

Baptist in  
Heritage,  
Ecumenical  
in Worship  
and Outreach



# The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

July 27, 2004, Vol. 58, No. 30

**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*

Mary R. Mann  
*Students*

George S. Davis  
*Church Administrator*

Margaret S. Collins  
*Preschool Director*

## **NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 1, 2004

11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sanctuary

Service of Holy Communion

Sermon by Dr. Cecil E. Sherman  
David Gulick, organist  
Michelle Harman-Gulick, soloist

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



## **SUMMER SUPPER SERIES**

Fellowship Hall

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

**Mark your calendars now and plan to join us!**

**Children's Health Fair  
Wednesday, August 18**

Join us for this participatory children's health fair provided by the staff of Chippenham, Johnston-Willis hospital.

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 it in the offering plate. You may also call the church office, 288-1131, no later than noon on Tuesday, August 17. The standing reservation list will not be used for the Summer Supper Series.

***Childcare for infants through three years will be  
provided that evening by advance reservation only!***

For reservations, contact the Minister of Children at 288-1131.

**IN HEALTHCARE:** Mary Lib Grizzard, Westminster Canterbury

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is expressed to Eunice and Byron Wolford and family upon the death of her sister, Mildred Dailey, on July 20, in Newport News, Virginia.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is expressed to Alyne Kennedy and family upon the death of her sister, Lucille Dodson, on July 25.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mary Ann Brandt whose work is featured in an exhibit in the Center for Education and Outreach Gallery at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. A showing of 64 miniature finger paintings can be seen through July 31, before it is sent on a 30-month tour of affiliated institutions.



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# Student Ministry News

## *Just A Few Reminders . . .*

**Rafting Trip:** The youth will be taking a rafting trip on the James River! **Saturday, August 21**, we will meet at the church at 12:15 p.m. to go rafting at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in coming with us, please call **Mary Mann**, 288-1131, no later than Monday, August 2.

**WorshipCare Volunteers:** All youth who would like to serve as WorshipCare Volunteers this year need to fill out the form provided below and return it to **Barbara Massey** as soon as possible.

**Attention Middle-Schoolers:** The Middle School Weekend at Eagle Eyrie will be in October this year, however, registration is in August. I would like to get an approximate number of students interested in attending before I register. Please call **Mary Mann** if you are interested.

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# Children's Ministry News

**SUMMER SURPRISE** If you are in grades 1-5, join us for a "Summer Surprise Visit to the Zoo." We're going to the Metro Richmond Zoo on Thursday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Bring a lunch! You **must** have a reservation. Call **Barbara Massey**, 288-1131.

**WORSHIPCARE VOLUNTEER:** September and a new church year are rapidly approaching. We are in the process of making our WorshipCare schedule. We need your help! If you are willing to serve in WorshipCare, please **fill out the form below**. We depend on volunteers. Thank you for your help in making WorshipCare a pleasant experience for our preschoolers! 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**.

## WHAT DOES "BEING CHRISTIAN" REALLY MEAN?



Discussion  
Group

This and other questions will be examined at the next meeting of the **Modern Theologians Discussion Group** when it will discuss Marcus Borg's latest book, The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith. Borg's book is aimed at those who are trying to remain in the faith while questioning the factual nature of the Bible and its associated creeds and doctrines. Borg claims that it is possible to find much that is true in the Christian faith if one views the scriptures metaphorically. Even if you have not had a chance to read the book, come visit and participate in the always interesting discussion. **The next meeting is Thursday, August 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor.** Call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, for more information.

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### ISH SCHOOL SUPPLIES CAMPAIGN

The annual River Road Church school supplies campaign on behalf of Interfaith Services of Henrico (ISH) will be held through 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, Elmer's 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.



Missions

### FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARE

Thank you for your continuing support of First Sunday Food Share! River Road delivered eleven grocery bags of food to the Hillside Baptist Center on July 21. The next First Sunday Food Share will be **this Sunday, August 1**. Suggested foods for donation include: canned applesauce, fruits, and vegetables, rice, macaroni and pasta products, peanut butter, tuna, salmon, meats, soups, and stews. Easily prepared, "kid-friendly" foods such as Spagettio'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.

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Word of  
thanks to:

### RIVER ROAD WEEDERS STILL FIGHTING THE BATTLE!

The House and Grounds Committee would like to thank those hearty "soldiers" who are waging the ongoing war against the enemy weeds at River Road. Buck privates **Dan Alexander** and **Kathee Becht** have joined major general **Wyatt Heisler** and her "army" as they struggle with the villainous crabgrass, wiregrass, chickweed, and dandelions. If you would like to enlist in this struggle, give Wyatt a call at 741-9320.

### THANK YOU, FIXERS!

**FIXERS** (Frequently Ingenious, eXtremely Efficient, Righteous Servants) **Dan Alexander, Ray Brooks, George Davis, Mac Hines, and Tom Ligon** met last week for breakfast and fellowship (fishing and cell phones were the hot topics). Then they painted, fixed toilets, and worked on the stained glass window spot lights, the steeple spot light, the back entrance light, the Chapel stairway light, and the columbarium lights. The next breakfast meeting of the **FIXERS** will be **Thursday, August 19, at 8:30 a.m. in the Reception Room.** If you can help out around the church that morning, contact **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131.

### THANK YOU, RYAN!

The House and Grounds Committee would like to thank **Ryan Nelson**, the young men in his Boy Scout Troop, and his "friends" for spreading top soil, grass seed, straw, and mulch in the areas beside the colonnades on both sides of the Sanctuary. The new grades should help keep water away from the buildings.

# Sunday Responsibilities

**Acolyte:** Josh Newsome

**Flower Distribution:** Nancy Anderson, Carol Decker

**Greeters:** Don Cruickshanks, Sam Measell, Bob Porter, Barbara Robertson, Bill Rusher

**Sound:** Barry Harmon

**Tellers:** Elsie Fusco, Jody Gordon, Jack Harvie, Bertie O'Neal, Carole Royall, Robbie Williams

**Ushers:** Carl Collier, Ken Lantz and Sid Hays

## Minister On Call

Weekend: July 31-August 1

Barbara Massey  
673-9156

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 begins a five-lesson unit of study entitled "Is God Calling?" We have all been called! Some of us may need to respond to the call. Some of us may misunderstand the call. Some of us may still be listening for God's call or searching for the appropriate response. Regardless, God has gifted us all and called us into service. The following Bible studies bear witness to the reality of God's call. Sarah thought God's call to motherhood was impossible. Samuel was confused by the whispered call of God. Elijah's call was affirmed and validated in many ways. Matthew was clearly called by Jesus even though the religious leaders disagreed. Paul's call drastically changed his life and the face of Christianity. These are exciting stories of call and response. Yet, these are no more exciting or dramatic or important than your call. In studying these call experiences, perhaps you can clarify your call experiences. Witness the varying forms of God's call, the variety of people called, and the variety of responses. Perhaps God's call to you will become clearer. Hopefully, God's call will become definitive for your life. As you study, pay attention . . . God is calling, and the call is for you! This week's lesson, entitled "God Calls Sarah," is based on Genesis 17:15-19; 18:9-15; and 21:1-8, and is studied in the following classes:

**Fellowship Class** will be taught by **Doris Curtis**.

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

**Robert Smart Class** will be taught by **Bob Shoemake**. 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* to **Jennifer Pounders**, 288-3570, or [markpounders@comcast.net](mailto:markpounders@comcast.net). Bring bathing suits, towels, lawn chairs and side dish or dessert!

**Seekers Class** will be taught by **Ken Dibble**. The class will host the after-church reception on Sunday, August 1.

**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** will discuss Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "The Man."

**Journey Class and Life Class**—The classes will continue with the Proverbs series.

**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 **Dr. Isam Ballenger** as the fourth speaker in its annual summer series, the Catacombs Lectures. Dr. Ballenger will begin a three-week series on liberation theology.

**TwentySomethings Class**—**J. R. Pruden** will lead a discussion on "Agnostic and Atheism."



## NEW WEBSITE CALENDAR AVAILABLE!

Check out the new calendar on the church's website, [www.riverroadchurchbaptist.org](http://www.riverroadchurchbaptist.org). From the "Home" page click on the "Calendar" link on the left side of the screen. You may view the calendar four different ways: "This Month's Calendar," "Today's Events," "This Week's Events," or "This Month's Events." Other special items include: "Featured Events" scroll at the top of the screen; click on an event and set up an email reminder for yourself or "Invite a Friend" using email; print a copy of the calendar for your use; and view only the events scheduled for your interest group.

If you have any questions or would like to add your group event to the calendar, contact **Laurie Ursiny** in the church office, at 288-1131, or [laurieursiny@rrcb.org](mailto:laurieursiny@rrcb.org).

# July & August

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 31	<b>Robert Smart Class Party</b> , 4:00 p.m., Home of Bryan and Marguerite Bostic
Sunday, August 1	<b>Maine Mission Tour Participants Return</b>
Tuesday, August 3	<b>Evening Bridge</b> , 7:30 p.m., Reception Room
Wednesday, August 4	<b>Volleyball</b> , 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Friday, August 6	<b>Hull Street Dinner</b> , provided by the Friendship Class
Sunday, August 8	<b>Czech Tour Team Commissioning</b> , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
	<b>Board of Christian Education</b> , 6:00 p.m., Church Parlor
Wednesday, August 11	<b>Stephen Ministry</b> , 4:30 p.m., Archives Room
	<b>Volleyball</b> , 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
	<b>Finance Committee</b> , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
Thursday, August 12	<b>Summer Surprise for Grades 1-5</b> , 10:00 a.m., meet in north parking lot
	<b>Theologians Discussion Group</b> , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
Friday, August 13	<b>Czech Mission Tour Begins</b>

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## Recreation News

**FALL BOWLING LEAGUE:** The Centenary Bowling League (good, fun Christian folk) is looking to add teams to its fall league. They bowl on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. at Shrader Lanes. There will be a meeting on September 7, and they 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 be put on a team. For information contact **Arlene Perry**, 747-6794, by August 9.

**THE MORNING BRIDGE GAME WINNER** this month was **Elaine Duresky**. The next game will be played on August 19 at 10:00 a.m., in the Reception Room. **Lillian Robins**, 288-2505, will be hosting.

**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, August 3, 7:30 p.m. in the Reception Room**. Call **Sam and Peggy Measell** at 360-3635.

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

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