

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

May 11, 2004, Vol. 58, No. 19

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter are:

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16, 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

May 19, 2004
5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Programs

"Martin Marty's *The Christian Story*"
Don Retzer

The Pastor's Forum welcomes back Don Retzer. In three video presentations, Martin Marty asks the question, "What is your story?" One's story as a Christian, he says, is a Jewish story, a medieval story, a Reformation story, an American story, an Enlightenment story and a global story. This week Dr. Retzer concludes the series with "The Church Around the World: The Christian Story Goes Global."

also offered

Parents' Track—*Tough Topics*
"Building Your Child's Self-Esteem and Confidence"
Barbara Massey

This group will meet in the Reuben Alley classroom.



SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

June 6, 2004
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Two Motets—Anton Bruckner
Requiem—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The River Road Chancel Choir with Orchestra

SUNDAY, MAY 23

4:00-8:00 P.M.

CHESTNUT OAKS RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Horseshoes

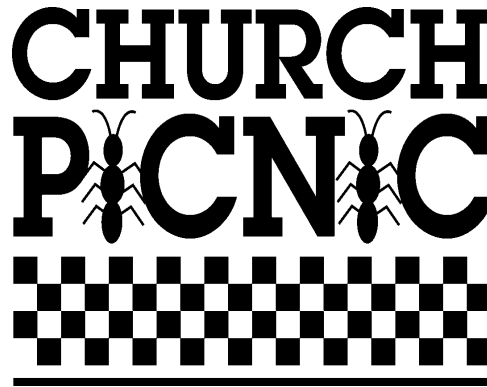
Hamburgers

Volleyball

Hotdogs

Fun for All!

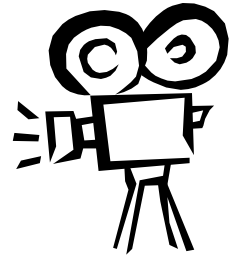
and all the fixin's



ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Pull out the lawn chairs and picnic blankets, and plan to join us for good food, recreation, fun and fellowship. See you there!

COME TO THE MOVIES WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR!



The Chancel Choir would like to invite you to a free showing of the film *Amadeus*, on Sunday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Jepson Hall, Room 118 at the University of Richmond. *Amadeus*, winner of eight Oscars (including best picture), tells the story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 18th century Vienna through the eyes of composer Antonio Salieri. Salieri is bitterly jealous of the impudent and crude Mozart but can't keep himself from being transported by Mozart's stunning music. Tom Hulce does a wonderful job portraying the hysterical and brilliant Mozart while F. Murray Abraham astounds as the brooding and conflicted Salieri. It's got comedy, drama, beautiful costuming and settings, and gorgeous music--a treat for mind, eye, and ear! Why this particular movie? The Chancel Choir is performing Mozart's Requiem at the concert on June 6, and if you have seen the film, you know how central that composition is to the story—so you could say it is a bit of a preview and a loose history of the piece. Plus, a good time will be had by all! If you would like to come, please contact **Eric Johnson**, President of Chancel Choir, at ejohnson@factsmith.com or at 321-4913 to pass along your name, your phone number (in case we need to get in touch with you), and the number of people in your party. The film is rated PG, so we hope you can bring your whole family. Refreshments will be available.

**Discussion
Group**

AN EXAMINED FAITH - THE GRACE OF SELF-DOUBT

The **Modern Theologians Discussion Group** will look at this book at its next meeting on **Thursday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor**. The author, James Gustafson, argues that we allow our religious views to be “manipulated” and “accommodated” by our scientific, secular, and philosophical perspectives. He challenges Christians to a greater self-consciousness and honesty about their religious commitments. Even if you have not had a chance to read the book, come and join in an always interesting and lively discussion. Visitors are most welcome! Call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, for more information.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS OFFERING FOR 2004: Each year during May, the churches of the Richmond Baptist Association (RBA) have the opportunity to support, prayerfully and financially, the good work of Camp Alkulana and the four Baptist centers. These ministries rely exclusively upon the generosity of Richmond Baptists to provide the financial means for their work. In the summer, Camp Alkulana provides 200 inner-city children a week of camp in the Allegheny Mountains in Bath County. The goal of every camp day is to “make the reality of God’s love come to life” by giving support to these children as they are challenged with new adventures and relationships. In an atmosphere of safety and love, activities such as canoeing, camping, rappelling, snorkeling, playing, swimming, team building and worshipping help campers develop self-esteem and gain knowledge of God’s provision and promises for them. The four Baptist centers in inner-city communities minister to residents and families through a variety of programs in order to enable individuals, bring about social change and witness to the love of God. Envelopes for the Associational Missions Offering can be found in the sanctuary pew racks.



ISH DIAPERS/EMERGENCY CERTIFICATES CAMPAIGN: River Road Church will sponsor its annual diapers and emergency certificates campaign on behalf of Interfaith Services of Henrico (ISH) from May 1-31. Diapers for children? Yes. Diapers for adults? Yes, this year for the first time. Emergency certificates? Yes. **Sue Hodder** will coordinate the campaign. Contributions may be brought to the Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class on Sunday mornings in May or to the church office during the week.

WILL YOU HELP PREPARE CAMP ALKULANA FOR SUMMER CAMPERS? Bring your loppers, weed whackers, or chain saws. Bring hand gardening tools and gloves. Join **Bill Rusher** and others to make the trip (it’s a beautiful drive!) with a stop at Mrs. Rowe’s for nourishment! **Saturday, June 5**, is the date; call Bill, 285-1087, for the meeting time or for more information. We are also collecting items to give to needy Alkulana campers. We need new backpacks or sports bags (for carrying their clothes), flashlights, new underwear, and old tennis shoes (to be worn in the water), as well as empty bleach bottles with handles and lids. *Please bring these items by June 1 to the church office.* Thank you!

Student Ministry News

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: The last Youth Fellowship of the season will be held on Sunday. Snack supper will be served at 5:45 p.m.

REMAINING SCHEDULE—2004

May 23	Church Picnic	Chestnut Oaks Recreation Association—4:00-8:00 p.m.
May 30	Memorial Day Weekend	No programs
June 6	Closing Program	Picnic & Vespers on the Plaza

SUMMER EVENTS

2004 Youth Mission Trip—June 20-26—Davis, West Virginia: The team will assist the Methodist church in Davis with the removal of an old house next to the church. It would be helpful if several adults could help with this project on Monday and Tuesday. See **Chester Phelps** for additional information! There will be a team meeting on June 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Passport, 2004—July 4-9—Wingate University: There is still space available. See **Chester Phelps** for information.

UKROP’S GOLDEN RECEIPT CAMPAIGN: The May flyer from Ukrop’s contains the Golden Receipt which gives funds to nonprofit groups. Please turn your receipt in to the church office or your Sunday School class. During the past fifteen years \$22,228.00 has been given for Summer Mission Projects. Thanks for your support.

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES

The church will have a reception Sunday, June 6, to recognize the graduates of high school, college, technical institutes and graduate school. Contact the church office at 288-1131, as soon as possible, giving your full name, school and/or specialty.



AT HOME: Evelyn McDuffie
George Werner
Alana Woolley

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Byron and Eunice Wolford** upon the death of his mother, **Effie Moyers Wolford**, on May 9, in Petersburg, West Virginia.

Children's Ministry News

The **RA RACER EVENT** on Saturday, May 8, was a great success! Thanks to the RA leaders for making it so. And thanks to the RAs themselves for making it so much fun! The winner of the event was **Brian Price**.

MAY 19—PARENTS' TRACK "TOUGH TOPICS"—The topic is "**Building Your Child's Self-Esteem and Confidence.**" **Barbara Massey** will lead this week's discussion. Come join us in the Reuben Alley classroom, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

MAY 22—MOREFIELD GEM MINE trip for Grades 1-5. Please make a reservation for this event by calling **Barbara Massey**, 288-1131. A reservation is necessary in order to provide adequate transportation. We will meet on the north parking lot of the church at 10:00 and return at 2:00. Bring a sack lunch.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—JULY 12-16

Register your child now using the form below.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Child's name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Grade completed (if elementary) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Parent(s) name: _____

Parent(s) telephone: home _____ work _____ cell _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Allergies of child, if any: _____

We will have a Vacation Bible School Celebration Picnic on Friday, July 16, noon-1:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person.

_____ Yes, I will attend. _____ Number from your family who will attend

Please return this completed form to Barbara Massey by June 15, 2004.

Sunday Responsibilities

Acolyte: Lawrence Heisler

Deacons' Coffee: Janet Bagby, Jean Cauble, Tim Sexton, Charlie Sorrell

Flower Distribution: Liz Seward, Betty Rose Sexton

Greeters: John Gordon, John Hays, Tom Heggie, Jennifer Pounders, Theresa Price

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, Charlie Sorrell

Minister On Call

Weekend: May 15-16

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 five-lesson unit of study entitled "Philippians." Paul's letters can be characterized according to some of their central concerns. Clearly, the Corinthians faced many problems within their young church. The Galatians were immature in the faith. The Romans, whom Paul had not met, were considered sophisticated enough to handle deep theology. Then there were the Philippians—familiar, reliable friends to whom Paul could open his heart. Paul probably wrote the letter to the Philippians from Rome, presumably during the house arrest that followed his appeal for a hearing before the emperor, the right of every Roman citizen. This imprisonment begins as the book of Acts ends. Paul hoped to be released, but he knew the possibility was unlikely. Nevertheless, his letter to close friends is filled with joy for the opportunities God gave him to tell the gospel story. Paul also expresses gratitude to the Philippians, who stood by him and ministered to him at a considerable cost to themselves. In these five sessions we explore an overview of the letter to the Philippians. This week's lesson, entitled "Deciding What is Important," is based on Philippians 3:7-16, and is studied in the following classes:

Fellowship Class will be taught by **Don Powell**.

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

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

Robert Smart Class will be taught by **Bob Shoemake**. Check out our May-June activities on the special insert page in this issue of *The Spire*.

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

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

Discussion Class—The class will continue the study of "End of Life Issues." We will begin reviewing the booklet, chapters one through four.

Explorers Class—The class will discuss chapter six of Charles Kimball's book, When Religion Becomes Evil.

Friendship Class—**Connie Showalter** will continue a discussion on religious implications concerning Mary Magdalene and other matters of The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown.

Journey Class—**Susan Rucker** will discuss chapter two of the book Let Your Life Speak.

Life Class—The class continues its study of "The Resurrected Jesus." **Scott Leake** will lead the discussion of chapter four, "Called to Conversion, Called to Serve."

Phoenix Class—

Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class—The class will look at the record of Jesus' appearances after his crucifixion as noted in John 20 this week. **Bob Shepherd** teaches the class.

ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS!

The Board of Christian Education and the education ministers, **Chester Phelps**, **Barbara Massey**, and **Robert Dibble** have worked to review Sunday School outreach structure and procedures. Together, they want to conduct a Sunday School Leaders luncheon meeting. The specific purpose would be for us to work together in better communicating about our members and prospects. So, we are asking every Sunday School class to be represented at a luncheon on **Sunday, May 16, 2004, 12:30 p.m., in the Social Hall** of the Chapel House.

Now, who should attend? Simple: all outreach leaders or teachers with outreach responsibilities; even group leaders should attend this coordination meeting. Sunday School outreach is a very important component to a comprehensive outreach ministry at River Road Church. Your presence will help us implement a more effective Sunday School outreach. We hope you will make every effort to participate. In order to insure the proper number of lunches, *please RSVP to the church office, 288-1131*.

May

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 14	Board of Christian Education Retreat , Waverly, Virginia
Saturday, May 15	Board of Christian Education Retreat , Waverly, Virginia
Sunday, May 16	Sunday School Leadership Luncheon , 12:30 p.m., Chapel Hall Nominating Committee , 5:00 p.m., Church Parlor Minister to Students Search Committee , 6:45 p.m., Church Parlor Board of Administration , 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room
Tuesday, May 18	Pastor Search Committee , 7:00 p.m., Church Parlor Men's Softball , 8:00 p.m., Short Pump
Wednesday, May 19	Stephen Ministry Supervision , 4:00 p.m., Archives Room Stewardship Committee , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
Thursday, May 20	Morning Bridge , 10:00 a.m., Reception Room, hosted by Mary Gauldin , 740-8199 FIXERS , 8:30 a.m., Reception Room Modern Theologians Discussion Group , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
Saturday, May 22	Morefield Gem Mine Trip (Grades 1-5)
Sunday, May 23	Church Picnic , 4:00 p.m., Chestnut Oaks Recreation Association
Tuesday, May 25	Pastor Search Committee , 7:00 p.m., Church Parlor Men's Softball , 8:00 p.m., Short Pump
Wednesday, May 26	Executive Committee , 7:30 p.m., Archives Room Personnel Committee , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor

RIVER ROAD FIXERS WILL GATHER FOR FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND "FUN": The next breakfast meeting of the **FIXERS** (Frequently Ingenious, eXtremely Efficient, Righteous Servants) is **Thursday, May 20, at 8:30 a.m. in the Reception Room**. The group is open to anyone (men and women) who enjoy a nice breakfast and fellowship and who can spare a couple of hours to help around the church. Call **George Davis**, 288-1131, for more information.

HAVE A LITTLE FREE TIME? NEED SOME EXTRA SPENDING MONEY? Church administrator, **George Davis**, is looking for a youth to help out around the church this summer a few hours each week with odd jobs (raking magnolia leaves, picking up trash, weeding mulch areas, etc.) If you are interested, contact George at the church, 288-1131.

WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU FOR MAY 19: 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.riverroadchurchbaptists.org

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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May & June Smart Class Events

It's Time for Picnics & Projects

Picnics!

Please e-mail Jennifer Pounders (markpounders@comcast.net)
& *RSVP* for these activities.

Annual Church Picnic: Sunday, May 23 4:00 - 8:00

Chestnut Oaks Recreation Association

Have you ever attended the church picnic? Many of us have not either so we thought it would be fun to attend together as a class. When you arrive, look for the yellow smiley face balloon and you'll find our group. Watch the SPIRE for details about what food items to bring.

Maymont Children's Farm & Picnic Lunch: Saturday, June 12 10:00-1:00

It's time for our third class trip to Maymont! We will meet at the Children's Farm and then walk to a lunch spot to enjoy the picnic lunches we've each brought. If you arrive late and can't find us, call Jennifer Pounders at 338-4514.

Projects! Class Commitments to Missions

Please e-mail Lee Bradley (lee.bradley@plantronics.com), our class representative to the Board of Missions, to volunteer by May 24th.

Family CARITAS: Tuesday, June 1 5:00 - 8:30

Our class will be hosting the dinner for CARITAS families at the church. 2/3rds of the group of 28 people will be children ranging from newborns to age12. Our class will prepare and serve dinner and will also plan an activity for the children. Lee Bradley has volunteered to spend the night, and we need one other person to stay as well.

CAMP ALKULANA: Saturday, June 5 Milboro,VA

Camp Alkulana, a ministry of the Richmond Baptist Association, provides summer camping experiences for Richmond inner-city children. To get the camp ready for the summer, a full day of yard work is desperately needed. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided. If you can't volunteer for the work day, the camp is in need of the following supplies: suitcases, duffle bags, backpacks, flashlights, empty bleach bottles, new underwear for boys and girls, and old kids tennis shoes. Please bring these items to our classroom for donation.