesus’ crucifixion and death, while the fourth discusses the resurrection. Finally, the last session presents Jesus’ post-resurrection appearances and commissioning of his followers. This week’s lesson, entitled “*Communion and Betrayal*” is based on Mark 14:12-25 and is studied in the following classes:

**Fellowship Class** will be taught by **Spencer Price**.

**Friendship Class** will be continuing its study of Mark beginning with Passion Week. The class will be taught by **Connie Showalter**.

**Lydia Class** will be taught by **Mary Pankey**.

**Reuben Alley Class** will be taught by **Lee Perkins**.

**Seekers Class** will be taught by **Linda Schreiner**.

**Discussion Class**—

**Explorers Class**—The class will begin the study of *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler. The book jacket says, “At a moment when the world is asking ‘Can the religions get along?’ Abraham stands as the shared ancestor of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. He holds the key to our deepest fears—and our possible reconciliation.” **Don Retzer** will be lead the class discussion.

**Journey Class**—The Journey Class will be taught by **Pam Hern** exploring the contemporary writer, Patricia Hampl. There will be a brunch for this class on Easter Sunday, April 20.

**Life Class**—**Scott Leake** will teach “*Why Did Jesus Die on the Cross? To Take Our Place: Did He Really Die For Me?*”

**Phoenix Class**—**Henry McGee** will continue the series on Lee Strobel’s book “The Case For Faith.” The class will finish discussing chapter 2 and begin chapter 3.

**Robert Smart Class**—The class is focusing on *The Gifts of Faith* series from the *Formations* materials. Topic for Sunday is *Vocation: Called to Discover and Value Who I Am*. **Diane Shoemake** will be the discussion leader.

**Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class**—The class will resume its study of the Gospel of John this week commencing with chapter 6, verse 41. **Bob Shepherd** will teach.

## Adult Orientation

The spring edition of Adult Orientation begins Sunday, March 23, and will run through Sunday, April 6, at 9:45 a.m., in the Chapel. Adult Orientation is aimed at all **new** and **prospective** members of River Road Church. The complete schedule is as follows:

**March 23**      **An Introduction to River Road Church**  
Dr. Robert L. Dibble

**March 30**      **Architectural Tour of River Road Church**  
Mrs. Tuckie Paxton

**April 6**        **Worship and the Christian Year**  
Dr. B. J. Seymour

# March & April

Friday, March 28

March 2003						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Saturday, March 29

Sunday, March 30

April 2003						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Monday, March 31

Tuesday, April 1

Wednesday, April 2

Friday, April 4

Saturday, April 5

Sunday, April 6

Monday, April 7

Tuesday, April 8

Wednesday, April 9

Thursday, April 10

# UPCOMING

## E V E N T S

**Movie Night (grades 1-5)**, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room  
**Movie Night (ages 3-5)**, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
**Middle School Lock-In**, 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.  
**Listening Session**, 10:00 a.m. - noon, Fellowship Hall  
**Pastor Search Committee**, Noon, Church Parlor  
**IHC Work Project**, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (meet at north parking lot)  
**Adult Orientation**, 9:45 a.m., Chapel  
**Youth IHC Work Project**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**Concert**, 5:00 p.m., Chapel  
**Inquirers**, 5:15 p.m., Church Parlor  
**Discovery Class**, 6:00 p.m., Rev. Barbara Massey's office  
**Adult Bible Study**, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room  
**Youth Vespers**, 6:30 p.m., Chapel Hall  
**Chancel Choir Rehearsal**, 7:30 p.m.  
**Evening Bridge**, 7:30 p.m., Reception Room  
**Inquirers**, 5:00 p.m., Church Parlor  
**Pastor Search Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor  
**Adult Retreat**, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
**Adult Retreat**, 8:30 a.m. - noon, Fellowship Hall  
**CBF Meeting**, 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall and all classrooms  
**Adult Orientation**, 9:45 a.m., Chapel  
**Nominating Committee**, 5:00 p.m., Church Parlor  
**Recreation Committee**, 5:00 p.m., Archives  
**Inquirers**, 5:15 p.m., Chester Phelps' office  
**Discovery Class**, 6:00 p.m., Rev. Barbara Massey's office  
**Adult Bible Study**, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room  
**Board of Missions**, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor  
**Nursery School Staff Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., Reception Room  
**Deacons' Dinner**, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
**WMU Day Group**, 10:00 a.m., Reception Room  
**CBF Dinner**, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
**WMU Evening Group**, 7:30 p.m., home of Wyatt Heisler  
**Inquirers**, 5:00 p.m., Church Parlor  
**Pastor Search Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor  
**Arts Committee Chairs**, 7:30 p.m., Archives  
**Theologians Discussion Group**, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor

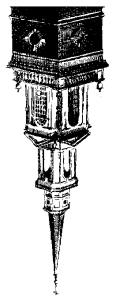
The Spire is published weekly, except the week of December 25, by River Road Church, Baptist, 8000 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229-8415, (804) 288-1131. Information for any newsletter may be brought to the church office or faxed to us at (804) 282-9172. Copy deadline is Monday, noon. Editors: Robert Dibble and Barbara Massey.

WE'RE ON THE WEB? CHECK US OUT  
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Date Mailed: March 26, 2003  
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