

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

September 16, 2003, Vol. 57, No. 37

**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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 21, 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.



CALLED BUSINESS MEETING—SEPTEMBER 24

The Board of Deacons has called for a church business meeting to be held on Wednesday evening, September 24, following the church dinner. The purpose of the meeting will be to adopt budget goals for the church for the year 2004.

The called meeting will also afford opportunity to elect messengers for the Baptist General Association of Virginia which will meet November 14 and 15 in Richmond, and to the meeting of the Richmond Baptist Association on October 19, at Monument Heights Baptist Church. The church is entitled to fifteen messengers to the General Association and 8 messengers to the Richmond Association. Persons wishing to serve as messengers to either meeting should call the church office so that arrangements may be made for their nomination. Nominations also may be offered from the floor at the church business meeting.

Finally, the Board of Missions will recommend a revision to the Constitution and By-Laws to establish a new standing committee of the church, Transportation Committee. The first reading will be given at the business meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend the called meeting on September 24. The session will follow the 5:30 Wednesday dinner in the Fellowship Hall, convening at about 6:15 p.m. and will precede the programs scheduled for that evening.

**VIRGINIA BLOOD SERVICES BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

See inside for details

E. Carl Freeman

35th Anniversary Reception

Sunday, September 28

12:00 noon, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY DINNER PROGRAMS

September 24, 2003

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

Luther's Ideas for Today: Paul Tillich Made Simple

Dr. Rob James

Rob James will explain a simple diagram that he thinks summarizes the existentialist (and very-Lutheran) theology of Paul Tillich, one of the three greatest theologians of the 20th century. Dr. James plans to give the gist of chapters 2 and 3 of his new book, *Tillich and World Religions*. In July he dealt with chapters 4-7 in the Catacomb Lectures held by several of River Road's combined Sunday School classes.

also offered

A Back-to-School Primer for Parents: Sex, Drugs & Your Child (Part Two)

Dr. Christopher Lindbloom

Menu for September 24: The adults will have baked chicken, rice, glazed carrots, salad bar, rolls and ice cream. The children will have tacos, potato chips, salad bar and ice cream.

JOIN THE RIVER ROADSTERS IN DUTCH COUNTRY

OCTOBER 14-16

“Alive with Theatre” 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.**

AT HOME: Vickie Saunders

IN HOSPITAL: Nancy Gayle Smith, Henrico Doctors Forest

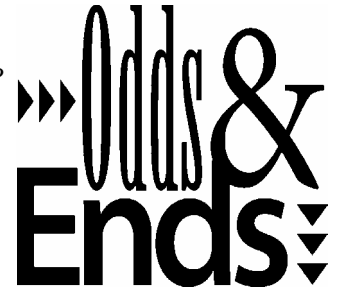
CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to the family and friends of **Jeanne Wood** upon her death September 11.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Steve Lessels** who has been named senior manager at Goodman and Company.



THE MOMS' GROUP will hold a social at the home of **Theresa Price** on Monday, September 29, at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for dessert and coffee and bring your ideas on this year's monthly events. *RSVP* to Theresa at 559-4677.

BOOK LOVERS' GROUP: River Road's "literary circle" will begin its *fifth* year on Thursday evening, September 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Reception Room. The selection to be discussed is Geraldine Brooks' Year of Wonders. This historical novel is based on the true story of Eyam, a village in England, where in 1666 a tainted bolt of cloth brought bubonic plague to this isolated settlement. Following the advice of a visionary young preacher, the villagers self-impose a quarantine. How is it possible to call such a period "a year of wonders?" **Kitty Davis** will lead the discussion of this *New York Times* and *Washington Post* Notable Book. Everyone is welcome! Join River Road's book group this fall.



BLOOD DRIVE: River Road Church is hosting a blood drive on Sunday, September 21, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. in the bloodmobile on the parking lot. You must be 17 years old and weigh 110 pounds to donate. Virginia Blood Services is a non-profit community blood center that supplies the inventory to every hospital in Richmond. Did you know that if you donate even one time, you can reduce the risk of heart disease by over 50%? The contribution that you make of yourself doesn't cost a thing, but the benefits are priceless. One donation can save three lives! Be a hero and call **Susan Vaughan**, 883-7160, or contact the church office to sign up.

UP NEXT - I AND THOU - MARTIN BUBER'S CLASSIC! The **Modern Theologian Discussion Group** will next look at Buber's short but extremely significant work that argues for an ethic that does not use people (or God), and does not consider them objects of one's own personal experience. We must learn to consider everything around us as "you" speaking to "me," and requiring a response. The group will meet on **Thursday, October 16, in the parlor at 7:30 p.m.** Even if you have not had a chance to read the book, come and participate in an interesting and lively discussion. Visitors are always welcome. Call George Davis at the church, 288-1131, for more information.

TIME TO "SPRUCE UP" THE CHURCH! FALL WORKDAY - OCTOBER 11: The House and Grounds Committee has scheduled a workday for Saturday, October 11, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Raking, trimming, and weeding are just some of the tasks that the committee hopes will be accomplished that morning to help make the church look a little nicer. Call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, with any questions.

CALLING ALL FISHERMEN AND FISHERWOMEN! NOVEMBER 22 IS THE DATE! The sound you hear off in the distance is that ever appealing call of rockfish waiting to be caught. They're not in our neighborhood yet, but they're coming and we'll be ready! We already have a boat booked for Saturday, November 22, when the big ones will be swimming around and checking out the Chesapeake Bay. Call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, if you think landing a 25-pound rockfish sounds like fun.

THE ARTS 2003 FESTIVAL IS COMING! READ UP! The written word looms large among the fine arts, and no festival would be complete without its being included. On Thursday afternoon, October 9, there will be a discussion of three books by Ellen Glasgow, Richmond's hidden literary treasure. The books will be Glasgow's Barren Ground, A Sheltered Life, and The Woman Within (her autobiography). Read one of these books, or all three of them, and come to the discussion. Barren Ground is the poignant, forceful story of the struggles of a strong woman in rural Virginia at the turn of the twentieth century. In many ways it is highly reflective of Glasgow's life and her insight into her world. A Sheltered Life takes place in Richmond just about the time of World War I. It is a masterful presentation of what life was like here, told from the view point of an old man and his young and naive granddaughter. It gives a wonderful look at a part of our social history we too often overlook. The Woman Within is Glasgow's vision of herself, and how the influences of her life came together to make it what she became. With the two novels, it is a wonderful picture of the writer, and her world—our city. Read! Come! Talk about them! It will be interesting!

Children's Ministry News

WORSHIPCARE

Schedules for the year in WorshipCare have been mailed, volunteers have been in their places on Sunday mornings during worship, we have had happy preschoolers, and are off to a great year! THANK YOU, again to all the volunteers who make WorshipCare possible. A special thank you to the **Friendship Class** who as a class project provided volunteers for each month. And thanks to **Linda Harmon** who encouraged this volunteer participation.

COMING EVENTS

The next **Parent/Child Dedication** will be **Sunday, November 9**. Parents of babies born recently will receive a letter soon inviting participation in this event. If you, for some reason, have not participated in a Parent/Child Dedication in the past and wish to at this time, please call Pam Hughes at the church office, 288-1131.

Thanks to **Judy Collins** and **Christie Lessels** for leading the first part of our "Back to School Primer for Parents: Sex, Drugs, and Your Child." Part Two will be Wednesday evening, September 24, 6:30-7:30, and will be led by **Christopher Lindbloom**.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

Would you be willing to **substitute** occasionally for preschool and/or children's teachers in Sunday School? If so, please call Barbara Massey, 288-1131, to indicate your willingness to do so.

Student Ministry News

SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS: This Sunday the youth fellowship will discover their leadership style by taking a questionnaire. Combined with the "gifts" questionnaire, youth will have an indication of how their talents and gifts can best be used. The fellowship will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

"Sanctuary" will be open on Sundays and Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Audrey Thomson will provide snack supper at 6:00 p.m. Please remember that snack supper cost is \$2.00.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

September 28	The first Vesper Service	6:30 p.m.
October 11	Middle School Retreat	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
October 17	"Sleep in the Box Night"	5:30 p.m.-8:00 a.m.
October 19	Crop Walk Sunday	

ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please return your card with your child's college address, telephone number and e-mail address. We would like to be able to contact them as the fall progresses.

Sunday Responsibilities

Acolyte: Joseph Fields-Johnson

Deacons Coffee: Karen Cothran, Charlie Drummond, Sam Measell, Sandra Sizemore

Flower Distribution: Mary Ellen Berry, Betty Woolcott

Greeters: Karen Cothran, Clarice Dibble, Sylvia Dickerson, John Gordon, Rob Spicer

Sound: Tom Kirkup

Tellers: Lovell Glasco, Barbara Robertson, Don Robertson, Hob Sigmon, Peggy Stevens, Marjorie Yount

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

Minister On Call

Weekend: September 20-21

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 “Joseph.” Most of us are familiar with the story of Joseph, but few people are aware of how much of Genesis is devoted to him. Yet, more important than length is the continuous thread of God’s providential guidance and care woven throughout Joseph’s story. The passages for this unit were chosen for two reasons: each highlights the role God played in guiding the life of Joseph, and each highlights Joseph’s devotion to God regardless of his experiences. A careful study of this unit can give you a new perspective on the role God played in Joseph’s life. God guided Joseph to a position of power in Egypt that meant the survival of Joseph’s family and the beginning of the Hebrew nation that would one day inhabit the promised land. Joseph’s sustained obedience to God was a crucial factor in his rise to leadership in Egypt. The second session considers the role Joseph played in preparing Egypt for a great famine. Joseph’s careful planning helped Egypt and the surrounding nations—including his own family members—survive. This week’s lesson, entitled “*Providential Placement: Recognizing the Will of God*,” is based on Genesis 45:1-18 and is studied in the following classes:

Fellowship Class will be taught by **Martha Lou Green**.

Lydia Class will be taught by **Edy Price**.

Reuben Alley Class will be taught by **Tom Warrington**.

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

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

Discussion Class—The class will discuss “Asking for and Receiving Help—How to Recognize When You Need Help? How Do We Handle the Stress When We Are the Primary Giver?” The class will enjoy a potluck dinner and University of Richmond play. Contact Ann Loxterman for details.

Explorers Class—The class will continue its study of Psalms on September 21, by looking at different types of psalms, as described on pages 11-13 of [Discovering the Psalms: Passion, Promise & Praise](#), by Donald L. Griggs (copies available in the classroom).

Friendship Class—**Dan Stevens** will discuss “Passing It On.” The class will have a fall brunch after church on September 21, at the home of **Betty Rose** and **Tim Sexton**.

Journey Class

Life Class—The class will continue a series on “Biblical Examples of Courage—First-Century Women: The Courage of Witness.” **Scott Leake** will lead the discussion.

Phoenix Class—The class will be having a pot-luck dinner at the home of **Henry** and **Betty Rose McGee** on Saturday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. Call Betty Rose, 754-1412, for more information.

Robert Smart Class—The class continues its study of the Gospel of Matthew, led by **Bob Shoemake**. All young adults, 25-40-somethings—married and not—are invited to join the class.

Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class—The class will continue its study of the Gospel of John, beginning at chapter 12, verse 9. **Bob Shepherd** will teach the lesson. The class celebrates its fall social on Saturday, October 11, at the home of **Ann** and **Gus Sledge**.

SOUNDING THE CALL FOR VISITATION VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in sharing some time with a member of our congregation who is homebound? Would you like to brighten someone’s day and your own? Are you looking for a way to make a difference in our church community? If the answer to any of these questions is “yes” then here’s an idea for you. The Visitation Committee is seeking volunteers willing to contact a homebound church member on a monthly basis. The time commitment is small and the rewards are great. If you are interested in more information, contact **Letty Wood** at 740-1776 or email at rhw4201@aol.com before September 22.

September & October

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 20	Chancel Choir Retreat , 10:00 a.m., Music Room
Sunday, September 21	Virginia Blood Service Blood Drive , 12:00 noon, Bloodmobile
	Board of Administration , 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room
Tuesday, September 23	History Committee , 3:30 p.m., Archives Room
Wednesday, September 24	Called Business Meeting , 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
	Pastor Search Committee , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
Thursday, September 25	Book Lovers' Group , 7:30 p.m., Reception Room
Sunday, September 28	35th Anniversary Celebration for Carl Freeman , noon, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 1	Stephen Ministry Supervision , 4:00 p.m., Archives Room

Missions

2003 ALMA HUNT OFFERING FOR VIRGINIA MISSIONS:

Wayne Coley spoke at the
WMU Women on Mission

Day Group's monthly meeting about his work helping to establish residential group homes for developmentally disabled adults throughout the Commonwealth. These homes provide a home-like, Christian setting in which aging parents can place their adult children. All residents work. Two caregivers are on duty at all times to provide supervision, assistance, and encouragement to the residents. The twelfth group home recently opened in Farmville, Virginia. Three are in Richmond. Wayne has a list of 140 waiting for openings. This work is subsidized by the **Alma Hunt Offering**. Envelopes for this offering are in the sanctuary pew racks. Please consider giving to the **2003 ALMA HUNT OFFERING FOR VIRGINIA MISSIONS**.

LIBERIAN HUNGER AND HEALTH CRISIS: Thank you for donating to this relief effort. Food and medicines were delivered to the Liberian Relief warehouse on September 4.

WMU WOMEN ON MISSION DAY GROUP: Thank you Betty Damon, Mary Pankey, Ann Loxterman, and Barbara Kinsey for preparing and serving dinner to about 25 students at the University of Richmond's BSU on September 9.

NEXT ISH CAMPAIGN: OCTOBER 1-31 WARM

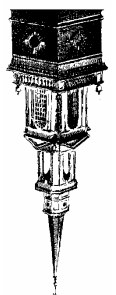
WINTER COATS AND JACKETS—River Road Church will collect new and like-new warm winter coats and jackets for infants, children, and youth through age 17 throughout the month of October. If you have outgrown coats or jackets in good condition for this age group, we would be happy to have them. If you would like to purchase these items, we would be happy to have them, too. Contributions may be taken to the Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class on Sunday mornings or to the church office during the week. If you are not able to shop for these items, but would like to contribute money to purchase them, **Charlotte and Bill Simpson**, 285-3185, will shop for you.

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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