

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

April 1, 2003, Vol. 64, No. 12

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 Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year B) are:

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 6, 2003

11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sanctuary

Service of Holy Communion

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

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



WEDNESDAY DINNER PROGRAM

April 9, 2003

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

Pastor Search Committee Listening Session

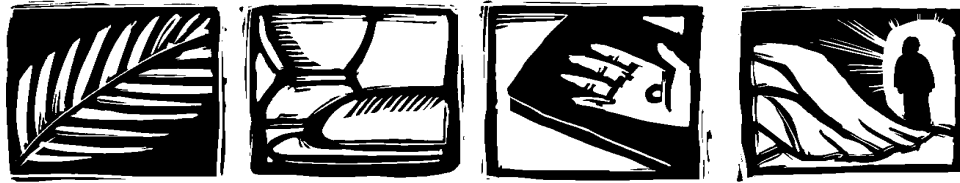
Ransone Hartz, *et.al.*

We are the Pastor Search Committee...and we're listening! Come and participate in this important time with your fellow church members. We believe your comments, suggestions, and thoughts are invaluable as we proceed with the task of finding a new Pastor for River Road Church, Baptist.

As required by our Constitution and By-Laws, there will be a regular business meeting of the of the church at the Wednesday evening church dinner. The meeting will follow dinner and precede the scheduled program of the evening.

The only business anticipated at this writing is a report of the church nominating committee on general officers of the church for 2003 and election of any messengers to the spring meeting of the Richmond Baptist Association. Members desiring to represent River Road at the associational meeting should contact Pam Hughes in the church office, 288-1131.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 2003

11:00 a.m. Worship
Sanctuary

Procession of the Palms

Sermon by Dr. Cecil E. Sherman

Music by the Chancel Choir
and the Chancel Bell Choir

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

SERVICE OF BAPTISM AND COMMUNION

6:00 p.m. Chapel

Anthems by the Youth Choir

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17, 2003

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Service of Holy Communion with Tenebrae
Anthems by the Chancel Choir

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18, 2003

12:00-7:00 p.m.

A Labyrinth Experience (*see inside for details*)

EASTER

April 20, 2003

8:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sanctuary

Sermon by Dr. Cecil E. Sherman

Anthems, including the *Hallelujah Chorus*, by The Chancel Choir
with Brass Ensemble

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* 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.

First Sunday Food Share

Preschoolers and children participate by bringing the following items: cans of soup, peanut butter (plastic jars), macaroni and cheese dinner (boxed).

✂

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

Student Ministry News

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS—APRIL 6, 2003

Middle School—**Chester Phelps**

Senior High—**Bill and Deb Gray**

MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP APRIL SCHEDULE

- April 6 Recreation night - Bowling
- April 13 **Palm Sunday** Baptism/Communion Service - 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel (members are reminded to bring cookies, brownies or some other "sweet" for the reception)
- April 20 **Easter** No meetings
- April 27 Senior High Work Day - Interfaith Housing
Vesper Service - 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel Hall

Coming Events:

- May 17-18 Retreat - Methodist Conference Center, Blackstone, VA.



RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL
Founders Cup
OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Independence Golf Club
Saturday, May 3, 2003
"Captain's Choice"

Starting Times begin at 12:00 p.m. Entry Fee: \$75.00
Cost includes Box Lunch, Greens Fee, Cart, Range Balls, and Prize Fee

Prizes for First Place, Longest Drive, and Closest to the Pin will be awarded on Tournament Day

Annual Award of the Founders Cup to the First Place Winners

Reservations and the \$75.00 entry fee must be submitted to the "golf professional" in the church office **no later than Friday, April 25, 2003**. No refunds are possible after this Guarantee Date. Guests are welcomed and will be paired with their host/ess. All checks should be made payable to River Road Church, Baptist. Any questions should be directed to the "golf professional" in the church office, 288-1131.

AT HOME: Maxine Rogers
IN HEALTHCARE: Marguerite Mills, Parham Road Rehab; Eleanor Phillips, Cedarfield
IN HOSPITAL: Janet Keppel, Johnston-Willis; D'Este Richardson, St. Mary's; Corella Ricketson, Johnston-Willis; Dot Sherman, MCV



CONGRATULATIONS to **Carolyn Foster** for being honored in the clerical support category at the University of Richmond. Ms. Foster is an operations coordinator in the Office of Undergraduate Admission who graduated magna cum laude last year with a bachelor's degree from the School of Continuing Studies.

»» Odds & Ends ««

WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU FOR APRIL 9: The adults will have roast beef, baked potato, green beans, salad bar, rolls and brownies with ice cream. The children will have hamburgers/hot dogs, potato chips, salad bar and brownies.

THE MORNING BRIDGE 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.

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.**

THE LABYRINTH WALKING A SACRED PATH

On the floors of several European cathedrals are drawings, now often unnoticed, that served an important function during life in the Middle Ages. Called labyrinths, the spiraling pathways provided an opportunity for the faithful to "go on pilgrimage." Though sometimes used as a form of penance, more generally the labyrinth served as an occasion for a walking meditation as a "pilgrim" slowly moved toward the center and then returned with a renewed sense of focus about God and the responsibility of the self in God's world.



Our canvas labyrinth is a replica of the one originally laid in the 12th century in the floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France. River Road Church cordially invites you to make a "sacred walk" a part of your Holy Week observance. Written material about the labyrinth's history and symbolism will be available and you may spend reflective time after your walk. Bring a friend or come alone. Allow approximately 45-60 minutes for the labyrinth experience.

When: Good Friday, April 20, 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

EASTER OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

Living the Call is the theme of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's 2002-2003 **Offering for Global Missions**. In a missional church listening to the voice of God, seeing the needs that are all around, and responding to God's call with a fresh commitment are emphasized. CBF employs over 100 missionary field personnel. This number can be doubled if the \$6.1 million offering goal is met. To date \$2.3 million has been given. As the congregation of a member church in 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. One hundred percent of both offerings is used for missions.

SEEDS OF HOPE FOR LIBERIA: A thank you to everyone who contributed to this Virginia Baptist World Mission Initiative Project. Four hundred thirty-four packets of seeds were collected.

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! Some suggested foods for donation include canned fruit and applesauce, macaroni products, peanut butter, soups and stews. **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 be discussing their medical missions tours to the Caribbean. We will collect **ISH Easter Baskets**, so please bring a wrapped basket filled with age appropriate items. Please label your basket for age and gender and remember that baskets for teenagers and senior adults 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!

MOMS' GROUP NEWS

The Moms' Group will meet for dinner on Monday, April 28 at 6:45 p.m. at the Mexico Restaurant in Innsbrook. Please join us. RSVP to **Cathy Michiels** at 364-3719.

We will hold our last monthly meeting before summer break on Tuesday, May 6 from 9:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. in the Twenty-Something classroom. We will have a book discussion on *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. Please join us. Child care is available for \$5.00 per child. RSVP to **Amy Hubbard** at 282-0117. Bring your favorite brunch item to share.

Sunday Responsibilities

Acolyte: Josh Newsome

Deacons' Coffee: Beverly Beck, John Marsh, Bob Musick, John Wake

Flower Distribution: Judy Collins, Beth Wilson

Greeters: Steve Bailey, Scott Collins, John Heisler, Doug Pace, Barbara Robertson, Bill Smith

Sound: Barry Harmon

Tellers: Elsie Fusco, Jody Gordon, George Harding, Ann Loxterman, Bertie O'Neal, Robbie Williams

Ushers: Ron Clevenger, Dave Fairchild, Skip King, Jon Williams

Worship Care: Infants—Scott and Sandy Rooney, Kathryn and Bill Sperry; **Toddlers**—Amy Hubbard, Mary Pentecost; **Two-Year-Olds**—Caroline Heggie, Karen Brown; **Three-Year-Olds**—Lauren Ballentine, Lauren Brown; **Fours and Fives**—Scott Smith, Sarah Pruden, Bobby Gary

Minister

Weekend: April 5-6

On Call

Robert Dibble
965-0647

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 “*Honesty and Pain*” is based on Mark 14:32-42 and is studied in the following classes:

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

Friendship Class will be continuing its study of Mark featuring The Last Supper. The class will be taught by **Connie Showalter**.

Lydia Class will be taught by **Mary Lib Grizzard**.

Reuben Alley Class will be taught by **Lynn Dickerson**.

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

Discussion Class—The class will be taught by **Taylor Cousins**.

Explorers Class—The class will host two members of the pastor search committee this Sunday. We will start promptly at 9:45 a.m.

Journey Class—**Susan Rucker** will talk about the Easter story. Sign up for the class Easter brunch taking place on April 20.

Life Class—**Scott Leake** will teach “*To Reconcile: How God Puts Humpty Dumpty Together Again*.”

Phoenix Class—The class will continue its discussion on Lee Strobel’s book “*The Case For Faith*.” **Henry McGee** will lead the class as it looks at Chapter 4, “God Isn’t Worthy of Worship If He Kills Innocent Children.”

Robert Smart Class—The class is focusing on *The Gifts of Faith* series from the *Formations* materials. Topic for Sunday is *Community: The Pilgrim and The Communion of Care*. **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 beginning with Chapter 6, verse 64. **Dr. Henry Holland** will teach.

Adult Orientation

The spring edition of Adult Orientation concludes 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 |

April

UPCOMING EVENTS

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			

- Friday, April 4 **Adult Retreat**, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Chapel Hall
- Saturday, April 5 **Adult Retreat**, 8:30 a.m. - noon, Chapel Hall
- CBF Meeting**, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall and all classrooms
- Founders' Day Celebration**
- Adult Orientation**, 9:45 a.m., Chapel
- Pastor Search Sub-Committee**, 5:00 p.m., Tellers' Room
- 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., Barbara Massey's office
- Adult Bible Study**, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room
- Board of Missions/Board of Christian Education Joint Listening Session with**
- Pastor Search Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
- Monday, April 7 **Nursery School Staff Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., Reception Room
- Columbarium Committee**, 5:30 p.m., Church Parlor
- Deacons' Dinner**, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, April 8 **WMU Day Group**, 10:00 a.m., Reception Room
- WMU Evening Group**, 7:30 p.m., home of Wyatt Heisler
- Men's Softball**, 8:00 p.m., Short Pump
- Wednesday, April 9 **Spring Business Meeting**, 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- 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
- Thursday, April 10 **Palm Sunday**
- Sunday, April 13 **Baptism Service**, 6:00 p.m., Chapel
- Executive Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
- Monday, April 14 **Civil War Forum**, 7:00 p.m., Journey Classroom
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal**, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 16 **Personnel Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
- Thursday, April 17 **Morning Bridge**, 10:00 a.m., Reception Room
- Maundy Thursday Service**, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Friday, April 18 **Good Friday**
- Labyrinth Walk**, 12:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

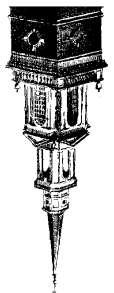
The Spire is published weekly, except the week of December 25, by River Road Church, Baptist, 8000 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229-8415, (804) 288-1131. Information for any newsletter may be brought to the church office or faxed to us at (804) 282-9172. Copy deadline is Monday, noon. Editors: Robert Dibble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

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W E ' R E O N T H E W E B ? C H E C K U S O U T

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