

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

July 29, 2003, Vol. 57, No. 30

**RIVER ROAD CHURCH,
BAPTIST**
8000 River Road
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 288-1131 (office)
(804) 282-9172 (fax)
www.rrcb.org

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Every member of River Road Church, Baptist, like every disciple of Christ, is commissioned to participate in Christian ministry. The following persons have been called by this congregation to serve as enablers in such ministry.

Cecil E. Sherman
Interim Pastor

E. Carl Freeman
Music

Robert L. Dibble
Adults

Chester L. Phelps, Jr.
Students

Barbara J. Massey
Children

George S. Davis
Church Administrator

Margaret S. Collins
Preschool Director

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 3, 2003
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sanctuary

Service of Holy Communion

Sermon by Dr. Cecil E. Sherman
Michelle Harman-Gulick, Soloist
David Gulick, Organist

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service hosted by the Robert Smart, TwentySomethings, and College classes.



ATTENTION! ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES 2003 SUMMER RECEPTION SCHEDULE

On Sunday, July 6, we began our usual custom of having the adult Sunday School classes host the after-church receptions during the months of July and August. Listed below is the remaining schedule. Please announce and prepare for your assigned Sunday. Any questions regarding your assigned date should be directed to **Bob Dibble**. Questions concerning your responsibilities for the reception should be directed to **George Davis**. You may reach both at 288-1131.

August 10 Fellowship
August 17 Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study, Discussion
August 24 Journey
August 31 Explorers, Phoenix



SUMMER SUPPER SERIES

THURSDAY, JULY 31 & WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
FELLOWSHIP HALL
6:00 p.m. DINNER 6:45 p.m. PROGRAM

Children's Ministry News

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR WORSHIPCARE!

So far we have only EIGHT volunteers to work in WorshipCare for the new church year, beginning in September. We **need more! Adults**, we need you! **Youth**, we need you! Even if you are volunteering this year, we need you to fill out and return a new form. Please **fill out the form** below and return to Barbara Massey. We need your names NOW in order to create our WorshipCare schedule which will begin this fall.

Take a moment now and complete the form below and return to **Barbara Massey**.

WorshipCare Volunteer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

I am willing to volunteer:

_____ once a month _____ once a quarter _____ as often as you need me

Student Ministry News

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS—AUGUST 3, 2003

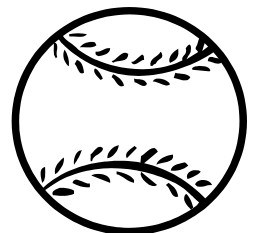
Middle School—**Chester Phelps**

Senior High—**Bill and Deb Gray**

COLLEGE STUDENT BIBLE STUDY CLASS: The class meets at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Snack supper is served, followed by a study of the book of Acts. Carl Collier leads the class.



RIVER ROAD CHURCH NIGHT AT THE DIAMOND FRIDAY, AUGUST 22



The Richmond Braves will play the Charlotte Knights at 7:00 p.m. in AAA International League action. River Road Church will have a reserved section for interested church members and friends. ***Tickets for the game, based on a minimum group of 25, cost: \$5.00-adult, \$2.50-youth/senior (youth = 12 and under, senior = 60 and over). Reservation deadline no later than Friday, August 15, to Craig Carlock, 747-7158.***

IN HOSPITAL: Nancy Jordan, University of Virginia Medical Center

IN CONVALESCENCE: Ashie Bass, Our Lady of Hope

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Lillian Robins** and family upon the death of her sister, Lucille Morris Lewis, on July 19, in Crewe, Virginia.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Emily Tipton** and family upon the death of her father, and to **Amanda Tipton** upon the death of her grandfather, **Ray Tipton**, on July 23.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to the friends and family of **Omeila "Robbie" Elmore** upon her death on July 24.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Dave Fairchild** who has been named chief executive officer of First Market Bank.

News of
the
Church
Family



The following requests for prayer have been made by members of our congregation:

Jeni Blossfeld (niece of **Maggie Nicholson**)
Woody and Betty Hasty, 6563 Ridgewood Drive, Naples, Florida 34108

THE MORNING BRIDGE GAME will be played on Thursday, August 21, at 10:00 a.m. in the Reception Room. Elaine Duresky, 360-9830, will be hosting.

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, August 5, 7:30 p.m., in the Reception Room.** Call **Harold and Joyce Gibson** at 740-4396, or **Bill and Pat Schools** at 360-8096.

TELLER NEEDED: The Tellers Committee needs one additional teller for the third Sunday of each month. If your stomach can hold out an extra hour for lunch one Sunday a month and you would be interested in serving, please call **George Davis** at the church office, 288-1131, for more information.

BTSR COURSE TAUGHT BY DR. SLATTON: Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond will offer a special fall evening course entitled, "Baptist Controversies." Our Pastor Emeritus, **Jim Slatton** will teach the course Tuesdays, from September 8 through December 17, 2003, 7:00-9:00 p.m. For application and registration information, contact the Seminary at 888-345-BTSR or email admissions@btsr.edu.

SUMMER SUPPER SERIES—WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13: The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments and drinks. Each family is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. The cost of dinner will be \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 per child (age 11 and under). Dinner reservations can be made by filling out the reservation card in the pew rack and placing it in the offering plate. You may also call the church office, 288-1131, no later than noon on Tuesday, August 12. The standing reservation list will not be used for the Summer Supper Series. **Childcare for infants and preschoolers will be provided by advance reservation only!** For reservations, contact the Minister to Children at 288-1131. An activity will be provided for kindergartners through fifth grade.

▶▶ Odds & Ends ▶▶

A NOTE OF



For a number of years now, **Steve Lessels** and **Ted Gary**, members of the Audit Committee, have had their associates at their accounting firms annually review the controls over the receipt of contributions and the disbursement of funds for both the church and the preschool. The associates have spent numerous hours at River Road during these reviews at no expense to the church. The church would like to thank Steve and Ted and the accounting firms, Goodman and Company and Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary and Shreaves, for their generous pro bono work.

Sunday Responsibilities

Acolyte: Joseph Fields-Johnson

Flower Distribution: Nancy Anderson, Carol Decker

Greeters: Tom Heggie, Beth Hooker, Sam Measell, R. C. Moore, Arlene Perry

Sound: Barry Harmon

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

Ushers: Norvel Camden, Carl Collier, Sid Hays, Ken Lantz

Worship Care: Infants—Francis Gill, Scott and Sandy Rooney; **Toddlers**—Barbara Harvie, Amy Hubbard; **Two-Year-Olds**—Caroline Heggie; **Three-Year-Olds**—Lauren Balentine, Sarah Pruden; **Fours and Fives**—Bobby Gary, Scott Smith

Minister On Call

Weekend: August 2-3

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 concludes a four-lesson unit of study entitled “*God: The Source of Missions.*” We rarely read this fourth book of the Old Testament. We use it even less frequently as a source for missions theology. Numbers is not a very exciting title. The name is derived from the Latin Numeri, which is a translation of the Greek title *Arithmoi*. This title was used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament because a census is taken twice in the book—the people are numbered. In the Hebrew Bible, however, the title of this book is *bemidbar*, which means “in the wilderness.” This is much more provocative and descriptive of the book’s contents. In the wilderness, the community of faith—the Israelites—encountered facets of God’s character that would define and direct them for generations to come. They would come face to face with the mobility of God, the reputation of God, the mercy of God, and the promises of God. These elements of God’s nature kept the mission of Israel alive. These same elements keep the mission alive in the community of faith today. The book of Numbers reminds us that missions is motivated by something deeper. Missions reflects the heart and nature of God. If we can just get past the math, we can see God’s nature clearly in the book of Numbers . . . in the wilderness. This week’s lesson, entitled “*The Promises of God,*” is based on Numbers 34 and is studied in the following classes:

Fellowship Class will be taught by **Doris Curtis**.

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

Robert Smart Class will be taught by **Bob Shoemake**.

Seekers Class

TwentySomethings Class will be taught by **Heather** and **Paul Felts**.

Discussion Class—The class will join the Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study class.

Explorers Class

Friendship Class—**Connie Showalter** will lead a discussion on “The Last Girls.”

Journey Class—**Terry McIlwain** will facilitate the “Beverly Hillbillies” lesson and discussion.

Life Class—The class will join the Journey class for the month of August.

Phoenix Class will continue its summer forum series.

Reuben Alley Class will join the Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study class.

Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class—The 6th Annual Catacombs lectures welcomes **Dr. James Slatton** to speak on “Baptist Origins—The ‘Whitsett Controversy.’”

THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS CONFLICTS WITH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR US TODAY?

In Elaine Pagels’ latest book, [Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas](#), the author says that the gospel of Thomas teaches its readers that there is a light in each of us, whereas the gospel of John proclaims Jesus as the only light of the world. Pagels suggests that we recover Thomas as a way of embracing diversity of religious traditions. To her what matters about Christianity involves much more than any one set of beliefs. The **Modern Theologians Discussion Group** will look at Pagels’ book at its next meeting on **Thursday, August 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor**. Even if you have not had a chance to read the book, come join in an always interesting discussion. Newcomers are welcome! Call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, for more information.

August

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 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						

Tuesday, August 5

Wednesday, August 6

Thursday, August 7

Wednesday, August 13

Thursday, August 14

Evening Bridge, 7:30 p.m., Reception Room

Stephen Ministry Supervision, 4:00 p.m., Archives Room

Volleyball, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Arts 2003—Facilities Use Committee, 10:00 a.m., Church Parlor

Men's Softball, 8:00 p.m., Pouncey Tract

Summer Supper Series, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Theologians Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor

THE NEXT TIME YOU PASS A STORE, PLEASE REMEMBER THE ISH SCHOOL

SUPPLIES CAMPAIGN: The annual River Road Church school supplies campaign on behalf of Interfaith Services of Henrico (ISH) will be held from July 15-August 15. Supplies needed include such items as wide-rule loose leaf notebook paper, wide-rule spiral notebooks, black and white composition books, ball-point pens, #2 pencils, pink erasers, blunt scissors, pocket folders, Elmers glue, glue sticks, washable markers, highlighters, colored pencils, crayons (8, 16, 24 count boxes), index cards, boxes of tissues, rulers, bottled anti-bacterial soap, 3-ring binders (1, 2, 3-inch), compasses, protractors, pencil boxes, and writing tablets. Gifts may be brought to the Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class on Sunday mornings or to the church office during the week. If you would like to participate in the campaign, but don't have time or transportation to shop, please call **Charlotte** and **Bill Simpson** at 285-3185 and they will shop for you.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARE: Thanks to your generosity a large supply of food was delivered to the South Richmond Baptist Center in Bainbridge on July 17. The food pantry was empty, and our delivery filled the shelves.

Please remember that hunger is a constant and growing problem in many areas of our community. The elderly and children are its particular victims. Mark your calendars for the next **First Sunday Food Share** on **Sunday, August 3**.

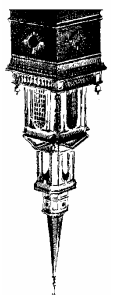
Suggested foods for donation include canned applesauce and fruits, macaroni and pasta products, peanut butter, canned tuna, soups and stews. Although only one Sunday a month is designated for food collection, canned and nonperishable foods can be brought to the church office at any time.

The Spirit 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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Address Services Requested

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