

Baptist in  
Heritage,  
Ecumenical  
in Worship  
and Outreach



# The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

April 13, 2004, Vol. 58, No. 15

## SEASON OF EASTER

The burst of praise and resurrection joy of Easter permeates the entire period from Easter through Pentecost. This Season of Easter is also known as the Great Fifty Days, named for the period of time, reckoned from the book of Acts, between the resurrection and the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the whole church in Jerusalem. While Easter is the Sunday of all Sundays, gathering up and transfiguring the narrative of Holy Week, and indeed the whole history of God's mighty works, the resurrection courses through the days and weeks of the Season of Easter as one great extended Lord's Day. It lifts up the facets of the redeeming work of God in Christ, commemorating Christ's triumph over death, his post-resurrection appearances, his ascension, and his promise of the Spirit's companionship. The liturgical color of the season is white, which is used on occasions with a strong Christological emphasis.

The scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Easter are:

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18, 2004  
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.



## WEDNESDAY DINNER PROGRAMS

April 21, 2004  
5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Programs

**"Long Term Care: Do You Have A Plan?"**  
Emily Farmer

Americans are facing major long-term care challenges as the United States population ages and people live longer lives. In 2001, about 7 million men and women over the age of 65 needed long-term care. By 2020, the number will increase to 12 million. The costs for this care are estimated to grow faster than the rate of inflation. It has never been more important to consider this an essential part of retirement planning. Learn about the following to better prepare you, your family and savings for the future: What is Long-Term Care? Who Needs Long-Term Care? What are the Levels of Long-Term Care? Where and are Long-Term Care Services Available? What are the chances that I will Need Long-Term Care? How much does Long-Term Care Cost? How are these methods available for Planning and Paying for Long-Term Care? 1. Medicare? 2. Medicaid? 3. Private Health Insurance? 4. Family? 5. Long-Term Care Insurance? What is the Impact of Care-giving on the Family? How Does Long-Term Care Insurance Work? Building Blocks and Features of a Quality Long-Term Care Insurance Policy. Join us as we welcome Emily Farmer, Life Planning Specialist, Relationship Manager. Emily is the daughter of Don and Karen Farmer, and the granddaughter of Don and Sue Farmer.

"Retirement is survival of the wisest . . ." - Katherine Hepburn

also offered

**Parents' Track—Tough Topics**  
**"Telling A Child About Death"**  
Barbara Massey

# MINISTER TO STUDENTS SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Executive and Personnel committees have directed the Board of Christian Education to appoint a Search Committee to fill the Minister to Students position for a one-year term. The Search Committee members are **Cara Bowen**, chair; **Cecil Sherman**; **Linda Schreiner**; **Peggy Pruden**; **Becky Spicer**; **Doug Moyers**; **Nancy Gary**; **Cathy Michiels**; **Rob Collier** and **Bill Rusher**. The committee is looking for an experienced youth minister who is willing to commit to a one-year contract. The Executive and Personnel Committees felt that a long-term commitment to this position should be in line with the goals of our future Senior Pastor. The Search Committee will hold listening sessions for parent and student input as follows:

April 18	Open Session Youth Session	12:30-1:30 p.m. 6:30-7:30 p.m.	Assembly Room Youth Area
April 21	Open Session	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Reception Room
April 25	5 <sup>th</sup> Graders	9:45-10:45 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School Classroom

The plan is to hire this person by June/July 2004 so that he/she may transition with Chester Phelps and our students during the summer months. Please feel free to contact members of the search committee should you have recommendations or input to share.

## Missions

**EASTER OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS:** “You will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.” –Acts 1:8 CEV. This is the theme of the 2003-2004 Offering for Global Missions of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). To the group of apostles, these words of Christ might have seemed overwhelming, yet they may have been just what the apostles were yearning for-direction for their commitment to and belief in Christ as

God’s Son. They were to tell and be the good news of Jesus to everyone everywhere. CBF Global Missions lives out Christ’s challenge among the most neglected in North America and around the world. The 2003-2004 Offering for Global Missions emphasis asks each of us to come alongside one another as believers in Christ combining our giving, our praying and our going to benefit global missions initiatives meant to reach the most neglected who have the least resources. Please consider a contribution to the CBF Offering for Global Missions. Envelopes can be found in the sanctuary pew racks.



## RIVER ROAD CHURCH CONCERT SERIES 2003-2004

**JAMES WILSON, CELLO  
CARSTEN SCHMIDT, PIANO**

**WORKS BY W. F. BACH, SCHUBERT,  
CORIGLIANO, FAURE, AND GRANADOS**

**Sunday  
April 25, 2004  
5:00 p. m.**

**River Road Church  
River Road at Ridge Road  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Open to All**

**IN HOSPITAL:** George Harding, St. Mary's  
Alana Woolley, St. Mary's

**AT HOME:** Anne Jones, Barbara Street (wife of Raymond Street)

**IN ASSISTED LIVING:** Evaline Flow

**IN NURSING HOME:** Lucille Dodson, The Laurels at Willow Creek, 11611 Robius Road,  
Midlothian, Virginia 23113



**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is expressed to the family and friends of **Frances Cooke** upon her death on April 6.

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## Student Ministry News

### MINISTER TO STUDENTS SEARCH COMMITTEE—LISTENING SESSION

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2004 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

All youth are invited to participate in a meeting to select a new Minister to Students. Your input is important. Plan on being present on April 18. Linda Schreiner will provide snack supper at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### 2004 YOUTH MISSION TRIP—DAVIS, WEST VIRGINIA

**JUNE 20-26, 2004**

The group will be assisting Blackwater Charge, a small Methodist church with repairs. We will stay at the Timberline Ski Resort. There is still time to sign-up for this project! See **Chester Phelps** for an application!

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## Civil War Forum



Next to Robert E. Lee himself, Thomas J. Jackson is the most revered of all Confederate commanders. A graduate of West Point (1846), he had served in the artillery in the Mexican War, earning two brevets, before resigning to accept a professorship at the Virginia Military Institute. Thought strange by the cadets, he earned "Tom Fool Jackson" and "Old Blue Light" as nicknames. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he was commissioned a colonel in the Virginia forces and thus began his meteoric rise in rank to Lt. General, commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. In the fight at First Manassas, both the brigade and its commander were dubbed "Stonewall" by General Barnard Bee (However, Bee may have been complaining that Jackson was not coming to his support). The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was the only Confederate brigade to have its nickname become its official designation. In his greatest day, he led his corps around the Union right flank at Chancellorsville and routed the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps. Reconnoitering that night, he was returning to his own lines when he was mortally wounded by some of his own men. Following the amputation of his arm, he died eight days later on May 10, 1863, from pneumonia. Lee wrote of him with deep feeling: "He has lost his left arm; but I have lost my right arm." **On the 141<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his death, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson is the subject of the next Civil War Forum on Monday, May 10, 7:00 p.m., in the Journey classroom.** 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.

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Are you interested in local mission work? Do you want to help spread the good news of God's eternal love? If so, please consider joining members of our congregation, members of other congregations, and Cross Over Ministry as we plan and work together to open a health care clinic for our neighbors in need right here in the West End.

Site options are currently being explored. Over the next six to twelve months the project will require expertise in the following areas: construction and renovation; transportation (volunteers with pick-up trucks to help haul materials); and hostess (lunch/snacks during renovation). When the clinic opens there will be many opportunities for nurses, dentists, physician assistants, physicians, radiologists, lab technicians, and pharmacists to help serve those who desperately need compassionate health care. Finally, financial support is always needed and appreciated. If you would like to be a part of this exciting project, please complete and return the volunteer interest inventory that is available in the church office.

# Children's Ministry News

**COMING SOON**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, PARENTS' TRACK, TOUGH TOPICS SERIES**

**Barbara Massey**, will discuss "Telling A Child About Death." Join us for this timely discussion, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Reuben Alley classroom.

**KITE-FLYING**

For children in grades 1-5, **Saturday, April 24, 10:00-noon**, place to be announced. Bring a kite and a parent (or other adult). Please call **Barbara Massey** for reservations at this event, 288-1131.

**THANK YOU!**

Our Preschool Sunday School teachers and WorshipCare teachers were pleased to see so many happy faces on Easter morning. We provided WorshipCare for two worship services, as well as provided teaching for the regular Sunday School hour. This required some extra staffing. Thank you to all the volunteers who were willing to come and work with us on this special day. We couldn't have done it without you!

**COMING SOON—MAY 8**

The River Road Church, Baptist Royal Ambassadors chapter will host its first ever **RA Racers Event** in the **Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 8 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** In recent months the RAs have been working hard on their cars for this event and it is certain that a good time will be had by all. Come out and support the RAs by watching and cheering their cars on to victory! Watch for more details in *The Spire* in the upcoming weeks.



*You're Invited*

*Please join the WMU Foundation for lunch  
and a special award ceremony.*

*Thursday, April 29 12:00 noon  
The Commons, Bon Air Baptist Church  
Richmond, Virginia*

*Friends and colleagues of Barbara Massey established the Barbara Massey Children's Network Endowment Fund in the fall of 1998 in honor and recognition of Barbara's lifetime commitment to children, children's leaders, and Christian education for children.*

*The WMU Foundation will award the Barbara Massey Children's Network Endowment to Patsy Davis, director of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. This celebration luncheon marks the beginning of a three-year grant to aid the Women's Department of BWA in establishing a worldwide network of children's leaders.*

*Please RSVP by April 21 to Linda Lucas, 1-877-482-4483 or email [llucas@wmu.org](mailto:llucas@wmu.org)*

# River Road Church, Baptist

Fourteenth Annual

## *Founders Cup*

Open Golf Tournament

**Hunting Hawk Golf Club**

**Saturday, May 1, 2004**

“Captain’s Choice”

**Starting Times begin at 9:00 a.m.**

**Entry Fee: \$78.00**

**Cost includes Box Lunch & Drink, Greens Fee, Cart,  
Range Balls, Complimentary Gift and Prize Fee**

**Prizes for First Place (Championship & Senior Division),  
Longest Drive, and Closest to the Pin  
will be awarded on Tournament Day**

**Annual Award of the *Founders Cup***

Complete this entry form and submit it to the River Road Church, Baptist “golf professional” in the church office along with your **\$78.00 entry fee no later than Friday, April 23, 2004**. No refunds are possible after this Guarantee Date. Guests are welcomed and will be paired with their host/ess. Guest’s entry fee(s) should be submitted with this entry form. All checks should be payable to River Road Church, Baptist. Any questions should be directed to the “golf professional” in the church office, 288-1131.

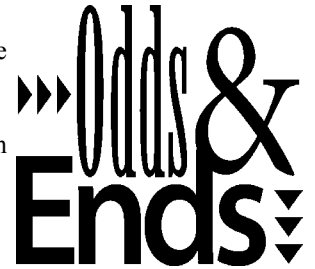
Name:	Phone:
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Guest:	Phone:
Guest:	Phone:

## Discussion Groups

**THE BOOK LOVERS' GROUP** will meet on **Thursday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m., in the Reception Room.** This month's selection is [An Hour Before Daylight](#), [Memories of a Rural Boyhood](#) by Jimmy Carter. The former president has written about his Depression-era boyhood on a Georgia farm before the Civil rights movement forever changed it and the country. Everyone is welcome to attend the discussion. For more information, call **Kitty Davis**, 285-9782.

**SEEN ANY GOOD MOVIES OR PLAYS?** For a number of years an idea that has been "kicked around" here at River Road is to form a group that periodically goes to see a movie or play (or rents a good movie) and then meets to discuss what they have seen. If you are interested in participating in such a group, call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, for more information.

**CAN WE BRIBE YOU WITH A FREE BREAKFAST?** There are many little jobs that need to be done around the church (fix Exit signs, replace light fixtures, touch-up painting, minor carpentry, etc.) If you can help for a little while on **Thursday morning, April 29, we'll feed you breakfast.** We plan to meet at **8:30 a.m., in the Reception Room**, have a delicious breakfast and some enjoyable fellowship, and then go work on a few tasks. Call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, for more information.

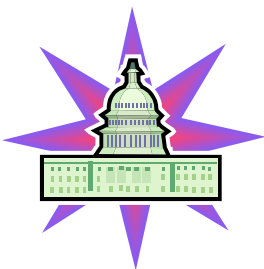


**RIVER ROAD WEEDERS:** Are you tired of pulling the weeds in your own yard? Do you get great satisfaction from digging up dandelions? The church needs volunteers who don't mind getting down and dirty to help out occasionally with the landscape maintenance. If you are interested, please call **George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

**THANK YOU, COTHRANS AND GUS:** The House and Grounds Committee would like to thank the entire **Cothran family (Edwin, Karen, Gregg, and Emily)** for working at the church all day Friday. They first pruned, weeded, and raked the courtyard garden, and then they tackled the magnolia tree closest to the sanctuary. They pruned a significant number of limbs and hauled them to the back of the church. The tree is more open now and looks much better.

**Gus Sledge** worked Friday and Saturday in the Memorial Garden getting it ready for Easter. He weeded the garden and then wheeled in twenty bags of pine bark mulch and spread it around. Notice how nice the gardens look and thank Gus and the Cothrans when you see them.

**THE SANCTUARY WAS BEAUTIFUL!** Thanks go out to the **members of the Chancel Committee** and **Miller Alvis** for making the sanctuary so lovely for Easter Sunday. The lilies throughout and floral arrangements in the chancel and narthex were exquisite. Thank you for adding to the beauty of Easter.



## VISIT THE GREENBRIER RESORT WITH THE RIVER ROADSTERS MONDAY, MAY 10, 2004

Nestled on 6,500 acres in the scenic Allegheny Mountains in White Sulpher Springs, West Virginia, the Greenbrier has been a world renowned award-winning resort for more than 200 years. Excellence, elegance and opulence best describe the resort and its superior goals of complete and total customer satisfaction.

We will arrive at midday for a professionally guided tour of the former government relocation bunker. Built directly under the resort's West Virginia Wing, the bunker had the code name "Project Greek Island," and was designed to house the members of Congress in the event of a nuclear strike on Washington during the Cold War. The Federal Government relinquished control of the 112,544-square-foot bunker and consequently the Greenbrier opened the facility for public tours. This "retired" bunker will close to the public in July, 2004. Don't miss this great opportunity to tour this national historic landmark.

The group will depart from River Road Church on Monday, May 10, 2004, at 7:00 a.m. and will return at approximately 6:30 p.m. The cost of \$120.00 per person includes: transportation, a continental breakfast served en route, a mouth-watering "bunker buffet" lunch, refreshments served aboard the coach, tax and gratuities on lunch and driver gratuity. **Please make your reservation to Eunice Wolford, 794-4651, no later than April 30, 2004.** *This trip does require a minimum of thirty-five passengers.*

# Sunday Responsibilities

**Acolyte:** Lawrence Heisler

**Deacons' Coffee:** Fred Anderson, Brenda Holland, Marshall Parker, Peggy Pruden

**Flower Distribution:** Judy Collins, Beth Wilson

**Greeters:** Karen Collier, Nancy Gary, Lee Perkins, J. R. Pruden, Rob Taylor

**Sound:** Bill Gray

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

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

## Minister On Call

Weekend: April 17-18

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 an eight-lesson unit of study entitled “*A Risen Savior*.” This eight-session unit will guide you and your class from the second Sunday in Lent to the second Sunday after Easter. During the first six weeks, through Lent and Easter Sunday, the texts are from the Gospel of Luke. The texts for the last two weeks come from the Gospel of John. This eight-week journey begins by examining Jesus’ frustration at a city and an audience that seemed continually to miss the point. Our journey into discipleship joins Jesus as he traveled to Jerusalem, toward his death. The first session shows Jesus’ profound love for and frustration with the city of Jerusalem. In the second and third sessions, we examine Jesus’ teachings about repentance and look at the parable of the prodigal son, a story of extravagant love. Both of these sessions come from Luke’s travel narratives, during which Jesus shows, through his actions and teachings, his concern for the marginalized people of society. The fourth session marks the end of the journey to Jerusalem and explores the peculiar nature of Jesus’ procession into the city as a king. The fifth session considers the last supper Jesus had with his disciples before his death. The session also explores the meaning of Communion for believers today. The sixth session, Easter Sunday, encompasses the first of the resurrection stories—the finding of the empty tomb. In the final two sessions, we discover the resurrection appearances in the Gospel of John. The first covers Jesus’ appearance to his disciples in Jerusalem on two Sunday evenings, concentrating on the interchange between Jesus and Thomas. The last session comprises the appearance of Jesus to seven disciples on a beach in Galilee and Jesus’ subsequent conversation with Peter. This week’s lesson, entitled “*What It Means to Believe*,” is based on John 20:19-31, and is studied in the following classes:

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

**Friendship Class** will be taught by **Connie Showalter**.

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

**Reuben Alley Class** will be taught by **Gene Damon**.

**Robert Smart Class** will be taught by **Bob Shoemake**. How do you make good marriages better? Come find out on Saturday, April 17, at the first-ever class marriage enrichment retreat! The class will be held at Baptist Theological Seminary, 3400 Brook Road, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Dan Bagby will lead our class during this session. Babysitting will be provided for kids who do not need a nap. The cost is \$20.00 per couple, which includes lunch.

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

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

### Discussion Class

**Explorers Class**—The class will continue a discussion of When Religion Becomes Evil by Charles Kimball.

**Journey Class**—**Bill Gray** will lead the book discussion on Abraham by Bruce Feiler. Sign up in the classroom for the English Garden dinner on April 30. Call Vicki McIlwain, 288-9114, for details.

**Life Class**—**Scott Leake** will conduct a preview of our next course of study “The Resurrected Jesus.” On Sunday, April 25, the class will have a spring brunch; so be planning the delicious dish you want to share!

**Phoenix Class**—The class will look at the book, When Religion Becomes Evil. **George Davis** will lead the discussion.

**Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class**—The class will continue its examination of Jesus before Pontius Pilate as recorded in John 18-19 this Sunday. **Bob Shepherd** is the class teacher.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 16	<b>Stephen Minister Training</b> , 6:00 p.m., Archives Room
Saturday, April 17	<b>Stephen Minister Training</b> , 9:00 a.m., Archives Room
Sunday, April 18	<b>Founders' Day Celebration</b> , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary <b>Minister to Students Search Committee Open Listening Session</b> , 12:30-1:30 p.m., Assembly Room <b>Stephen Minister Training</b> , 3:00 p.m., Archives Room <b>Nominating Committee</b> , 5:00 p.m., Church Parlor <b>Adult Bible Study</b> , 6:00 p.m., Journey classroom <b>Minister to Students Search Committee Youth Listening Session</b> , 6:30-7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall <b>Board of Administration</b> , 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room
Tuesday, April 20	<b>Men's Softball</b> , 6:30 p.m., Short Pump <b>Pastor Search Committee</b> , 7:00 p.m., Church Parlor
Wednesday, April 21	<b>Minister to Students Search Committee Open Listening Session</b> , 6:30-7:30 p.m., Reception Room <b>Personnel Committee</b> , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor <b>Book Lovers' Group</b> , 7:30 p.m., Reception Room
Thursday, April 22	<b>Grades 1-5 Kite Flying</b> , 10:00 a.m., place TBA
Saturday, April 24	<b>Stephen Ministry Commissioning</b> , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Sunday, April 25	<b>Stephen Ministry Training</b> , 4:00 p.m., Archives Room <b>Concert</b> , 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall <b>Youth Vespers</b> , 6:30 p.m., Senior High Lounge
Tuesday, April 27	<b>Men's Softball</b> , 6:30 p.m., Short Pump
Wednesday, April 28	<b>Moms' Group</b> , 6:30 p.m., <b>Executive Committee</b> , 7:30 p.m., Archives Room <b>Pastor Search Committee</b> , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor

**WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU FOR APRIL 21:** The adults will have baked chicken, rice, glazed carrots, salad bar, rolls and cookies. The children will have tacos, potato chips, salad bar, and cookies.

*Visit us on the web at [www.riverroadchurchbaptist.org](http://www.riverroadchurchbaptist.org)*

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