

Baptist in
Heritage,
Ecumenical
in Worship
and Outreach



The Spire

River Road Church, Baptist

November 8, 2005, Vol. 60, No. 45

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

Barbara J. Massey
Children

Mary R. Mann
Students

J. Brent Kimlick
Pastoral Intern

George S. Davis
Church Administrator

Margaret S. Collins
Preschool Director

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 13, 2005
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sanctuary

Sermon by Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel
Music by the Carol, Crusader, Chancel Choirs and the Chancel Bell Choir

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following
the worship service hosted by the deacons.



WEDNESDAY DINNER PROGRAMS

November 16, 2005
5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Programs

A Perpetual Thanksgiving
Charles D. Miller

The Pastor's Forum welcomes Dr. Charles D. Miller. What will you do on Thanksgiving Day? Dr. Miller will present a program discussing the history of Thanksgiving, seven Thanksgiving myths, and the Christian response to Thanksgiving.

Dr. Miller received his B.S. in Business Administration from Virginia Tech and both the Master of Education and Doctor of Education from Peabody at Vanderbilt University. He has served as Assistant Secretary of Education in four Governor's administrations for the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1981 he joined Resources, Inc. as the Chief Executive Officer and led the team in innovative technology projects and continuing medical education programs. He is the Executive Director of the Heritage Hills Foundation and serves as President of Virginia First Thanksgiving Festival.

also offered

Moms' Group

The group will meet in the Seekers' classroom.

“GROWTH THROUGH GIVING”

STEWARDSHIP 2006 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Pledge Goal—\$1,405,089
\$1,126,288 Received in Pledges
379 Pledge Cards Received

321 family units who pledged \$1,022,181 for year 2005
have pledged \$1,082,010 for year 2006 (5.9% increase!)

\$43,130 has been pledged from 38 church
families who did not pledge last year.

\$1,148 has been pledged from 20 youth and children.

We have not heard from 116 families who
pledged \$207,441 last year.



Civil War Forum

“The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.”

—Abraham Lincoln

In a proclamation on October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln set the stage for the American national holiday of Thanksgiving and took the opportunity to call for all Americans to seek forgiveness for the actions that had led to so many deaths during the Civil War. However, the first national annual Thanksgiving of 1863 was not officially observed by the United States military. Providing a special Thanksgiving dinner for the troops was beyond the capabilities of the Commissary. Individual units, however, particularly those with New England roots, did find their own unofficial ways to celebrate the day. Special dinners were organized, and toasts to absent family and friends were drunk. Thanksgiving 1864 did not go similarly unrecognized. The Union League Club of New York City launched a public campaign to provide Thanksgiving dinner for Union soldiers and sailors. The response was overwhelming. In three weeks, the Club collected over \$57,000 towards the purchase of 146,586 pounds of poultry. Donations of an additional 225,000 pounds of poultry were received, along with an enormous quantity of other meat, cakes, gingerbread, pickles, apples, vegetables, cheese, and mince pies. These are just a few of the ways we will discuss *Thanksgiving during the Civil War*, the subject of our next Civil War Forum, which meets on Monday, November 14, 7:00 p.m., in the Journey classroom. Members and visitors are welcome.

Sunday Responsibilities

Acolyte: Dexter Gulick

Deacons' Coffee: JoAnn Cizek, Eric Johnson, Ann Marie Geisler, Bob Porter

Flower Distribution: Betty Edwards, Ann Sledge

Greeters: Martha Lou Green, Beth Hooker, Dennis O'Neal, Susan Phillips, John Zukowsky

Sound: Ed Pruden

Tellers: Vara Bottoms, Jean Cauble, Carol Decker, Dean Decker, Pat Dickinson, Holly Smith

Ushers: Jule Bolio, John Gray, Skip King, Andy Mann, Jon Williams

Minister On Call

Weekend: November 12-13

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-week unit of study entitled *What Did Jesus Do?* These four sessions invite us to think about four actions characteristic of how Jesus lived. It is helpful to remember that Jesus' lifestyle is not a matter of guesswork. The image of Jesus provided by these Gospel accounts furnishes us with an example to follow in living a life that is pleasing to God. In recent years, there has been a rebirth of interest in what Jesus did as a model for how we should live. For centuries, Christians have sought to pattern their lives after Jesus' life. From the fifteenth-century devotional classic *The Imitation of Christ*, to the immensely popular novel *In His Steps* in the early twentieth century, to the WWJD? (What Would Jesus Do?) bracelets and bumper stickers adorning the lives of Christians in our time, the idea of Christlike living has inspired Christians to endeavor to do as Jesus did. We are going to spend four weeks asking, "How can I live a life more pleasing to God by intentionally endeavoring to do as Jesus did?" May these sessions assist you in walking in his steps. This week's lesson, entitled *How Would Jesus Work?*, is based on Luke 17:7-10, and is studied in the following classes:

Fellowship Class will be taught by **Lloyd Jackson**.

Friendship Class will be taught by **Connie Showalter**.

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

Reuben Alley Class will be taught by **Lynn Dickerson**.

Robert Smart Class will be taught by **Bob Shoemake**. Attention all Smart Class members and prospective members. Please mark your calendars to join us for our holiday social and get to know everyone better! Our annual Christmas Party is on **Saturday, December 3**, and will be hosted by **Keith and Ashley Evans**. More details to come. Get your sitter for this night!

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

TwentySomethings Class will be taught by **Heather Felts**. The class Christmas party will be held on December 16. Please check out the class page on the website for upcoming social activities.

Discussion Class—Religion and Politics: No No or Yes Yes—Christian Values in Political Decision Making. The discussion will be led by **Scott Leake**, Executive Director Virginia Senate Republican Caucus.

Explorers Class—The class will continue a discussion between Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright on *Jesus: Two Visions*.

Journey Class—Clint Jackson will continue a discussion of the *Gospel According to the Simpsons* series.

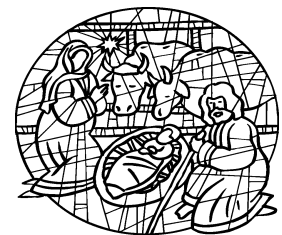
Life Class—The class will join the Discussion class.

Phoenix Class—George Davis will lead the class in a discussion of the book *The Challenge of Jesus* by N. T. Wright.

Shepherd-Simpson Bible Study Class—The class will continue its study of II Samuel, beginning at chapter 13, verse 1. **Bob Shepherd** will teach the class.

Coming in December

NATIVITY FESTIVAL DECEMBER 7-11, 2005



An extravaganza of nativity scenes from home and abroad. Church members are invited to share their treasured nativity sets in a display shown throughout the church complex. Watch *The Spire* for additional information.



AT HOME: Taylor Cousins, Linda Harmon,
Dick Humbert, Ellett Pollard

IN HOSPITAL: Frances Cargill, St. Mary's
Joe Pitchford, Henrico Doctors' Parham
Don Thomson, St. Mary's

IN REHABILITATION: Donald Bunn, Westport Manor

IN OUR PRAYERS: Edey Stolz, daughter of Jane and Norm Vaughn and
sister of Linda Schreiner.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to Elizabeth Sanders and family upon the
death of her sister, Mabel Radd Shipp Sowder, on October 27, in Providence Forge.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to Harry and Barbara Boyd and family
upon the death of his mother and to James Boyd, Mallory Trickett and Carrie
Trickett upon the death of their grandmother, Kathleene Ragland Boyd, on
November 4.

Friday—11th
Marguerite Bostic
Steve Larson
Peggy Tuck Marr
Pat Schools
Marilene Sheppard
Ann Wilson
Richard Wood

Saturday—12th
Vera Davis
Carol Decker
Susan Ryan
Connie Showalter
John Zukowsky

Sunday—13th
Jimmy Holdren
Evelyn McDuffie
Jim Mumper
Diane Shoemaker
Janet Spencer
John Waddell
Dottie Williams

Monday—14th
G. C. Robinson
Jan Taylor

Wednesday—16th
Lee Bradley
Paul Felts
Barry Harmon
Debbie Stoddard
Buddy Sumner

Thursday—17th
Joan Bennett
Natalie Congdon
Ed Ernouf
Keith Evans
Allison Fowler
Brendan McGuire
Ryan Pulley
Bill Rusher, Sr.
Karen Singleton

UPDATE ON OFFERINGS

As of October 31, 2005

The Board of Administration wants to keep the congregation informed on the progress of offerings toward our budget. In the figures below, the pro-rata portion for ten months of pledges paid in advance is shown as received in order to accurately reflect current income. On this basis, at the end of October we had received 91.6% of our budgeted offerings. If you haven't made a contribution toward your 2005 pledge, please help us by doing so at your earliest opportunity.

Offerings budgeted	\$1,055,960
Offerings received*	\$967,528

Current ratio of received to budgeted offerings 91.6%

*Received offerings included pro rata offerings paid prior to January 1, 2005.

RIVER ROAD CHURCH TO SEND MISSION TEAMS TO BRAZIL AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2006

Church volunteers are being recruited for mission projects in Brazil and the Czech Republic in 2006. Under the auspices of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, River Road Church will send a team of adult volunteers to each of these countries. First, a team will go to Brazil, March 3-13, to assist in the construction of a new church and VBS leadership in Maringá, Paraná. Then later, another team will travel to the Czech Republic during the period of July 31-August 11 for construction work, tutoring in English, and VBS leadership, all of which has been requested by the Czech Baptist Union and its General Secretary, Jan Titera. Here's where you come in. If you are interested in being a mission volunteer, please call the church office, 288-1131.



Monday—14th
Alex and Allyson Brand—7 years

Thursday—17th
John and Sydney Payne—26 years

▶▶ Odds & Ends ▶▶



WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU

The adults and children will have spaghetti, green beans, apple sauce, salad bar, rolls, and cookies. For dinner reservations, call the church office, 288-1131. The reservation deadline is Tuesday at noon of each week.



FIXERS

The next meeting of the FIXERS will be **Thursday, November 17**, at 8:30 a.m., in the Reception Room. For information, contact **George Davis**, 288-1131

MORNING BRIDGE

The Morning Bridge Game will be played on Thursday, November 17, at 10:00 a.m., in the Reception Room. **Elaine Duresky**, 360-9830, will be hosting.



INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF GREATER RICHMOND

Members and guests of River Road Church, Baptist are invited to attend the dinner meeting of Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, which will be held Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. *New Horizons in Music for Worship* will be presented by The Unitarian Universalist Singers. The cost for the catered dinner is \$10.00. There is no charge for the program. For reservations, please call Virginia McEachern at 272-5409 or the ICGR at 782-6860 by November 10.



FISHING TRIP—NOVEMBER 26

The rockfish are coming (in fact, they are already here), and River Roaders are going to try to help ensure that the fish do not over populate the bay! On **Saturday, November 26**, we will be fishing out of **Deltaville**. So far we have seven “definites” and two “maybes.” We have room for more, so if you are interested in catching some big ones and having a good time, call **George Davis** at the church, 288-1131, for more information.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

245 POUNDS OF FOOD—were collected at “Trunk or Treat” and taken to the Central Virginia Food Bank. Thanks to everyone who brought food!



ADVENT-URE LUNCH FOR FAMILIES—is the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, at 12:00, following worship. We will have lunch together and each family will make an Advent wreath to use in family Advent celebrations in the home. This is for families of preschoolers and elementary-aged children. **RESERVATIONS are necessary.** Please call **Barbara Massey**, 288-1131.

Missions

2005 RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS STORES: For many years the Baptist centers of the Richmond Baptist Association have provided Christmas Stores for their communities. The Christmas Stores provide new toys and children's clothing to hundreds of families who would otherwise be unable to care for their children at Christmas. What is unique to

our Christmas Stores is that the items are not given away, but a small amount is charged for each child. For \$5 per child a parent can select toys and several pieces of clothing. Parents retain their dignity as they carefully select and pay for their children's gifts. The money collected is then put in a neighborhood fuel fund for the winter months. Please give NEW items for children ages 1-12. Do not wrap the items. (You may put in wrapping paper if you like). Toys suggested are games, books, balls, dolls, electronic games, and videos. Some clothing suggestions are coats and jackets, sweaters, sweat shirts, caps, hats, gloves, socks, underclothes, nightgowns, pajamas, and JEANS (especially larger sizes). Give items that you would like your children to receive. Toys and clothing for older children are especially needed. Please bring your gifts to church by November 30. If you would like to volunteer to help at the Christmas Stores, please contact **Wyatt Heisler** at 741-9320. Help in setting up and taking down and assistance with shopping are needed. The dates for the Christmas Stores are December 3 for the Church Hill store and December 1 and 2 for the South Richmond/Oregon Hill store.

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH

Sunday, November 13	5:30 p.m.	Snack Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday, November 16	5:30 p.m.	Dinner
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Area opens for socializing
	6:30 p.m.	Old Testament Study

INQUIRERS' CLASS: Sundays, November 13, 20 and 27, 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 4, Service of Baptism, 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Sixth grade students and any other interested youth will gather in the Youth Area for our Inquirers' Class to learn about our church and our faith. We will discuss the basics of the Christian faith, the Baptist denomination, the ecumenical nature of our congregation, and what it means, above all, to profess faith in Christ. Beginning the week of November 27, **Mary Mann** will hold individual meetings with all members of the class to discuss a profession of faith, church membership and baptism.

Discussion Group

WHAT WOULD YOU DISCUSS OVER DINNER WITH JESUS?

That's the dilemma facing cynical but successful Nick Cominsky when he accepts an invitation to join Jesus of Nazareth for dinner at a local restaurant. Nick is convinced that his friends at work are pulling a prank, but the man sitting across from him appears quite serious. What follows is a fascinating conversation that covers family relationships, world religions, and the afterlife, just to name a few topics. Along the way, Nick confronts his own spiritual uncertainties and he begins to wonder if the man across the table holds the answers to his deepest questions. Join the **Book Lovers' Group** as they discuss *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory on **Thursday evening, December 1, at 7:30 p.m., in the Reception Room.** **Jerry Crute** will moderate the discussion of this novella which its publisher, Random House, feels could be the next *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Everyone is welcome. For more information call **Kitty Davis**, 285-9782.



Celebrating Our Thirty-Fifth Season

**RIVER ROAD CHURCH
CONCERT SERIES
2005-2006**

Sunday, November 20, 2005—5:00 p.m.

Bay Street Brass Works
Baltimore, Maryland

Glen Johnson, Trumpet—Director
Luis Engelke, Trumpet
Aaron Brant, French Horn
David Dochterman, Trombone
Jay Norris, Tuba
Amin Gumbs, Percussion

Sanctuary

Sunday, December 11, 2005—7:30 p.m.

Christmas Choral Concert
O Holy Night
By John Rutter

A program of readings and familiar carols

The River Road Chancel Choir
with Orchestra
Carl Freeman, Conductor

Sanctuary

Sunday, January 29, 2006—5:00 p.m.

To Be Announced

Tuesday, March 7, 2006—7:30 p.m.

Choral Concert
The Texas Boys Choir
Gold Medal Winner, 2004 Choral Olympics
Bremen, Germany
Stephen Madrid, Director

Sanctuary

Sunday, March 26, 2006—5:00 p.m.

A Program of Solos and Vocal Duets
Michelle Harman-Gulick, Soprano
Christopher Lindbloom, Baritone
Carl Freeman, at the Piano

Sanctuary

Sunday, May 7, 2006—5:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
Alan Morrison
The Curtis Institute of Music
Philadelphia

Sanctuary

Sunday, June 4, 2006—7:30 p.m.

Spring Choral Concert

The River Road Chancel Choir
with Orchestra
Carl Freeman, Director

Sanctuary

The concerts are open to all

Services of Advent and Christmastide

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 2005
11:00 a.m.

Reading of the Advent Text
Lighting of the First Advent Candle
Sermon by Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel
Anthems by the Chancel Choir

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2005
11:00 a.m.

Reading of the Advent Text
Lighting of the Second
Advent Candle
Sermon by Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel
Anthems by the Chancel Choir
Service of Holy Communion

SERVICE OF BAPTISM AND COMMUNION

December 4, 2005
6:00 p.m. Chapel
Anthems by the Youth Choir

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2005
11:00 a.m.

Reading of the Advent Text
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
Sermon by Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel
Anthems by the Carol, Crusader and
Chancel Choirs

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

December 11, 2005
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Christmas Choral Concert
O Holy Night
By John Rutter
A program of readings

and familiar carols
The River Road Chancel Choir
with orchestra

NATIVITY FESTIVAL

December 7-11, 2005
Displays throughout the church

ADVENT LABYRINTH WALK

December 12, 2005
12:00-8:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 14, 2005
Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Pageant
Music by the Cherub, Carol, Crusader,
and Youth Choirs
Call 288-1131 for dinner reservations

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2005
11:00 a.m.
Reading of the Advent Text
Lighting of the Fourth
Advent Candle
Sermon by Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel
Anthems by the Chancel Choir

VESPER SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

December 18, 2005
6:00 p.m. Chapel
Offering of Memories
(No Child Care)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM OF CAROLS, STORIES AND READINGS

December 21, 2005
Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Program
Regular rehearsals for the Carol,
Crusader and Chancel Bell Choirs

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

5:00 p.m.
Anthems by the Carol, Crusader
Youth and the Chancel Bell Choirs
Children's Offering—Non-perishable
goods wrapped in white paper

CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

11:00 p.m.
Reading of the Christmas Story and
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Sermon by Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel
Anthems by the Chancel Choir
(No Child Care)

NEW YEAR'S EVE LABYRINTH WALK

December 31, 2005
12:00-6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

NEW YEAR'S EVE VESPER SERVICE

December 31, 2005
6:00 p.m. Chapel
Worship Meditation
Service of Holy Communion
(No Child Care)

November

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, November 13 **Inquirers' Class**, 5:00 p.m., Youth Area
 Adult Bible Study, 6:00 p.m., Chapel Hall
 Board of Christian Education, 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor
- Monday, November 14 **Civil War Forum**, 7:00 p.m., Journey Classroom
- Tuesday, November 15 **Ushers Meeting**, 7:00 p.m., Narthex
- Wednesday, November 16 **Stephen Ministry Supervision**, 4:30 p.m., Church Parlor
 Stewardship Committee, 7:30 p.m., Archives Room
- Thursday, November 17 **FIXERS**, 8:30 a.m., Reception Room
 River Roadsters to Valentine Museum, 9:30 a.m., depart north parking lot
 Morning Bridge, 10:00 a.m., Reception Room
 Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, November 19 **Youth Jam** (Combined Youth Choir Concert), 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Sunday, November 20 **Stephen Ministry Supervision**, 9:00 a.m., Church Parlor
 Inquirers' Class, 5:00 p.m., Youth Area
 Concert, 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary
 Adult Bible Study, 6:00 p.m., Chapel Hall
 Intern Committee, 6:00 p.m., Church Parlor
 Board of Administration, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room
- Monday, November 21 **Endowment Board**, 4:30 p.m., Church Parlor
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Music Suite
- Wednesday, November 23 **Church Business Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
 Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Thursday, November 24 **Thanksgiving Day—Church Office Closed**
- Friday, November 25 **Thanksgiving Holiday—Church Office Closed**

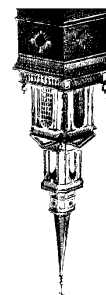
Visit us on the web at www.riverroadchurchbaptist.org

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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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