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Baptist in  
Heritage,  
Ecumenical  
in Worship  
and Outreach



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# The Spire

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River Road Church, Baptist

July 13, 2004, Vol. 58, No. 28

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 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 Fellowship class.



## DR. MICHAEL JAMES CLINGENPEEL CALLED TO RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

At the close of the worship service on Sunday, July 11, 2004, River Road Church, Baptist convened in business session to act upon the unanimous recommendation of its Pastor Search Committee that **Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel** be called to be its next Pastor.

In response to Moderator **Bob Shepherd's** call for the question, the congregation voted unanimously to issue a call to Dr. Clingenpeel. Thereafter, in a brief phone conversation with **Ransone Hartz**, Chair of the Search Committee, Dr. Clingenpeel accepted the Church's call. An enthusiastic impromptu celebration thereafter occurred at the church reception, when Dr. and Mrs. Clingenpeel and their son, Tim, at Ransone's invitation, appeared and received the warmest of welcomes.

Before concluding the business session and asking **Dr. Fred Anderson** to offer the benediction, Bob took the prerogative as Moderator to recognize and thank the Search Committee for its work, the Executive Committee of the Church for its work during the absence of a pastor, the professional staff for the extra work load it had carried while the search had progressed, and Dr. Cecil Sherman for his outstanding service as Interim Pastor. Each expression of gratitude was met with applause from those present, with a particularly prolonged and spirited ovation saved for Dr. Sherman.

The business session had been announced by notice mailed to the membership on June 30 in *The Spire* and the Search Committee had revealed Dr. Clingenpeel as its choice on July 4 in a report to the Church presented by the Committee following the worship service.

On Friday, July 9 elected officials of the Church and the Staff were introduced to Dr. Clingenpeel and his wife, Vivian, at a dinner in the Fellowship Hall. On Saturday, July 10, Dr. Clingenpeel enjoyed lunch with the youth of the church and that evening he, Vivian and Tim, were introduced at a reception for all church members. Several hundred members enthusiastically greeted the Clingenpeel family at the reception and heard Dr. Clingenpeel express his appreciation for the work of the local church in general and especially for the contributions of River Road Church, Baptist.

Dr. Clingenpeel will conclude his work as editor of the *Religious Herald* by mid-August, and will begin his work at River Road the first full week of September. His first Sunday in the pulpit will be September 12. A formal service for the dedication of his ministry will occur later in the Fall. As stated by Ransone Hartz, "We feel truly blessed to find someone of such widely recognized skill and devotion and look forward to his leadership as we move into a new phase of our church's life."

## DR. MICHAEL CLINGENPEEL ACCEPTS INVITATION TO BECOME THE FIFTH PASTOR OF RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST



Dear friends at River Road,

I readily accepted when **Ransone Hartz**, Chairman of the Pastor Search Committee, phoned me last Sunday at a minute past noon to say I had been elected fifth pastor of River Road Church, Baptist. To me it seems appropriate to put this in writing. It is with gratitude for our mutual understanding of God's direction that I accept the invitation to become the fifth pastor of River Road Church, Baptist.

For almost six decades River Road Church has faithfully fulfilled its mission to be Baptist in heritage and ecumenical in worship and outreach. I look forward to joining the laity and staff of River Road Church in this journey of discipleship and ministry. Last weekend we experienced your warm and enthusiastic welcome. I regret that I cannot begin my duties as your pastor immediately, but it is impossible to bring to a close my ministry with the *Religious Herald* until mid-August. It has been a wonderful gift to serve Virginia Baptists by helping them become better informed about God's work through Baptists, and I need several weeks to disengage from more than 12 years in my role as editor and business manager.

I will begin as your pastor in early September, and my first Sunday in the pulpit is scheduled for September 12.

Vivian and Tim join me in this acceptance of your call and in eager anticipation of this new opportunity.

Blessings,  
Mike Clingenpeel

### SUMMER SUPPER SERIES

Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Program

♪**Take Me Out to the Ballgame**♪  
**Wednesday, July 21**

Join us as we celebrate "America's great pastime": **baseball!** We will have a "**Home Run Derby**" and be visited by the Richmond Braves' "**Diamond Duck.**"

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 in the offering plate. You may also call the church office, 288-1131, no later than noon on Tuesday, July 20. The standing reservation list will not be used for the Summer Supper Series.

***Childcare for infants through three years will be provided each evening by advance reservation only!*** For reservations, contact the Minister to Children at 288-1131.

**AT HOME:** Janet Clark, Cecil Sherman

**IN HEALTHCARE:** Mary Lib Grizzard

**IN REHABILITATION:** Carolyn Jones, Pine View; 621 Academy Lane;  
South Hill, Virginia 23970



**NATION'S GOVERNORS SALUTE VIRGINIAN,  
AND RIVER ROAD CHURCH MEMBER, FOR PUBLIC SERVICE**

Virginia Secretary of Finance, and River Road Church member, **John M. Bennett** will be honored for his distinguished service and invaluable contributions to state government at the National Governors Association's 2004 Annual Meeting in Seattle later this month. "John Bennett and our finance team worked tirelessly with me to address our state fiscal crisis, and then meet our three goals . . .," said NGA Vice Chairman Virginia Gov. Mark Warner who nominated Bennett. "John could have presided over a budget balancing act that

simply passed our fiscal crisis on to the next administration. But instead, he faced the longest of political odds to help lead Virginians to a fair and fiscally responsible long-term solution. I commend him and personally thank him for his professionalism and commitment to the public good."

Currently, Bennett, whose distinguished career in the commonwealth's legislative and executive branches spans more than a quarter century, oversees four agencies that

manage the financial transactions of the commonwealth, and under his direction, these agencies have led the way in budget reductions, streamlining, and innovation saving Virginia's taxpayers millions of dollars.

The Awards for Distinguished Service to State Government will be presented during the meeting's opening plenary session on Sunday, July 18.

# Children's Ministry News

**COMING SOON—THURSDAY, AUGUST 12—SUMMER SURPRISE** for grades 1-5! Call **Barbara Massey**, 288-1131, to make reservations.

## **CALLING ALL MOMS, DADS, GRANDMOTHERS, GRANDFATHERS, AUNTS, UNCLES, AND FRIENDS!**

### **WorshipCare Volunteer**

We are ready to formulate a list of volunteers who will rotate on a schedule in WorshipCare for preschoolers—infants through five-year-olds—on Sundays during the worship hour. If you love preschoolers and would be willing to spend an hour with them from time to time during worship on Sunday morning, please **fill out the form below**, indicating your interest. We promise you will receive much more than you give!

We thank those who have served faithfully in this capacity this past year. Even if you have participated in WorshipCare this year, we need to know if you will be able to serve again beginning in September, when the new schedule begins.

Youth who want to volunteer must also fill out a form.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to volunteer:

\_\_\_\_\_ once a month    \_\_\_\_\_ once a quarter    \_\_\_\_\_ as often as you need me

Place the form in the envelope on the office door of the Minister to Children or give the form to **Barbara Massey**.

# Student Ministry News

## A NOTE FROM THE NEW MINISTER TO STUDENTS . . .

Dear Students and Families,

I want to take this opportunity to officially say hello to all of you. My husband, Andy, my son, Bryson, and I are so excited to be a part of the River Road Church family.

I have had quite an active beginning! My first day with you was the Mission Tour to Davis, West Virginia. What a great trip! We have some really hard-working youth. Passport was equally inspiring.

Thank you for welcoming my family and me so warmly. This is going to be a great year. I look forward to seeing you and getting to know you as we fellowship, learn, work, and worship together.

Peace,  
Mary Richerson Mann



## 2004 COLLEGE STUDENT/ADULT MISSION PROJECT JULY 23-AUGUST 1, 2004

This summer our church will once again return to Farmington, Maine to continue working with Farmington Baptist Church and Conference Center. Since 1989, our church has helped to construct cabins, a bath house, a dining hall, a new church, and the renovation of the 1700's main house. Please remember the following individuals as they provide ministry in the name of our Lord and our church:

Miller Alvis  
Ronald Benton  
Donna Bower  
Emily Bower  
Richard Bower  
Cathy Carlock  
Katie Chandler  
Laura Lee Chandler  
Rebecca Chandler

Drew Collier  
Carl Collier  
Karen Collier  
Rob Collier  
Clarice Dibble  
Robert Dibble  
Nancy Gary  
Bill Gray  
Deb Gray

John Gray  
Melanie Gray  
Patrick Green  
Cindy Harris  
Gene Harris  
Ann Hays  
Nash Hays  
Nathan Hays  
Norma Hays

Sid Hays  
Tyler Hays  
John Heisler  
Ken Lantz  
Sarah Lantz  
Byrd Latham  
Kelly Moore  
R.C. Moore  
Sarah Newcomb

Donna Payne  
Arlene Perry  
Cecil Perry  
Chester Phelps  
Margaret Phelps  
Bill Rusher  
Padgett Shoemake  
Etta Wallace  
Beth Wilson

## Missions

**FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARE:** Thank you for your continuing support of First Sunday Food Share! River Road delivered ten grocery bags of food to the Church Hill Health & Wellness Center on July 1. Our church also assisted with the bimonthly food distribution at the Center by handing out grocery bags of food to about 40 area residents. Community Missionary Jason Smith has been able to double the number of residents the Center can assist since January because of increased donations. Easily prepared, "kid friendly" foods such as Spaghetti's, Kraft Macaroni

and Cheese, and cereals are especially needed during the summer months since school children are at home. Please remember that canned and nonperishable food items can be brought to the church office at any time.

**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.

# Sunday Responsibilities

**Acolyte:** Lawrence Heisler

**Flower Distribution:** Bev Evans, Peggy Stevens

**Greeters:** Janet Bagby, Linda Cash, Danny Holly, Arlene Perry, Rob Taylor

**Sound:** Tom Kirkup

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

**Ushers:** Will Carter, Chris Gobble, Gene Harris, Charlie Sorrell

## Minister On Call

Weekend: July 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 a four-lesson unit of study entitled “*The Implications of Mission*.” What does it actually mean to be “missional”? The term “mission” comes from the Latin *mitto*, which means “to send.” God is a sending God, the One who sends all Christians to live in praise and glory of God. Ephesians 1:8b-12 describes our calling this way: “With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of this glory.” Missions is thus not a program of the church but is fundamental to the nature of the church. It is the life of the church. It begins with doxology and flows from blessings received. When we are in Christ, missions is not something we go somewhere else to do; it becomes a part of who we are. Whether we are doctors, lawyers, teachers, storekeepers, fast-food workers, stay-at-home caregivers, retired, or unemployed, being “mission-minded” is foundational to the Christian life. In this way we are all missionaries. This week’s lesson, entitled “*History is Not Meaningless*,” is based on Matthew 1:1-17, and is studied in the following classes:

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

**Lydia Class** will be taught by **Jane Vaughn**.

**Robert Smart Class** will be taught by **Andy McAllister**. Looking to meet other young families at River Road? Come to the Robert Smart Class Luau Potluck Pool Party! The party is at **Marguerite and Bryan Bostic’s** home, 6500 Westham Station Road, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 31. *RSVP* by July 21 to **Jennifer Pounders**, 288-3570, or markpounders@comcast.net. Bring bathing suits, towels, lawn chairs and side dish or dessert!

**College Class** will be taught by **Carl Collier**.

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

**Explorers Class** will join the Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study class.

**Friendship Class**—**Connie Showalter** will discuss Amateur Marriage by Ann Tyler.

**Journey Class and Life Class**—The classes will continue with the Proverbs series. The lesson will be “Marriage Matters.” This week **Bill Gray** will lead the lesson.

**Phoenix Class** will join the Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study class.

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

**Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class** will welcome Christopher Lindbloom as the second speaker in its annual summer series, the Catacombs Lectures. Dr. Lindbloom’s topic will be “Why We Do What We Do, In the Way We Do It,” an exploration of the worship and music traditions at River Road Church.

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

## Update On Contributions

*As of June 30, 2004*

Our contributions slipped somewhat in June. As shown below, our ratio of received to budgeted contributions (using only the pro-rata portion of pledges paid in advance) is just under 80%. Please help us by paying your pledge on a current basis so that we can avoid a cash flow problem in the summer.

Contributions budgeted	\$660,435
Contributions received*	\$527,463

Current ratio of received to budgeted contributions 79.9%

\*Received contributions included pro rata collections paid prior to January 1, 2004.

# July

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 18      **Mission Tour Commissioning**, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
**Youth Council**, 6:00 p.m., Youth Lounge  
Tuesday, July 20      **Men's Softball**, 6:30 and 7:00 p.m., Short Pump  
Wednesday, July 21      **Stephen Ministry**, 4:30 p.m., Archives Room  
**Summer Supper Series**, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
**Executive Committee**, 7:30 p.m., Archives Room  
Thursday, July 22      **FIXERS**, 8:30 a.m., Reception Room  
Friday, July 23      **Mission Tour to Maine Begins**  
Tuesday, July 27      **Men's Softball**, 8:00 p.m., Short Pump  
Wednesday, July 28      **Volleyball**, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

## ▶▶ Odds & Ends ▶▶

**FIXERS** (Frequently Ingenious, eXtremely Efficient, Righteous, Servants): The next breakfast meeting for the FIXERS will be **Thursday, July 22, at 8:30 a.m., in the Reception Room**. If you can help out around the church that morning, contact **George Davis** at 288-1131.

**FALL BOWLING LEAGUE:** The Centenary Bowling League (good, fun Christian folk) is looking to add teams to our fall league. We bowl on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 p.m., at Shrader Lanes. There will be a meeting on September 7, and we begin bowling on September 14 for 30 weeks. Beginners or "pros" welcome. Form a mixed team of four or sign-up as an individual and we will put you on a team. For information, contact **Arlene Perry**, 747-6794, by August 9.

**THANK YOU, WEEDERS!** The House and Grounds Committee would like to thank **Wyatt Heisler, Julia Tyler, and Beth Jones** for all the weeding they did these past few weeks. The borders and brickwork look so much better because of their efforts in the hot, hot sun. Thanks to each of you.

**RIVER ROAD CHURCH,  
BAPTIST  
8000 RIVER ROAD  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23233**

**804-288-1131 (OFFICE)  
804-282-9172 (FAX)**

### 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*

Robert L. Dibble  
*Adults*

Barbara J. Massey  
*Children*

George S. Davis  
*Church Administrator*

E. Carl Freeman  
*Music*

Chester L. Phelps, Jr.  
*Students*

Mary R. Mann  
*Students*

Margaret S. Collins  
*Preschool Director*

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