

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

September 7, 2004, Vol. 58, No. 36

**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:

Michael J. Clingenpeel
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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2004
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sanctuary

Sermon by Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel
Anthems by the Chancel Choir

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following the
worship service hosted by the Social Committee.



WEDNESDAY DINNER PROGRAM

September 15, 2004
5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Program

Mission Tour Report
Chester Phelps, Robert Dibble, *et.al.*

This past summer members of River Road Church were involved in two major missions ministries. Chester Phelps led a group of 45 adults to Farmington, Maine where they did construction work at the Farmington Baptist Conference Center and Farmington Baptist Church. The partnership in Farmington has been going on since 1989. Members of the team will present an overview of their missions experience. Additionally, Robert Dibble led a mission trip to The Czech Republic in which nine River Road members were involved. Team members will share their experience through a PowerPoint presentation and personal testimony.

Prices and Reservations: The prices for Wednesday Night Church Dinner will remain the same as last year: \$5.00 — adults, \$2.00 — children; \$16.00 maximum per family. The church office is creating a **new standing reservations list** for those not wanting the hassle of remembering to call in reservations each week by noon on Tuesdays. If you would like to be placed on this list, please call the church office, 288-1131.

Menu for September 15: The adults and children will have spaghetti with sauce, apple sauce, salad bar, rolls/garlic bread, and chocolate chip cookies.



“REPOTTED”

Since my election as pastor of River Road Church in July, I have enjoyed hearing from friends near and far. News travels quickly across the Baptist grapevine.

One acquaintance reminded me of the statement made years ago by Hugh Downs when he resigned from the NBC Today Show in order to pursue his interest in sailing. “I am being repotted,” he said. “I am pulling up old roots and seeing if they will grow in a new pot.”

It is an apt analogy for the transitions of our lives. A fresh beginning in a new job, the first days in a new school, the early days of a marriage, a move to a new house, entering retirement—all involve leaving the security and comfort of one pot and planting ourselves in one where old roots must grab hold in different soil.

Shaking the soil off of old roots can be difficult and painful. During the past 12 years, Vivian and I have established familiar patterns of work, play, church and relationships that will necessitate some changes. Ministry is not just a job; it is a lifestyle. A different ministry location demands lifestyle changes. Old roots cannot grow in new pots when the roots retain all the old soil. We keep what we can and change what we must.

Repotting, however, can be life-giving. It can enable a plant to grow in directions the previous pot did not allow. It can offer an opportunity to develop new roots and lengthen old ones. This is the part of being repotted that excites me. I look forward to opportunities of growing new roots at and through River Road Church.

If I must make a point, here it is. Understand that it takes time for us to adapt to our new surroundings at River Road Church. I am rubbing the rust off of pastoral skills that accumulated during the dozen years when my primary task was as an editor. There are two of us and two thousand of you. Be patient if we cannot come up with your name. We may not know how things were done at River Road Church in the past.

Understand also that we are pleased to be placed in this lovely pot. Prompted by God and your search committee, we are volunteers for this assignment. Thanks for the chance to learn whether our roots can grow in this soil.

Blessings,
Mike

CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM RESUMES REGULAR SCHEDULE

The new season begins soon for all River Road music organizations. If you are not currently involved in one of our music groups, please consider participating in the music program this fall. For information, call the music office at 288-1131.

Choir	Grade	Rehearsals Begin	Time
Cherub	Age 3,4,5	Wednesday, Sept. 15	6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Carol	1-2	Wednesday, Sept. 15	6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Crusader	3-5	Wednesday, Sept. 15	6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Youth	6-12	Sunday, Sept. 12	6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Chancel	College and Up	Thursday, Sept. 2	7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Chancel Bell	College and Up	Wednesday, Sept. 15	6:45 - 7:30 p.m.
River Road Ringers	6-12	Sunday, Sept. 12	5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

Enrollment for children and youth begins at the Picnic on Wednesday, September 8.

Sunday Responsibilities

Flower Distribution: Mary Ellen Berry, Betty Woolcott

Greeters: Scott Collins, Ed Douglas, Ann Marie Geisler, Gary Kalbaugh, Ann Wilson

Sound: Ed Pruden

Tellers: Vara Bottoms, Jean Cauble, Jerry Crute, Carol Decker, Pat Dickinson, Ann Domyan, Holly Smith

Ushers: Jule Bolio, Skip King, Don Thomson, Jon Williams

Minister On Call

Weekend: September 11-12

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 continues a four-lesson unit of study entitled “*Daniel: Demonstrating Integrity*.” The stories of Daniel and his friends have inspired readers through the ages. These young men demonstrated an ability to persevere through difficult circumstances without sacrificing the integrity of their faith. This unit examines four of their stories. Their example can help us maintain the integrity of our faith when we consider compromising our convictions. For instance, we are often tempted to compromise our convictions in order to relate to the prevailing culture. Daniel’s story can help us understand the importance of sorting out the elements of culture that are detrimental to our faith. Sometimes a severe crisis threatens us and our response can demonstrate the strength of our faith. Studying how Daniel responded to a life-threatening situation can help us respond appropriately. Christians are, at times, afraid to confront the abuse of power in our society. Daniel provides an example for confrontation without compromising faith. Finally, recognizing the limits of our citizenship is critical to our allegiance to God. Again, Daniel can help us understand how to maintain our integrity while being responsible citizens. This week’s lesson, entitled “*Faith and the Response to Crisis*,” is based on Daniel 2:1-16, 25-30, and is studied in the following classes:

Fellowship Class will be taught by **Susan Rucker**.

Friendship Class will be taught by **Connie Showalter**. The class will enjoy a brunch at the home of **Bev and Tom Evans** on September 19.

Lydia Class will be taught by **Emily Tuck**.

Reuben Alley Class will be taught by **Henry Langford**.

Seekers Class will be taught by **Linda Schreiner**. The class is hosting an “Open House” Brunch for all members and visitors interested in learning more about this class. We encourage everyone on our class roll to attend and bring a friend to begin the new school year with fun and fellowship.

Discussion Class—**Bill Shirah** will lead a discussion on Martin Buber’s *I and Thou*. The class will enjoy a potluck supper on September 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of **Taylor and Lavonne Cousins**, 288-0727.

Explorers Class

Journey Class—**Harper Alford** will begin a series on the “Ten Commandments.” The class will have an outing at the river homes of the Hayses, Tyers and Alexanders on September 25.

Life Class—**Carl Collier** will begin the class discussion of its summer book read, *Traveling Light*, by Max Lucado based on Psalm 23.

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

Robert Smart Class —Smart Class Annual Kick-Off Brunch! We will meet in the Reception Room (off the church kitchen) 10:00-10:50 a.m. Please bring a yummy brunch food to share!

Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class will begin a new Bible study, I and II Samuel.

Bob Shepherd will present an introduction to the book. The class will celebrate its fall social on Saturday, October 16, at the home of **Carolyn and George Thomas**.

TwentySomethings Class will be taught by **Paul and Heather Felts**. The class will enjoy a brunch this Sunday. “Ultimate Frisbee” every Thursday night. Call Paul Felts, 364-0797, for more information.

MESSENGERS WANTED

The Annual Meetings of the Richmond Baptist Association and the Baptist General Association of Virginia will be held in October and November. If you are interested in being a messenger from River Road Church, Baptist, please contact the church office, 288-1131, no later than September 30.

The RBA meeting will be held on October 17, at 4:00 p.m. at Huguenot Road Baptist Church. The BGAV meeting will be held in Roanoke on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 9 and 10.

IN REHABILITATION: Evaline Flow, Morningside

AT HOME: Marian Nase, Sarah Newcomb

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Jayne Parrish** and family upon the death of her son-in-law, **Eric Rolf Keller**, on August 26.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Richard Mansur** and family upon the death of his wife, **Norma Mansur**, on September 1.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Whit** and **Debbie Stoddard** upon the birth of their son, Hunter Whitfield Stoddard, on August 24.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Danyelle** and **Scott Collins** upon the birth of their son, Kendall Howard Collins, on September 2. Kendall is the grandson of **Margaret** and **Russ Collins**.



A WARM WELCOME is extended to **Dale Robinson** (pictured with his wife **Lei Robinson**) who united with River Road Church on September 5.

Discussion Groups

TORNADO WATCH CANCELS MODERN THEOLOGIANS

Due to a forecasted heavy rain and tornado watch, the **Modern Theologians Discussion Group** did not meet this month. The next meeting of the group will be **Thursday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor**. They will again plan to look at Marcus Borg's book, [The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith](#). The 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. Even if you have not had a chance to read the book, come visit and participate in the always interesting discussion. Call **George Davis** at the church office, 288-1131, for more information.

THE BOOK LOVERS' GROUP will begin its sixth season on **Thursday evening, September 23, at 7:30 p.m., in the Reception Room** (Fellowship House). This month's selection is [Lucy](#), written by Ellen Feldman. The love triangle of Lucy Mercer Rutherford and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt has fascinated historians for many years. Based on recently discovered materials, Feldman's novel blends historical fact and fiction, giving the reader a sensitive insight into this love affair that influenced twentieth-century history. **Sue Hodder** will lead the discussion. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call **Kitty Davis**, 285-9782.



Civil War Forum

Nearly six years before President Lincoln signed the proclamation making West Virginia the 35th State in the Union, construction had begun on the Wheeling Custom House, headquarters for federal offices for the Western District of Virginia. Its completion, coinciding with the beginning of the Civil War, provided a facility for heated political discussions and constitutional conventions that led to eventual statehood for West Virginia in 1863. Here, issues dividing many Virginians—slavery being one of many—were debated, compromised, and shaped into the skeleton of statehood. Serving as the Restored Government of Virginia (aligned with the Union) from 1861-1863, it is appropriately known today as West Virginia Independence Hall (*at right*). **West Virginia: Born of the Civil War** is the subject of the next Civil War Forum on Monday, June 14, 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.

Missions

NEXT ISH LOCAL MISSIONS PROJECT:

Warm winter coats for children ages infant-17

Diapers for infants and adults

October 1-31

Questions to: Charlotte and Bill Simpson, 285-3185

WMU WOMEN ON MISSION DAY GROUP: The Day Group will meet on **Tuesday, September 14**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Reception Room. Diane Smith from the Baptist General Association of Virginia will present a program on state missions. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Members are reminded to bring canned goods and nonperishable food items for the Baptist centers' food pantries. If you are interested in missions and in good fellowship, please join us!

FOR WOMEN ONLY

INTERESTED IN SOME SPIRITUAL GARDENING?

Now that summer is over and before we are too busy with fall schedules, please join the women of River Road Church, Baptist for a relaxing garden party as we "cultivate" our spiritual gifts.

September 26, 2004

5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Courtyard

River Road Church, Baptist

Please RSVP to the church office, 288-1131, by September 17

This uniquely female experience will be an opportunity to explore some of the areas in which you have been gifted. We will enjoy a delicious meal, interesting conversation, and the chance to make some new friends here at church. Stop and smell the roses for a little while, and cultivate the spiritual garden of your heart.



OPENINGS FOR RIVER ROAD CHURCH MISSION TEAM TO CURITBA, BRAZIL

Another team of church volunteers is planning to assist in construction of a new church for the Baptist Congregation of Jardim da Ordem and their Pastor Amaro Martins Neto in Curitiba, Brazil. The tentative dates are: February 11-25, 2005; remember, our winter is their summer.

Presently, we have 10 people who have expressed a desire to participate. Openings remain available for interested individuals. If you would like to be a mission volunteer, then contact **Robert Dibble** as soon as possible. A \$100 deposit will reserve your spot on the team. A required orientation meeting for all participants is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 7:30 p.m., in room 230 (Reuben Alley classroom).

SOUNDING THE CALL FOR HOMEBOUND MINISTRY 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 Homebound Ministry 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 her at rwlw@comcast.net by August 31.



Children's Ministry News

DOUGHNUTS AND JUICE ON SUNDAY, September 12, to celebrate new Sunday School classes for this year. Children and teachers stop by and celebrate with us at 9:30 on Sunday morning.

PROMOTION DAY in Sunday School is **September 12**. Preschool and Elementary children will go to their NEW classes for Sunday School.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP begins on **September 19**. Children will worship with their families on September 12, honoring our new pastor on his first Sunday with us.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL OLYMPICS—Friday, September 10, 6:00-7:30—Competing Teams: Grades 1-2, & Grades 3-5—Special Olympic Events: *Balance Beam *Water Relay *Discus Throw *Balloon Volley *Long Jump *And more! Come for PIZZA at 6:00 and join in the fun of the Olympic Events! Call **Barbara Massey**, 288-1131, for reservations.

VOLUNTEERS IN WORSHIPCARE—the new schedule for WorshipCare is being mailed to you. Please note the Sundays that you are scheduled to work. WorshipCare for the new church year begins on September 12.

PARENTS' SEMINAR—"Active Parenting Today" taught by Peggy Watkins, teacher in the River Road Preschool Development Center. **Six Sessions**—September 12 and 19, and October 3, 10, 17, 24 (Sunday evenings, 6:00-7:30)

COMING SOON—SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept. 10—"Back to School Olympics"—grades 1-5, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Sept. 11—Christian Education Leadership Development—training for teachers, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sept. 12—Promotion Day in Sunday School

Sept. 15—Children's Choirs, Mission Friends, Girls in Action, and Royal Ambassadors begin

Student Ministry News

It's time to get back in the swing of things. Our Youth Events are as follows:

Youth Parent Meeting: Sunday, September 12, 6:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall

2004 Mission Tour Report: Wednesday, September 15, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Evening Events Begin for Youth: Sunday, September 19

Sunday (5:00-7:30 p.m.)

Youth Bells	5:00-5:45 p.m.
Snack Supper	5:45-6:00 p.m.
Youth Choir	6:00-6:30 p.m.
Culture/Mission Study	6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

The Gathering	6:30-7:30 p.m.
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On Wednesday nights we will alternate every other week with a Bible Study session and a Recreation Night.

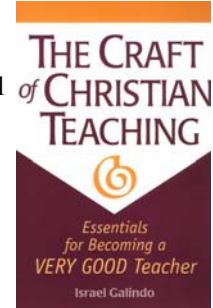
*You can contact Rev. Mary Mann by e-mail: marymann@rrcb.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTED AS NEW CHURCH YEAR BEGINS

September 12 will be Promotion Sunday in Sunday School as the new 2004-2005 church year begins. The preschool, children and youth divisions will promote to their new Sunday School classes on that day. Then, on the following Sunday, September 19, in the 11:00 A.M. worship service, the entire faculty of all Christian education ministries: Sunday School, missions, music, and Sunday evening fellowships, will be formally recognized and dedicated to their respective teaching offices. A special reserved section for the faculty will be provided.

A second feature of the Christian Education emphases will be the Christian Education Leadership Development Conference and breakfast from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., on Saturday, September 11. Dr. Israel Galindo, Professor of Christian Education, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond will bring his excellent leadership to our faculty as he discusses his book, *"The Craft of Christian Teaching."* This conference promises to be time well spent and all faculty are invited to attend.

Throughout this year, members are invited to *"Experience the Joy of Belonging"* our theme for the new church year. The theme reminds us that we earnestly want everyone to share our delight in learning. We find meaning, fulfillment and, yes, pleasure in stretching our minds and deepening our faith. As the new year unfolds, find your place in the varied offerings of our church's Christian Education ministries.



Civil War Forum 2004-2005 Schedule

September 20	West Virginia: Born of the Civil War
October 11	Civil War Photography
November 15	"Under the Yellow Flag: Story of the Confederate Medical Service" David Ruth
December 13	The Battle of Fredericksburg
January 10	Tracing Your Civil War Ancestors
February 14	The Forts Henry and Donelson Campaign
March 14	Poetry of the War
April 11	Lee's Surrender
May 9	Virginia Civil War Battlefields John Salmon

The Civil War Forum meets on Mondays, at 7:00 p.m., in the Journey classroom.
All students, aficionados, devotees, buffs, and just-plain-interested folks are welcome.

September

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 10	Back-to-School Olympics (Grades 1-5) , 6:00-7:30 p.m., Assembly Room Fifth Quarter , 9:30-11:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Saturday, September 11	Christian Education Leadership Development , 8:00 a.m., Chapel Hall
Sunday, September 12	Youth Breakfast , 9:30 a.m., Youth Lounge Smart Class Brunch , 9:30 a.m., Reception Room Youth Parent Meeting , 6:00 p.m., Youth Lounge Adult Bible Study , 6:00 p.m., Journey Classroom Parenting Seminar , 6:00 p.m., Seekers Classroom Board of Christian Education , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor Board of Missions , 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room
Monday, September 13	Board of Deacons , 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room
Tuesday, September 14	WMU Day Group , 10:00 a.m., Reception Room History Committee , 3:30 p.m., Archives Room Installation Committee , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
Wednesday, September 15	Homebound Ministry , 5:30 p.m., Reception Room Finance Committee , 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
Thursday, September 16	Morning Bridge , 10:00 a.m., Reception Room
Sunday, September 19	Dedication of Christian Education Faculty , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary Third Grade Bible Presentation , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary Sundaes on Sunday (for preschoolers and children), 12:00 noon, Fellowship Hall Youth Snack Supper , 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall Youth Programs , 6:00 p.m., Youth Lounge Adult Bible Study , 6:00 p.m., Journey Classroom Parenting Seminar , 6:00 p.m., Seekers Classroom Board of Administration , 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room
Monday, September 20	Civil War Forum , 7:00 p.m., Journey Classroom
Wednesday, September 22	Retirement Celebration for Chester Phelps , following dinner, Fellowship Hall
Thursday, September 23	River Roadsters to Washington, D. C. , 7:15 a.m., depart from River Road Book Lovers Discussion Group , 7:30 p.m., Reception Room
Friday, September 24	Fifth Quarter , 9:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

THE MORNING BRIDGE GAME will be played on Thursday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Reception Room. Alyne Kennedy, 740-8629, will be hosting.

Visit us on the web at 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 Masseur.

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Address Services Requested

River Road Church, Baptist
8000 River Road
Richmond, VA 23229-8415
(804) 288-1131
Fax: (804) 282-9172
E-mail: thespire@rrcb.org



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