

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

August 19, 2003, Vol. 57, No. 33

**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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2003
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sanctuary

Sermon by Dr. Cecil E. Sherman
Sarah Dickey, Soloist
M. Wayne Hare, Organist

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following the
worship service hosted by the Journey class.



ANNUAL NEW CHURCH YEAR PICNIC WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

Dinner—5:30 Program—6:45-7:30 p.m.

Beginning a new year is a lot like beginning a trip. You want to make sure you have all the things you need. Food, clothes, supplies are obvious. But what about a smile on your face? What about a song in your heart? Maybe those are even more essential for getting off to a good start. Come hear professional storyteller Denise Bennett tell stories and sing songs that will delight, excite and inspire you as you begin a new school year, and a new church year of mission and ministry. Denise's stories and songs involve lots of audience participation so we need you to help tell the stories too! Great for the whole family!

Denise Bennett is a professional storyteller and part time chaplain at the Hermitage United Methodist Home in Richmond. She is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College and Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education. She tells personal stories, folktales, Bible stories and sacred stories throughout the Southeast.

Adults—\$5.00 Children—\$2.50

Reservations must be made by Sunday, August 31, 2003

Children may also register for the fall music and
missions programs which begin on September 10, 2003.

Children's Ministry News

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND HABITAT: You have one more Sunday to bring school supplies for the boxes made in Vacation Bible School for Habitat for Humanity. Thank you for the great response so far. The supplies will be delivered to the Habitat office next week.

COMING EVENTS:

September 3	Church picnic with professional storyteller Denise Bennett
September 5	Christian Education Training for the new church year
September 7	Promotion Sunday and Installation of teachers in worship service
September 10	Children's choirs and Missions programs begin
September 14	Bible Presentation to Third Graders

Student Ministry News

FALL PROGRAMS RESUME ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2003

Youth will observe the following schedule:

Sunday

9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship
5:00-5:45 p.m.	Youth Bells
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Snack Supper
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Fellowship/ "Sanctuary"

Wednesday

5:30-6:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:00-6:45 p.m.	Youth Choir
6:45-7:30 p.m.	Fellowship/ "Sanctuary"

PARENT/YOUTH NIGHT—SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7—6:00 P.M.

Programs, projects and special events will be presented. The group will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Snack supper will not be served.

CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM RESUMES REGULAR SCHEDULE

All River Road Music organizations resume regular weekly meetings in early September. There is a place for all those who are interested in participating in one or more of our music organizations regardless of previous musical experience. Listed below are all choirs, their starting dates, rehearsal times and leaders.

Choir	Grade	Rehearsals Begin	Time
Cherub	Age 3,4,5	Wednesday, Sept. 10	6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Carol	1-2	Wednesday, Sept. 10	6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Crusader	3-5	Wednesday, Sept. 10	6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Youth	6-12	Wednesday, Sept. 10	6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Chancel	College and Up	Thursday, Sept. 4	7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Chancel Bell	College and Up	Wednesday, Sept. 10	6:45 - 7:30 p.m.
River Road Ringers	6-12	Sunday, Sept. 14	5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

For more information call the Music office, 288-1131.
Enrollment for children and youth begins at the Picnic on Wednesday, September 3.

IN HOSPITAL: **Bea Adkins**, Chippenham
Nancy Jordan, University of Virginia Medical Center
Nancy Gayle Smith, Henrico Doctors Forest

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Berry** and **Kathy Fowler** upon the death of his father, and to **Emily** and **Allison Fowler** upon the death of their grandfather, Alpha A. "Sonny" Fowler, on August 10, in Douglasville, Georgia.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Gary** and **Robyn Tyer** upon the death of his mother, Edith Lee Tyer, on August 13, in Prattville, Alabama.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Derek** and **Pam Painter** for their premature stillborn daughter, Christina Ann, on August 14.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Ann** and **Olen Stewart** upon the death of her mother, and to **Lisa Lawhorn** upon the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Blair Bass, on August 17, in Danville, Virginia.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Keith** and **Ashley Evans** upon the birth of their son, Joshua Eubank Evans, on August 13. **Bev** and **Tom Evans** are his grandparents.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Betsy** and **Pat Lacy** upon the birth of their son, Dennis Patrick Lacy, IV, on August 16. **Pat** and **Dick Harwood** are his grandparents.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Lovell** and **Clyde Glasco** who celebrated their fifty-third wedding anniversary on August 11.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Merle** and **Connie Showalter** who celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on August 14.

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
Pam and **Derek Painter**
Virginia Toney



JOIN THE RIVER ROADSTERS AT THE THEATRE

Enjoy "Show Boat" in September and
"Alive with Theatre" in October

"Show Boat"—Riverside Theatre—September 21: Spanning the years from 1880-1927, this lyrical masterpiece relates the lives, loves, and heartbreaks of three generations of show folk and their adventures on the Mississippi Showboat, in Chicago, and on Broadway. The one constant is the River itself, and the well-known *Ol' Man River* provides the common thread of the musical's fabric. This musical has won multiple awards, including 5 Tony Awards. You'll be humming the tunes for days afterward! Your cost of \$64.00 per person, includes transportation, gourmet lunch, and the matinee performance. We will depart from the church at 12:30 p.m. and return approximately 7:00 p.m. **Reservations and payment must be made to Eunice Wolford, 794-4651, no later than September 5.**

"Alive with Theatre"—The Dutch Country—October 14-16: Enjoy a wonderful three-day escape to the "Land of the Dutch," which begins with lunch and a stop at the "Rockvale Square Outlet Mall." The Historic Strasburg Inn is your home away from home for the next two nights. An unhurried atmosphere surrounds the estate-like setting, beckoning travelers to relax and enjoy its many pleasures. Enjoy dinner and a wonderful performance of "Phantom" at the Dutch Apple Theatre. This spellbinding musical brings to life the enchantment and mystery of the greatest love story of all times. The second day enjoy a hot and delicious breakfast at the Inn before a professional guide tours you through the Amish country. A "country surprise" is in store for you! Following your tour, spend time shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village. This evening you will travel to the Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse for dinner and a wonderful musical, "My Way—Sinatra." Hear the music of the only artist with seven decades of hit songs. Your final day begins with a breakfast buffet and departure for the Bird in Hand Farmer's Market. Fresh baked bread, just picked produce, homemade fudge, and so much more is yours for the pickin' this morning. Your trip home will include a stop for lunch at the Mountain Gate Inn. We will return to the church approximately 6:00 p.m. **Reservations and a deposit must be made to Eunice Wolford, 794-4651, no later than August 29.**

Historically Speaking . . .

MEANING OF THE CHAPEL HOUSE CREST

Members who are introduced to River Road Church through the Adult Orientation learn about the symbolism of the church's architecture. Perhaps the rest of us have wondered what some of the symbols represent. One of the unique architectural features immediately visible to visitors and cars passing on River Road is the decorative crest on the Chapel House. The crest was refurbished and painted with glorious colors a few months ago. The crest shines with the pride River Road Church members feel to be a part of such a wonderful congregation.

Why such ornamentation and what does it mean? The crest is not just a reminder of some past glory such as you would find in heraldry for a family with a grand pedigree. The crest was designed specifically for the building and the elements of the design represent specific ideas we hope to espouse.

In 1944 a perception grew that a church for Baptists was needed in the environs west of the University of Richmond amidst the new subdivisions under development. While numbers were small in the beginning leaders had a vision of future growth. After land was secured, the first architect outlined a master plot plan encompassing three main structures: a small chapel building, an educational and fellowship facility, and finally a grand sanctuary for the center spot, all tied together with arched colonnades. A significant idea of that first architect was that each building would represent a period in early American church architecture. The Chapel House represents the colonial era.

The small Chapel House reflects that era with the carefully selected brick exterior, the use of heart pine for the paneling and pews, the high arched windows, organ and choir loft in the gallery, and a divided chancel in front of a draped baptismal pool. And capping the effect is the magnificent painted crest outside over the double doors. Designed by one of the founders, Dr. Donald S. Daniel, the crest was adapted from similar designs seen in colonial Williamsburg.

Each element in the crest is significant. In the center oval is a Maltese cross on a field of cobalt blue. In Christian iconography, the eight points of the cross symbolize qualities of a person dedicated to service on behalf of Christ: loyalty, piety, generosity, courage, honor and glory, acceptance of death, helpfulness, and reverence for the church. The center is surrounded by a golden ring, suggestive of eternity, and is flanked by two golden griffins, mythological creatures half lion and half eagle that suggest human is both earthly and spiritual beings. Above the central medallion is an open Bible on which is printed a verse from John 14, "I am the way and the truth and the life," topped by a lamp of gold symbolizing Jesus, the light of the world. A decorative swag adorns the emblem depicting thistles to symbolize the hardships Christians must face, a bursting pomegranate representative of regeneration or new birth, a blooming rose for the beauty of godly living, and the laurel wreath for victory. Across the bottom of the crest is a streamer bearing the Latin words *pax et lux*, which mean "peace and light."

The crest has been incorporated into the church's logo and is found on stationery and other publications and is used as a symbol for the church's involvement in missions, education and worship.

Barbara Jackson
History Committee

RIVER ROAD CHURCH PARTICIPATES IN CAPITAL REGION BAPTIST INITIATIVE

Liberian Hunger and Health Crisis Help! Help! Help!

- Who?** Virginia Baptists, Dover, Richmond, and Middle District Association have received an urgent appeal from our West African Liberian brothers and sisters to send 40ft. containers of food, medicines, and over the counter medications immediately. The Capital Region Initiative Group pledges to do our part from all the 200+ churches.
- What?** Rice (5, 10, 20, 50, 100lb. bags); canned meat/beef/vegetables; canned fish; canned or dried beans (pinto, lima, kidney); cooking oil; sugar; salt; powdered baby formula (preferably Enfamil or Similac); dry baby cereal; medication for pain, headache, fever, colds; vitamins; Neosporin and other ointment for rashes, cuts, bites; cloth baby diapers and pins; health/hygiene needs—bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes (no rubbing alcohol).
- When?** Ingathering Days, Sunday's, August 24 and 31.
- Where?** Deliver to the “to be announced” warehouse on Monday through Thursday, August 26-28, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Packing boxes and instructions provided later.
- Why?** To show Christian compassion to starving Liberians by meeting their physical and spiritual needs.

For more information and to volunteer as a packer, loader, administration clerk or “straw boss”, please contact Rev. Billy Davis, Richmond Baptist Association, (804) 329-1701, extension 204, or billy@rbaonline.org.

SEMESTER-LENGTH ADULT BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS OFFERED

Beginning on Sunday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m., two semester-length courses of study will be offered for interested adults. Led by Dr. Robert Dibble and others, participants will be part of a community where serious intent, personal preparation, and active involvement provide the basis for significant learning.

Continuing the biblical story from where we left off last fall in Genesis the first course is entitled *Exodus: Gateway to the Bible*. Exodus is a unique book. In it we find a description of the formation of the people whose story provides the narrative framework of the Old Testament. Several key events in the life of this people are first mentioned here, such as the liberation of Israel from Egypt and the gift of the law at Mt. Sinai. These events shape the identity of God's people and

become signposts for reflection and renewal in Israel's later history and the early decades of the church. Through a process of reading, reflection, discussion, and creative expression learners will discover how the people, events, and places that occurred more than three thousand years ago can become part of an ongoing conversation about God and God's relationship to the church.

The second course, beginning January 11, 2004, also continues last winter-spring's study in the third gospel as Luke writes of the events of the early church. *Into the World: The Acts of the Apostles* examines fully the story of the church's beginnings and its earliest mission efforts. Participants visit key personalities, review their activities, reflect on their meaning, and discover their message to the church today and in

that discovery be challenged, engaged, and motivated to carry on in our day the church's mission.

These two offerings promise to be exciting courses of study for adults ready to reflect deeply on the scriptures, faith, and life. **There will be a cost to participants for the two books used during the courses.** Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis and may be made to the adult ministries office, 288-1131. All questions should be directed to Robert Dibble.

COMPANIONS *in Christ*™

The Emerging Leaders Team of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board is sponsoring a regional *Companions in Christ* training event on September 11-13, 2003 at First Baptist Church of Richmond.

Published by Upper Room Ministries, *Companions in Christ* is a new, transforming small-group experience that builds spiritual practices within one's congregation. It is a 28-week spiritual journey that draws participants into daily time with God through individual reading and reflection and meeting weekly for sharing and deeper exploration. The journey in spiritual formation moves through five

components: Christian journey, scripture, prayer, call, and spiritual guidance.

The Adult Ministries Committee would like to establish several *Companions in Christ* groups this fall at River Road Church. They are inviting interested adults who would be willing to attend this training and consider being a small-group facilitator. Small-group leaders who attend this training event will learn about and experience first-hand this transforming resource. They will also identify and develop the distinctive facilitation skills needed for leading spiritual formation groups and connect with a network of support for leaders.

The leader-training event will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 11, and will end at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 13. **The registration fee of \$125.00 (which includes a copy of all the *Companions in Christ* materials and three meals) will be paid by the church for those agreeing to serve as small-group leaders.** If you are interested in being a part of establishing a new ministry of spiritual formation at River Road Church or if you have additional questions, please contact Robert Dibble at 288-1131 or by email at bobdibble@rrcb.org. **The registration deadline is Sunday, August 31, 2003.**



Acolyte: Lawrence Heisler

Flower Distribution: Nancy Anderson, Carol Decker

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

Sound: Harper Alford

Tellers: Harper Alford, Mary Ellen Berry, Courtney Bunn, Frances Cloe, Henry Holland, Beth Hooker

Ushers: Steve Bailey, Ethan Butterworth, Richard Cloe, Chuck Myers, Thea Winterbottom

Worship Care: Infants—Vivian Mathews; **Toddlers**—Arlene and Cecil Perry, Bob and Diane Shoemake; **Two-Year-Olds**—Karen Brown; **Three-Year-Olds**—Lauren Brown, Lawrence Heisler; **Fours and Fives**—Bobby Gary, Melanie Gray

Minister On Call

Weekend: August 23-24

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 continues a four-lesson unit of study entitled “*Life in Transition: Growing in Grace.*” Beginnings and endings are the most common of all human experiences, overarching the entire community and breaking through boundaries. We all share the process of life. Similar hopes and fears connect every generation. We might tell our life stories in terms of disorientation and reorientation, displacement and replacement, disengagement and reengagement, disenchantment and rechantment. Some things must end before other things can begin. In this unit, we study the transitions in one biblical family. The story focuses on Jacob, the son of promise, through birth, young adulthood, middle adulthood, and old age. We are fortunate to see the internal struggles of this man. Conflicting endings and beginnings surround Jacob, and we can even see the birth pangs of a new community, the people of God. Just as Jacob wrestled with the stranger at the river Jabbok, so we might find opportunities to wrestle with our own life transitions. Like Jacob, we might have brief moments of illumination that fill us both with anxious dread and with magnetic attraction. Such is the baffling beauty and bane of life in transition. This week’s lesson, entitled “*Face to Face: Wrestling with God,*” is based on Genesis 32:2-32, 33:1-10 and is studied in the following classes:

Fellowship Class will be taught by **Stuart and Dot Williams.**

Journey Class will be taught by **Susan Rucker.** All members of the class, please bring a plate of goodies for the church coffee, August 24. The class will have a brunch on Sunday, August 31. The sign-up list is in the classroom.

Life Class—The class will join the Journey class for the last time this month. August 31 the class will enjoy its Labor Day tradition of a “Back-to-School, Back-to-Work” program.

Lydia Class will be taught by **Libbie Geiger.**

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

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

TwentySomethings Class will be taught by **Heather and Paul Felts.** Join the class for a cook-out on September 6. *RSVP* to Heather Felts at hfelts@rhc.edu or call 364-0797.

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

Explorers Class

Friendship Class—**Connie Showalter** will begin a two-part discussion on “Jacob the Unlikely Patriarch.”

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 sixth annual Catacombs Lectures welcomes **Tom Graves** who will speak on “Baptists and Racism: Our History and Our Prospects.”

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. Questions concerning your responsibilities for the reception should be directed to **George Davis**, at 288-1131.

August 31 Explorers, Phoenix

August & September

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						

September 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				

Tuesday, August 26

WMU Leadership, 10:00 a.m., Church Parlor
Wednesday Night Servers Luncheon, noon, Reception Room

Monday, September 1

Labor Day—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2

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

Wednesday, September 3

Annual New Church Year Picnic, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

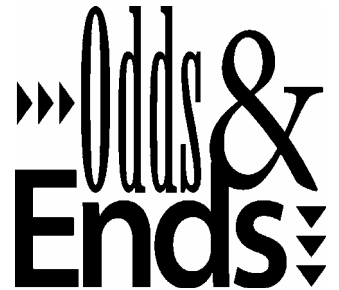
Stewardship Committee, 7:30 p.m., Archives Room

Friday, September 5

Education Faculty Dinner, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

RIVER ROAD WEEDERS: Are you tired of pulling the weeds in your own yard? Do you get great satisfaction from digging wire grass? The church needs volunteers who don't mind getting down and dirty to help out occasionally with the landscape maintenance. If you are interested, please call **Wyatt Heisler**, 741-9320, or **George Davis**, 288-1131.

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, September 2, 7:30 p.m., in the Reception Room.** Call **George and Kitty Davis** at 285-9782.



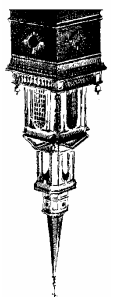
THOMAS AQUINAS (1225-1274 C.E.) WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO SAY TO US TODAY? Thomas Aquinas was one of the most influential thinkers in the history of Christianity and in western civilization, and yet his theological views can seem complex. Timothy Renick's **Aquinas For Armchair Theologians** presents the views of this medieval Dominican friar in a readily accessible account (only 152 pages with illustrations) of his thought and life. Morality, war, abortion, politics, and sex are just some of the topics covered in the book. The **Modern Theologians Discussion Group** will examine what Aquinas thinks about these and other subjects at its next meeting on **Thursday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor.** Newcomers are always welcome! Even if you have not had a chance to read the book, come and participate in a lively and interesting discussion. Call **George Davis** at the church (288-1131) for more information.

The *Sprir* 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

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



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