

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

April 8, 2003, Vol. 65, No. 13

HOLY WEEK

These are some of the most intense days in the church's year of grace, culminating in the Easter Triduum (Thursday sunset to Sunday sunset). Monday through Thursday afternoon comprise the minor days in Holy Week, occasions for pondering the meaning of Scripture in the context of prayer and meditation, particularly the portrayal of the final events. On the night of Holy Thursday, sometimes called "Maundy Thursday," a term derived through the Old French **mandé** from the Latin **mandatum novum**, "a new commandment," we remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples. This evening also marks the beginning of the most solemn and joyful celebration of the entire Christian Year. We enter what Augustine referred to as "the triduum during which the Lord died, was buried, and rose again."

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

ARTS 2003

Arts in a Sacred Place



RIVER ROAD CHURCH

BAPTIST

RIVER AT RIDGE ROADS
Richmond, Virginia 23229

Mark Your Calendars For

October 1 – 15, 2003

Festival Week – October 4 – 12

**For information on participation and planned activities
contact committee chairs listed below!**

Arts & Crafts	Judy Dixon	744-1613
Demonstrations & Lectures	Carole Royall	794-1032
Music & Drama		
Adult Talent	Doug Moyers	288-3452
Youth Talent	Jane Terry	272-6266
Drama	Michelle Harmon-Gulick	231-3245
Publicity	Beverly Beck	740-7537
Hospitality		
Flowers	Sarah Drummond	740-8276
Receptions	Nancy Anderson	672-6931
ARTS 2003 Co-Chairs	Sharon Manson	285-3408
	Margaret Almond	282-3235

Children's Ministry News

Coming Events:

April 25—Grades 1-5—“Bring a Box Game and Buddy” Night—6:00-7:30. Bring your favorite box game and a favorite buddy and come for games and pizza. Call the church office to make reservations, 288-1131.

April 27—Vacation Bible School Teacher Meeting, 9:00, before Sunday School, in the Church Parlor. If you have already made a commitment to teach in Vacation Bible School or if you are interested in teaching, please attend this important organizational meeting.

✂

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 13, 2003

Middle School—**Chester Phelps**

Senior High—**Bill and Deb Gray**

MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP APRIL SCHEDULE

- 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** Brunch during Sunday School. No evening program
- 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

DID YOU KNOW?

(In the coming months, the History Committee will offer glimpses into the past from the River Road Church archives. The first episode of "Did You Know?" in this issue of The Spire features the beginnings of the church. Future articles will explore other ideas gleaned from our historical records. Watch for coming attractions!)

Beginnings

River Road Church was formally constituted on April 14, 1946, with sixty-six charter members. Dr. Oscar Hite, Wilton Thomas, and Dr. Donald Daniel initially formulated the dream for this church.

In the late 1930's and early 40's the expansion of Richmond's metropolitan area to the west had begun. In the newly developed and rapidly growing area on the perimeter of the University of Richmond, these three men recognized the need for a church that would serve the whole neighborhood....all denominations. They negotiated the purchase of four acres of property at the corner of River and Ridge Roads for a price of \$10,000.

This was a group of people who had a vision and the determination to see that vision fulfilled. After securing the property, they began seeking financial backing and recruiting members. A 1944 census revealed more than 100 Baptist families in the area. The small group approached the Richmond Baptist Council also understanding the need eventually for an established channel through which they could direct their mission work. With the blessing of the Council they then sought a church to sponsor them as a mission.

First Baptist Church, realizing the perseverance, dedication, and determination of this pioneering group agreed to sponsor them with the designation of a mission to be called "University Chapel." At first they met on the campus of the University of Richmond. They were chartered as River Road Church. They were not ashamed of their Baptist connection but not until later did they add the Baptist with a comma, only to distinguish themselves from other churches being built along River Road.

The first structure built on their new property was a brick fireplace around which the group could worship and socialize. Real estate taxes on the property no longer had to be paid, for now it was being used for religious purposes. This was the beginning of the dream.

by Tuckie Paxton



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

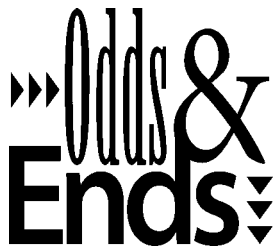
Annual Award of the **Founders Cup** to the First Place Winners

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: Helen Davis, Corella Ricketson
IN HEALTHCARE: Marguerite Mills, Parham Road Rehab; Dot Sherman, Westminster-
Canterbury
IN HOSPITAL: Janet Keppel, Johnston-Willis; D'Este Richardson, St. Mary's

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Shirley Torstrick** upon the death of her husband, **Mel Torstrick**, on April 5, in Davidson, NC.



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.

THE BOOK LOVERS' GROUP will join The Richmond Alumnae Book Club on Tuesday evening, April 29, at the Jepson Center at 6:30 p.m. for box suppers and a program by author Emilie Richards. The cost is \$7.00. For more information about making reservations, call **Kitty Davis** at 285-9782.

COLUMBARIUM INFORMATION AVAILABLE: If you have an interest in the Columbarium Memorial Garden, the church office will be glad to send out an information package, including a booklet from the Cremation Society. Contact **George Davis** at the church, **288-1131**, if you would like the information sent to you or if you have any questions regarding the columbarium.

DECORATING FOR EASTER: We need volunteers to help decorate the church on Friday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m. Please call **Jean Cauble** at 241-2987 if you are interested in helping.

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.

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.

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.

UPDATE ON CONTRIBUTIONS

As of March 31, 2003

Member contributions budgeted for entire year	1,214,500
Member contributions budgeted through March 31, 2003	303,625 (a)
Pro-rata portion of contributions paid prior to January 1, 2003	31,842 (b)
Member contributions since January 1, 2003	206,563 (c)
Total collections through March 31, 2003 (b + c)	238,405 (d)
Current ratio of total collections to budgeted contributions (d/a)	79%

The Chairman of the Board of Administration, in a letter to the congregation dated February 6, 2003, pointed out the problem caused by so many of our members waiting until the end of the year to fulfill their pledges. The above figures illustrate where we stand at present. Fortunately a number of members paid their pledges in full before the year began. To accurately reflect our current income, the above table shows those prepaid pledges adjusted as if they were being paid monthly.

As you can see, we are already falling behind in the level of current contributions needed to fulfill our budgeted commitments throughout the year. Continuation of this trend will again cause us to run a deficit by the summer, when attendance and contributions always decline. Thus, we urge payment of your pledges on a regular basis if at all possible.

Sunday Responsibilities

Acolyte: Joseph Fields-Johnson

Deacons' Coffee: Joan Hines, Brenda Holland, Kristen Phelps, Don Thomson

Flower Distribution: Judy Collins, Beth Wilson

Greeters: Steve Bailey, Scott Collins, John Heisler, Beth Hooker, Gary Kalbaugh, Doug Pace, Peggy Pruden, Barbara Robertson, Bill Smith

Sound: George Davis

Tellers: Vara Bottoms, Jean Cauble, Carol Decker, Pat Dickinson, Ann Domyan, Holly Smith, Jeanne Wood

Ushers: Willy Carter, Chris Gobble, Gene Harris, Art McGraw, Charles Sorrell

Worship Care: Infants—Susan Vaughn, Lynn Holly; **Toddlers**—Clarice Dibble, Ann and Gus Sledge; **Two-Year-Olds**—Tyler Hays, Catherine Carlock; **Three-Year-Olds**—Katie Ludvigsen, Dexter Gulick, Emily Mathews; **Fours and Fives**—Robbie Ludvigsen, David Newsome

Weekend: April 12-13

Minister On Call

Barbara Massey
673-9156

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 "*Crucifixion and Death*" is based on Mark 15:21-39 and is studied in the following classes:

Fellowship Class will be taught by **Tom Warrington**.

Friendship Class will continue its study of Mark featuring *The Crucifixion*. The class will be taught by **Connie Showalter**.

Lydia Class will be taught by **Emily Tuck**.

Reuben Alley Class will be taught by **Henry Langford**.

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

Discussion Class will discuss the topic, "*Holy Week: To Make It Wholly God's Once More*" and will be led by Nancy Poti, a guest from the Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond.

Explorers Class will host two members of the Pastor Search Committee this Sunday, starting promptly at 9:45 a.m.

Journey Class—**Susan Rucker** will talk about the Easter story.

Life Class—**Scott Leake** will teach "*To Set Us Free: Leave Your Chains Behind.*"

Phoenix 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 is focusing on *The Gifts of Faith* series from the *Formations* materials. The topic for Sunday is *Community: The Pilgrim and the Communion of Care*.

Diane Shoemaker will be the discussion leader.

Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class will continue its study of the Gospel of John this week beginning with Chapter 7, verse 1. **Bob Shepherd** will teach. The class will celebrate its spring social with a hymn sing on May 10 at the home of Janet and Doug Moyers.

Civil War Forum

"*The Leadership Styles of Lincoln and Davis*" is the subject of the April 2003 gathering of the Civil War Forum. The discussion is aimed at being a study of leadership through the first-hand experiences of two of history's most important leaders—Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. What specific principles known by many to be effective in leading people and organizations did these two presidents utilize? This question is but one example of many on effective leadership that we will discuss. Participants are encouraged to share from their own study and raise their own questions or comments in the course of our discussion. If you are looking for a fun, yet serious, venue for developing your interest in the Civil War, then you are welcome to join us. **The next Civil War Forum is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 7:00 p.m., in the Journey classroom.**

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			

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

Baptism Service, 6:00 p.m., Chapel

Executive Committee, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor

Civil War Forum, 7:00 p.m., Journey Classroom

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 14

Personnel Committee, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor

Morning Bridge, 10:00 a.m., Reception Room

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 16

Thursday, April 17

Friday, April 18

Good Friday

Labyrinth Walk, 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Easter

Church office is closed

Sunday, April 20

Monday, April 21

Tuesday, April 22

Wednesday, April 23

Men's Softball, 6:30 p.m., Short Pump

Building and Property Council, Church Parlor, 4:30 p.m.

Stewardship Committee, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor

Friday, April 25

Recreation Night (grades 1-5), 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room

River Roadsters—Norfolk, Tatoo

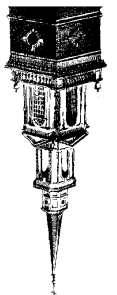
The Spire is published weekly, except the week of December 25, by River Road Church, Baptist, 8000 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229-8415, (804) 288-1131. Information for any newsletter may be brought to the church office or faxed to us at (804) 282-9172. Copy deadline is Monday, noon. Editors: Robert Dibble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

WE'RE ON THE WEB? CHECK US OUT
www.riverroadchurchbaptist.org

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River Road Church, Baptist
8000 River Road
Richmond, VA 23229-8415
(804) 288-1131
Fax: (804) 282-9172
E-mail: thespire@rrcb.org



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