

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

February 15, 2005, Vol. 60, No. 7

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is the season in which we anticipate Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem and the self-giving nature of love shown in his passion and death. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and extends for forty weekdays through Saturday of Holy Week. Sundays are excluded from Lent, being regarded as feast days in the midst of the forty-day fast. Because Lent is the most strongly penitential season of the year, the liturgical color purple is again used. The symbol of the crown of thorns represents the suffering of Christ, which reaches its apex during Holy Week.

The Revised Common Lectionary readings for the Second Sunday in Lent (Year A) are:

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 20, 2005
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 deacons



WEDNESDAY DINNER PROGRAMS

February 23, 2005
5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Programs

"African-American Spirituals"
Plenty Good Room
Christopher Lindbloom

The Pastor's Forum welcomes back River Road Church member, Christopher Lindbloom, who will help us explore African-American Spirituals from a biblical and cultural perspective. Mr. Lindbloom will conclude this two-part series, with particular attention on how this type of worship music relates to our worship experience today.

also offered

"The Gospel According to Harry Potter"

On a once-a-month basis throughout the winter-spring, "*The Gospel According to Harry Potter: Spirituality in the Stories of the World's Most Famous Seeker*," will be offered as an adult elective on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. One author has rightly said, "Fantasy is, in its highest and purest form, a place where art, theology and primal human desire meet and intersect. For the Christian this can mean only one thing: fantasy is a place where we can come face to face with Christ." Come join us in our exploration of the wonderful parallels to the gospel found in this most popular series of children's books and films. This meeting will be led by Marguerite Bostic and Theresa Price and the discussion devoted to book 2: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. The class will meet in the Lydia classroom.



“HJ 537”

This week a committee in the Virginia Senate held hearings on an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia that, if adopted, would alter Thomas Jefferson’s Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom.

The legislation, House Joint Resolution 537, proposes to amend the current religious freedom provisions to permit religious expression, including prayer and “religious beliefs, heritage and traditions” on public property, including schools.

It sounds like a harmless way to protect religion against discrimination in the public square. It isn’t. Here’s why.

1. **It is based on a faulty premise.** The premise of this amendment is that the rights of Virginians to pray and practice their beliefs, heritage and traditions on public property are being infringed. They aren’t. Our state and federal Constitutions provide sufficient protections for religious practice. Current law isn’t broken. It needs no fix.
2. **It is bad government.** This is true for two reasons. First, this amendment allows a Christian majority to assert its rights at the expense of non-Christian minorities, such as Jews and Muslims. One of the functions of a democratic government is to protect the rights of a minority. In a democracy, the rights of the majority need no protection. They can be asserted by the will of the majority. The rights of no minority religion are safe when a zealous religious majority is convinced it is doing the will of God. Second, this legislation undermines the philosophy of limited government. I find it curious that the people who want the hands of government out of our pocketbooks are trying to get the hands of government into our prayer books.
3. **It is inconsistent with the General Assembly’s previous actions.** The General Assembly has given money to support the building of a center, three blocks from here, to honor Thomas Jefferson’s Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom. This statute, which Jefferson said was one of his three notable accomplishments in life, is the very document that HJ 537 proposes to alter. Do you see any irony in funding with one hand what you rip to shreds with the other?
4. **It is bad religion.** HJ 537 implies that Christianity needs government to prop it up, that it cannot compete in the marketplace with other faiths. This offends me, and should offend every person who believes that a worthwhile faith can stand scrutiny. If Christianity cannot survive without government assistance, it is weak and deserves to fail. Let it stand alongside the other great faiths of history and compete for the hearts and minds of people.

As a Baptist Christian, I believe every human being is free and responsible for her or his relationship with God. We are free to believe or not believe, to practice faith or not practice faith. Retaining Section 16 of Article 1 of the Constitution of Virginia in its present form is the best way of guaranteeing this freedom for all the citizens of Virginia.

Blessings,
Mike

INTERFAITH SERVICE OF HENRICO EASTER BASKET PROJECT

It is time again for the Easter Basket Project. This project provides a fun and helpful gift for the children and families receiving services through Henrico County’s Department of Social Services. In addition to bringing cheer to the children and their caretakers, these baskets help the budgeting efforts of these low-income caretakers. In the past River Road Church has been a provider of these Easter Baskets and you are invited to do so again this year. On Wednesday evening, February 16, baskets will be available at the regular weekly dinner. If you would like to be a part of this worthy project, please take a basket(s), fill it with suggested items and return it to the church for delivery by **Sunday, March 20**. A list of suggested items will also be available with the baskets. When you complete the filling of the basket, please secure it with pastel plastic wrap and label the basket indicating the age and gender for which the basket was prepared. This information will also be given to Sunday School classes and classes are invited to participate in this project. The completed baskets can be brought to **Barbara Massey** for delivery.

Sunday Responsibilities

Acolyte: Ryan Nelson

Deacons Coffee: Marguerite Bostic, Lee Perkins, Stacey Rooney, Susan Vaughan

Flower Distribution: Doris Moore, Charlotte and Bill Simpson

Greeters: Harper Alford, Laura Lee Chandler, Susan Phillips, Bill Smith, Ann Wilson

Sound: Bill Gray

Tellers: Lovell Glasco, John Pearson, Hob Sigmon, Sallie Sparks, Peggy Stevens, Marjorie Yount

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

Minister On Call

Weekend: February 19-20

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 three-lesson unit of study entitled "Preparing for Easter." In the Northern Hemisphere, the weeks before Easter come when we are tired of winter, but still waiting for spring. We begin to notice the lengthening of daylight, which gives this time of year—Lent—its name. The word "lent" comes from an Old English word for spring, referring to the lengthening days. The pause between winter and spring offers a time to reflect on our spiritual lives and to prepare for Easter, the holiest time of our Christian observance. The themes for the next three weeks are appropriate to the reflective nature of Lent. They include some of the most basic concepts of our Christian faith—the nature of sin, faith, and grace. This unit is based in Romans, which is not the easiest of Paul's letters. However, many believe Romans is Paul's greatest work, a careful statement of faith that contains Paul's definition of the basic elements of Christianity. An interesting parallel also makes this study in Romans appropriate for the Lenten season. Paul wrote Romans around AD 55-64, possibly in Corinth, and it is clear that he was not optimistic when he wrote. Just as we pause at this time before Easter, Paul had reached a pause in his career and was taking the time to think carefully about the larger ideas of Christianity. We will be doing the same for the next few weeks. This week's lesson, entitled "Sin Happens," is based on Romans 5:12-19, 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 **Jane Vaughn**.

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

Robert Smart Class will be taught by **Bob Shoemake**.

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

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

Discussion Class—**Sam Nixon** will begin a discussion of The Purpose Driven Life. Please read chapters 1-7 (days).

Explorers Class—The class will hear and discuss five individual audio-taped lectures of "The God We Never Knew" series which Marcus J. Borg delivered to the Chautauqua Institution a couple years ago. This Sunday we start with the first lecture, "Re-Visioning Theology at the End of the Twenty-First Century." **Paul Brandt** will lead this series.

Journey Class—**Pam Hern** will lead a discussion on the "Listening for God" series.

This week's lesson will be on the story "The Tie That Binds," pages 69-85.

Life Class—The class will continue its Lenten book study The Rising. **Scott Leake** will lead a discussion of chapter two "The Last Shall Be First."

Phoenix Class

Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class—The class will conclude the story of David and Goliath Sunday, beginning with 1 Samuel 17:55. **Henry Holland** will teach the class.

THE BOOK LOVERS' GROUP will meet on **Thursday evening, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Reception Room** to discuss Khaled Hosseini's best-selling novel, *The Kite Runner*. The author provides the reader with an educational and eye-opening account of Afghanistan's political turmoil. As the same time, the main characters named Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman, and Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, seem so real that the reader forgets that *The Kite Runner* is a story, not a memoir. One reviewer said that the only flaw in this extraordinary novel is that it ends all too soon. Don't miss this reading experience. For more information, call **Kitty Davis**, 285-9782. Everyone is welcome to attend.



**Discussion
Group**

AT HOME: Phil Hart, Linda Sigman, Frank Wentzel

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jayne Parrish

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to **Kristina Barbier** upon the death of her father, Ronald Robinson, on February 13.



Friday—18th
Carl Freeman
Ben Gunter
Carolyn Gunter
Charles O'Neal
Edna Powell
Jason Watts

Sunday—20th
Betsy Hardy
Janet Langhorne
Mary Pentecost
Lucy Sigmon

Monday—21st
Paige Bailey
Peggy Fisher
Pam Hern

Charles Higgins
Bert Wood

Wednesday—23rd
Austin Coldiron
Jim Hartz
Mary Iva Jones
Lisa Lawhorn
Lora Saunders
Nathan Thomson

Thursday—24th
Tom Crowder
Jack Dunlevy
Bill Keppel
Dottie Saunders



Friday—18th
Chris and Charlotte McGee—16 years

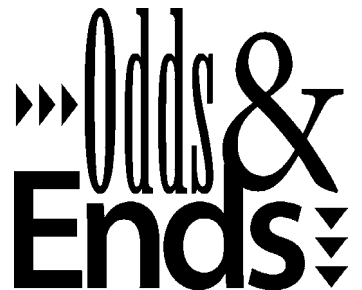
Saturday—19th
Keith and Ashley Evans—52 years

Sunday—20th
Philip and Shanna Davis—6 years
Gus and Ann Sledge—46 years

Tuesday—22nd
Kirby and Kathy Fields—25 years

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, March 1, 7:30 p.m., in the Reception Room.** Call Clyde and Lovell Glasco at 740-5687 or Bill and Pat Schools at 360-8096.

ENVELOPES FOR PLACING YOUR EASTER LILY ORDER will be in the pew racks beginning this Sunday, February 20. The cost will be \$10.19 per lily, and checks are to be made payable to River Road Church, Baptist. Please write the wording exactly as you wish it to be printed in the bulletin for Easter. **Orders cannot be accepted after Sunday, March 20. Please place the envelopes in the specially marked box on the Narthex table.**



WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU FOR FEBRUARY 9: The adults will have roast beef, baked potato, green beans, salad bar, rolls and lemon or chocolate pie. The children will have hamburgers and hot dogs, potato chips, salad bar and ice cream.

Children's Ministry News

Lenten Lunch for Families, February 20, 12:00, following worship. Families of preschoolers and elementary children will have lunch together in the Chapel Hall. Each family will create a Lent/Easter remembrance to use in celebration of the season in the home. **Reservations are necessary.** Call Barbara Massey, 288-1131, to make a reservation for your family.

COMING SOON:

RA Racer Event, March 12, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

DATES FOR SUMMER—The dates for Vacation Bible School and Music Camp and Recreation have been set. Place these important dates on your summer calendar:

Music Camp and Recreation	July 5-8
Vacation Bible School	July 11-15

Student Ministry News

UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, February 18

Sunday, February 20

Wednesday, February 23

Sunday, February 27

Leave for ski trip to Massanutten, 4:00 p.m. Meet in back parking lot. We will return at 8:00 p.m. Saturday night.

No youth events this evening

Reel to Real, 6:30 p.m., "Shanghai Noon"

Youth Sunday School teachers meeting, 12:00 p.m. in the High School Sunday School room

Youth Choir rehearsal, 5:30 p.m.

Snack Supper, 6:00 p.m., dinner provided by Toney Fitzgerald

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR FEBRUARY—Middle School: **Oliver Way**, High School: **Ed Pruden**

FEBRUARY PARENT VOLUNTEERS: **Ed and Peggy Pruden, Gordon and Audrey Thomson**

SENIOR HIGH WEEKEND AT EAGLE EYRIE—MARCH 11-13, 2005: The theme of the retreat is *One Heart, One Mind*. We have reservations for 15 students. The cost is \$100.00 per person and there are scholarships available. We will be staying in a lodge together. If you have never been to Eagle Eyrie before, it's a beautiful campus located in the mountains of Virginia. Come meet other teenagers from around the state and have a great time. Contact **Mary Mann** if you would like to make a reservation.



ATTENTION ALL DRAMA ENTHUSIASTS! Do you like to perform in front of a crowd? Have you always dreamed of being on stage? Well, here is your chance! **Mary Mann** is starting a drama troupe to perform skits and sign language during youth Bible studies and Vesper services. The group will need at least six members. Please contact **Mary Mann** if you are interested in participating.

INTRODUCING "REEL TO REAL" Youth are invited to participate in a new and innovative Bible study. We will take a look at clips from some of the most popular movies of the past decade and discuss their implications on our understanding of God's call on our lives to be like Christ. Join us Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Sunday School room. Popcorn provided. 😊 Bring a friend!





RIVER ROAD CHURCH CONCERT SERIES 2004-2005

BAY STREET BRASS WORKS BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

GLEN JOHNSON, TRUMPET
LUIS ENGELKE, TRUMPET
JASON AYOUB, FRENCH HORN
DAVID DOCHTERMAN, TROMBONE
DAVID VAUGHN, TUBA
AMIN GUMBS, PERCUSSION

Bay Street Brassworks brass quintet is becoming one of America's finest and busiest brass ensembles. Founded in 1995, this versatile brass quintet performs a wide variety of musical genres ranging from classical music to Dixieland jazz, show tunes, classic rock, movie music, and anything in between. A number of compositions and arrangements by its own members along with the standard brass quintet literature are regularly performed. The brass quintet is based in Baltimore, Maryland, with regular engagements in Annapolis, Towson, Ellicott City, Silver Spring, and Washington D. C., including tours throughout the United States and abroad. This range of musical abilities has produced engagements ranging from opening ceremonies at Baltimore Orioles baseball games to world premier performances and clinics alongside the American Brass Quintet, Harvey Phillips, Gunther Schuller and Eric Ewazen at the 2004 Brass Chamber Music Forum in Boone, North Carolina, honoring the 50th anniversary of the New York Brass Quintet.

In addition to its extensive concert activities, Bay Street Brassworks released their first CD in 2002, entitled "Fresh Off The Boat—Folk Music From Around the World." This recording has expanded the reach of the ensemble into homes and schools from Florida to Colorado and from Maryland to Korea.

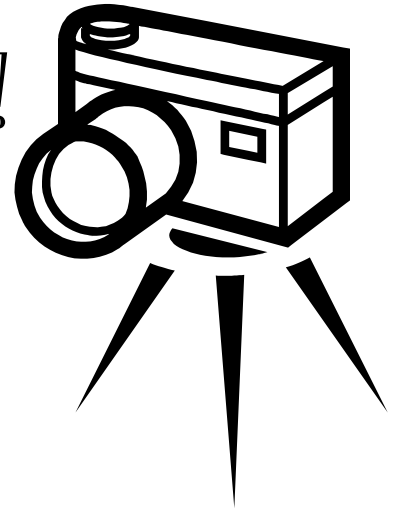
Joan Reinthaler of the Washington Post has described performances of Bay Street Brassworks as being both "friendly and energetic." Among its numerous awards, the Bay Street Brassworks received the first prize at the New York Brass Conference Brass Quintet Competition in 2003, and two Career Development grants from the Peabody Conservatory.

Sunday
February 27, 2005
5:00 p.m.

Open to All

River Road Church
River Road at Ridge Road
Richmond, Virginia

GET IN THE BOOK!!



What book?

THE RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST, DIRECTORY

Sign Up Now!!




February 19 – 26.

Saturdays, 12 to 8 p.m., &
Sunday and weekdays, 2 to 8 p.m.
Lower level of Chapel building.





Sign up before you get called!!

Call **Barbara Jackson** at 270-2903 or the church office at 288-1131.

Some foolish reasons *not* to be photographed:

-  "I look older than I did in the last directory."
Response: I hope so. Consider the alternative!
-  "I don't photograph well! I have too many wrinkles now."
Response: You have aged gracefully!
Response: The directory pictures are small. Wrinkles don't show!
-  "I don't need to know who's who."
Response: Are you a hermit? Do you blend into the woodwork?

Why is this important?

-  Be a visible part of the fellowship
-  Help newcomers match names to faces
-  Help deacons and committees do their work
-  Help yourself learn names and make friends

Facts:

RRCB is self-publishing the directory. Printing costs are included in the 2005 church budget and therefore we are all paying for it—not just those who order pictures. That was the old way of getting a directory. The new way is to do it ourselves! And we want *everybody* to be in it—old and young, active and inactive.

There is no pressure to order pictures. While personal orders are offered, no one is obligated. Prices on personal picture orders reflect minimum expenses and are less than the competition (the directory companies).

The photographer is Warren Johnson, a member of River Road. Formerly staff photographer for the Baptist International Mission Board, now retired, Warren has formed his own photography studio. He is a published photographer who has captured images from around the world. A gallery of his memorable pictures was shown last year on the occasion of his retirement. We are fortunate to have a photographer of his caliber facilitating the directory project. Warren views his involvement a service to the church.

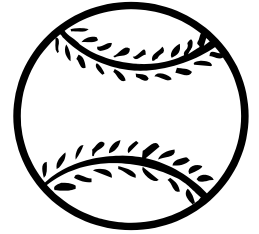
February & March

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 18	Brazil Mission Team Departs Youth Ski Trip—Massanutten ; see Student Ministry News for details
Saturday, February 19	Pictorial Directory Pictures—Make-Up Session—Through February 26 ; see inside for details
Sunday, February 20	Lenten Lunch for Families , 12:30 p.m., Chapel Hall Adult Bible Study , 6:00 p.m., Journey Classroom Board of Administration , 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room
Wednesday, February 23	Inquirers' Class , time to be announced, Youth Area
Thursday, February 24	Book Lovers' Group , 7:30 p.m., Reception Room
Friday, February 25	Men's Basketball , 8:00 p.m., Byrd Middle School
Sunday, February 27	Youth Sunday School Teachers Meeting , 12:00 p.m., Youth Area River Road Concert Series , 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary; see inside for details Adult Bible Study , 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room
Monday, February 28	Men's Basketball , 9:00 p.m., Byrd Middle School
Tuesday, March 1	Evening Bridge , 7:30 p.m., Reception Room
Wednesday, March 2	Stephen Ministry Supervision , 4:30 p.m., Church Parlor

RECREATION NEWS

ATTENTION ALL SOFTBALL PLAYERS!



The 2005 season is about to begin. The church team begins play the first week of April. Interested players for the team may contact **Craig Carlock**, 747-7158, to participate. Games will be played on Tuesdays this year at Short Pump and Crestview fields. The season will run until July, with tournament play scheduled for early August. You also may call the church office, 288-1131, to get your name on the team roster. Team members must be 16 years or older to participate and men or women may participate. Due to budgetary constraints, the team members will have to pay a \$25.00 participation fee. Please call **Craig Carlock** with any questions about the season.

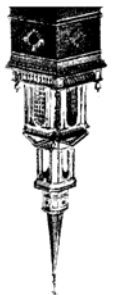
Visit us on the web at www.riverroadchurchbaptist.org

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