



TRANSFORMED!

news of Richmond area churches...together...changing lives - February 2008



ANNOUNCING THE Central Virginia Baptist Ministries'

2008 PASTOR-DEACON CONFERENCE

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them."*

Monday, March 10, 2008
at
Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond
3400 Brook Road • 355-8135

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

6:45 p.m. Refreshments
7:15 p.m. Music & Welcome
7:45-9:00 p.m. Conference

CONFERENCE CHOICES:

The Rookie Deacon
The Three Areas of Prayer: Personal, Public, & Ministry of Prayer
How to Slow Down So You Can Catch Up
Women as Servant Leaders in the Church
What Do I Say When...?
The Public Image of Your Church Deacons
The Role of the Deacon in Church Conflict
Encouraging the Pastor
Pastors and Deacons: Caring for Each Other
Where Do Deacons Come From?

There is No Fee for the Conference.
Registration is ENCOURAGED, but NOT REQUIRED.

REGISTER to attend Specific Sessions by March 3:
EMAIL: Gayle Taylor CVBM Admin Assistant at: gayle.taylor@cvbm.org
OR
CALL: Rev. Nita May, Regional Ministries Coordinator at 804-332-4670

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries, 7200 Cogbill Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832
804.271.8299 • 804.332.4670 • nita.may@cvbm.org • www.cvbm.org



PRAY FOR
RBA CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR



Cambridge
First
Shalom Fellowship
Southampton
Westhampton

WORK TEAMS NEEDED FOR EAGLE EYRIE RENOVATIONS

During the months of February and March, Eagle Eyrie will be renovating two of its lodges, Sycamore and Locust. We would welcome individual and church group volunteers to come and work. Eagle Eyrie will furnish lodging and meals for those working. We will have jobs and materials planned out. There are many skills we are in need of but we can also use willing bodies. We would be happy to accommodate workers whenever it is convenient for you, as long as we are not using the lodges or booked up. The weekends of February 1-3 and March 14-16 are available for weekend crews. We also can accommodate workers during most weekdays.

If you or a group from your church have an interest in helping, please call Rod Miller (434) 384-2211 or email us at www.eagleeyrie1@aol.com. We will be happy to discuss the work that needs to be done.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT RBA BAPTIST CENTERS

The three Baptist Centers supported by RBA (Church Hill, Oregon Hill and South Richmond,) have on-going needs for volunteers to assist with a variety of ministries to children and adults that find themselves in challenging day to day situations. In 2008 if you would like to experience new ways to "love your neighbor," contact one of the Community Missionaries listed below and find out how you can make a difference!

CHURCH HILL WELLNESS CENTER,
2011 Fairmount Avenue (in Mt. Tabor Baptist Church)
Rev. Glinda Ford, 780-0053, glindaf@rbaonline.org

OREGON HILL
400 South Pine Street (in Pine Street Baptist Church)
Rev. Jennifer Turner, 648-1353, jennifert@rbaonline.org

SOUTH RICHMOND
700 East Belt Boulevard (in St. Paul's South)
Mrs. Margaret Allen, 232-0174, margareta@rbaonline.org

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RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
3111 MOSS SIDE AVENUE
RICHMOND, VA 23222
Phone: 804-329-1701
Fax: 804-321-7121
E-mail: office@rbaonline.org
Website: www.rbaonline.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

HOST CHURCHES NEEDED FOR 2008 RBA:

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

(includes quickly served lunch & meeting
12:00 noon—1:30 p.m.)

MAY 15
AUGUST 21
NOVEMBER 20

RBA SPRING CELEBRATION
APRIL 17 @ 7:00 P.M.

If your church is interested in hosting one of these meetings or if you have questions, contact Frances Jones or Pete du Plessis at the RBA at 804-329-1701 as soon as possible.

**TRANSFORMED! is published monthly by the
Richmond Baptist Association,
3111 Moss Side Avenue,
Richmond, VA 23222, 804-329-1701.**

If you would like to submit an article by the 20th of each month, or be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact Frances Jones via email or snail mail at the addresses listed below.

FROM YOUR DOM, PETE DU PLESSIS

Greetings!
 The Richmond Baptist Association is composed of Baptist churches joining together to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a family of churches working together in building the Kingdom of God and caring for one another. Each week the Association prays for one particular church within the fellowship. Sincerely praying for someone will help you to better care about that person and their well-being. And the principle is the same for churches praying for each other. Our churches are not in competition with one another; rather, we seek to complement one another in ministry. As members of the family of faith, we want every church to succeed and do well. We genuinely care about each other. That is what the Association is all about as a cooperative organization of Christian believers. All of us seek to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40). We are to love one another!

It is my joy and my privilege to work with 72 congregations that make up the Richmond Baptist Association. I earnestly want every single church to be a Spirit-filled congregation and experience the blessings of God. As the Associational Director of Missions, I sincerely want the Association to be a partner with every church in fulfilling its mission. The local association represents "Jerusalem" (Acts 1:8) and seeks to assist each church in doing missions at all four levels: Jerusalem (Richmond), Judea (Virginia), Samaria (the United States), and the uttermost (the world). We do not have an option as to which mission field we will pick. Every church must do missions at all four levels consistently and continuously if it is to be an Acts 1:8 church.

One of the prayer requests that is always before us is to pray for those churches which do not have a pastor and are seeking to find a new one. This time of pastoral transition can have a significant impact on a church both for good and for bad. The Association stands ready to assist our churches as they go through the pastoral search process. My predecessor, Dr. Bob Perry, prepared an excellent "Manual for Pastor Search Committees," which is available to any church needing orientation and training. I am available to meet with pastor search committees and walk them through the Manual and provide any assistance they might need from the Association. There is no charge to the churches for this service, it is a ministry of the RBA to our member churches.

Another way in which I may be of help is with pulpit supply. I am available to preach for any church and welcome the opportunity when the need exists. I also have a list of "supply preachers" that I would be glad to share with our churches needing such help. In that same line, I also have a list of people who are willing and able to serve as "interim pastors" or "intentional interim pastors." Selecting an interim pastor is also a significant decision for the church. This time of interim leadership can also be good for the church and it could also be bad. I want to be available to help our churches during this time so as to avoid any unnecessary conflict within the church family. Please don't hesitate to call me with your needs and requests. If I can't help you personally, I will know who to put you in touch with so you can get the help you need. The Association is here for you. Don't neglect the opportunity to take advantage of this valuable resource. The RBA has a rich tradition of caring for our member churches. We plan to keep it up.

WELCOME

**DR. CRAIG A. SHEROUSE
 PASTOR, SECOND**



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Craig A. Sherouse has been called to be the Pastor of Second Baptist Church. His first Sunday in the pulpit will be March 2.

Dr. Sherouse has been serving as the Pastor of First Baptist Griffin, Georgia, for the last five years. He has also served as Pastor of churches in Florida and Kentucky.

Mark and his wife, Beverly, have two children, Alan a Minister of Youth in Nashville, Tennessee, who is married to Jenny; and Susan a professional violinist with the rock band "Dashboard Confessional."

We join with the congregation of Second in welcoming Craig and his family to the RBA family.

2008 SOJOURNERS PROGRAM

The Sojourners Summer Missionary Program of the Richmond Baptist Association places youth, ages 16 (must have completed the 11th grade) to 21, in our three Baptist Centers to experience missions first-hand. The 2008 summer session is for up to ten weeks. The work schedule is flexible. The Sojourner will average 20 hours of service per weeks with some weeks being more intense than others. Stipends for 2008 will be \$600 per individual. The Sojourner Program offers experiences in working with children, youth, and senior adults in an inner-city environment. Sojourner youth are exposed to a variety of social ministries at all three Baptist Centers. The program is often formative in a young person's choice of career or life of service. For more information, please contact Pete du Plessis at 329-1701 ext. 202 or peted@rbaonline.org.

2008 RBA RESOURCE DIRECTORIES are available and have been sent to the churches! If you would like a copy, contact Frances Jones at the RBA Office: 329-1701 or francesj@rbaonline.org.

DECEMBER 2007 BUDGET REPORT

Budget Amount:	\$ 54,625.00
Budget Receipts:	\$104,074.57
Budget Expenses:	\$ 42,556.16
YTD Amount:	\$655,500.00
YTD Receipts:	\$770,303.03
YTD Expenses:	\$626,305.63

HELP/SITUATIONS WANTED

CHURCH SECRETARY needed by **Fairmount Memorial** beginning in mid-February. This is a full-time position (M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Candidates need to have a working knowledge of MSWord, Quick Books and the Automated Church System. Fairmount Memorial is located at 4205 Ravenswood Road. Interested persons can contact the church office for more information at 329-5420 or Fayefmbc@verizon.net.

MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND Education needed by Broadus Memorial, a newly relocated and growing congregation in eastern Hanover County, is seeking a dedicated and gifted Christian to join our staff and give full-time leadership in the areas of Children's Ministry and Education Ministry. Candidate must be a team player with good people skills willing to support our vision of outreach and growth. A college degree is required. Further education and experience is a plus. Candidates for a part-time position in either area of ministry will be considered. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, 5351 Pole Green Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Call 804-779-2700 or email phil@broadusmbc.org for more information.

Southside Baptist Church at 6000 Ironbridge Road in Chesterfield is seeking a **PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR**. For inquiries, email dennisT100@hotmail.com or call the church at 804-271-9257 (M-F, 9-2).

New Covenant Baptist Church is seeking a **QUARTER-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR**. The candidate will direct an adult choir and lead in music worship. Applicants should be proficient in piano and/or organ, and music direction. For consideration please call the church for more info at 804-282-9308, fax resume to 804-282-9356 or email NewCovenaBC@aol.com or you can mail a resume to: New Covenant Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 7250 Patterson Ave, Richmond VA 23229

TEAM MEMBERS needed for the RBA's Strategy Work Team for LAMP (Latin American Missions Project) that is forming. If you have an interest in reaching out to Latinos in our community, please contact Pete du Plessis (329-1701 or peted@rbaonline.org) and he will be glad to give you more details about this ministry.

RBA DISASTER RELIEF TEAM MEMBERS needed. The Virginia Baptist Mission Board is endeavoring to establish a Disaster Relief Communications Network for the State. The Board would like each local association to form a team to better assist with communication and coordination of the Baptist relief efforts in Richmond. If you have an interest in serving on the RBA Team, please contact Pete du Plessis at 329-1701 or peted@rbaonline.org.

Pews Needed

Local church plant in the RBA neighborhood is looking for pews to put in their new building's worship space. If your church would be interested in donating their old-used pews, please contact Kristin Fogg at Kristin.ruby@comcast.net or by phone at 398-0577, or you can contact Rev. Praveen Bunyan at Eternity Church at 643-6200.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- FEBRUARY 3**
BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE DAY

- FEBRUARY 4 @ 6:30 P.M.**
CAMP SUPPORT TEAM, RBA

- FEBRUARY 6 @ 12:00 NOON**
MINISTER'S LUNCH @ PICCADILLY ON BROAD

- FEBRUARY 8 @ 7:00 P.M.**
SPECIAL EDUCATION VALENTINE SOCIAL
AT MONUMENT HEIGHTS

- FEBRUARY 10-17**
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION FOCUS WEEK

- FEBRUARY 14**

VALENTINE'S DAY

- FEBRUARY 15-16**
21-C CONFERENCE, FIRST BAPTIST WOODBRIDGE

- FEBRUARY 19 @ 10:00 A.M.**
RBA WMU LEADERSHIP TEAM, RBA

- FEBRUARY 19 @ 7:00 P.M.**
CHINA MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES, VBRC

- FEBRUARY 20 @ 12:00 NOON**
DEADLINE FOR TRANSFORMED!

- FEBRUARY 21 @ 12:00 NOON**
RBA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, CARLISLE AVENUE

- FEBRUARY 26 @ 9:30 A.M.**
LAMP STRATEGY TEAM, MIDDLE DISTRICT

- FEBRUARY 26 @10:00 A.M.**
2008 CHURCH & CLERGY TAX SEMINARS, VBRC

- FEBRUARY 28 @ 10:00 A.M.**
CVBM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONF PLANNING, RBA

Balance Your Budget!

Entrust Federal Credit Union's website, www.efcu.coop, has FREE resources available to help get your budget on track in 2008. Their website also has information about FREE seminars that Entrust FCU is hosting that will give you the tools you need to have a money makeover. Contact them at 353-8012 or efcu@entrustfcu.com for more information.

ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT



February 15-16, 2008

First Baptist Church
 13600 Minnieville Road
 Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
 703-730-9009

Welcome to 21-C 2008! Our theme this year is "Causing Heaven to Celebrate," based on Luke 15:7. We believe that Jesus establishes an important priority when He says, "I've come to seek and save lost people." Shouldn't lost people be a priority for His followers as well?

It has been estimated that 4.5 million people in Virginia have no connection with any religious organization. How are Virginia Baptists going to respond?" 21-C has become synonymous with kingdom vision, innovation, and courage. This year will be no exception:

- Kingdom Vision – participate in a movement that will reach 600,000 lost people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ over a five year period.
- Kingdom Innovation – incorporate the APEPT model of Ephesians 4:11 to discover spiritual gift-base.
- Kingdom Courage – commission, orient, and mobilize the 670. (go to www.vbmb.org/670 for more information)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- \$69.00 per person for those affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV); BGAV churches must use the discount code **BGAV** in order to receive this rate.
- \$99.00 per person for those not associated with the BGAV.

Fees include two lunches (Friday & Saturday), all breaks, and conference materials.

READ BEFORE REGISTERING ONLINE AT WWW.21-C.ORG

REQUIRED: As part of the registration process, we are asking every 21-C attendee to complete an APEPT Survey. The APEPT survey is designed to provide a personalized ministry profile based upon five ministry roles. The survey will take about ten minutes and will be distributed at check-in at 21-C, like-minded, ministry-focused individuals will move through the various tracks together.. For your participation in this survey, you will receive a "free-gift" coupon that can be redeemed when you arrive at 21-C in February.

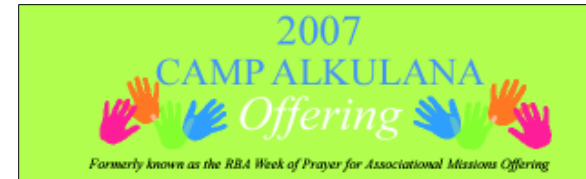
Deadline for Online Registration is February 8. Registration will be available at the door on February 15. For Registration Information, please call Debbie Cobb at 804-915-5000/800-255-2428, ext. 6235 or email at debbie.cobb@vbmb.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

This conference is coordinated by the Courageous Churches Team of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. For more information, please call Gwen Payne at 804-915-5000 / 800-255-2428, ext. 6265 or email at gwen.payne@vbmb.org.

PRAY FOR THE RBA CHURCH OF THE WEEK

FEBRUARY 3 WESTHAMPTON
 FEBRUARY 10 WESTOVER
 FEBRUARY 17 WOODLAND HEIGHTS
 FEBRUARY 24 MOUNT CARMEL
 MARCH 2 AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



Offering Goal: \$ 90,000.00
Received 12/31/07: \$118,022.81

We praise God for the generosity of our churches in exceeding our Camp Offering goal by \$28,022.81! As reported, any funds in excess of the \$90,000.00 goal have been placed in the Camp Emergency Reserve Fund.



LAMP REPORT "Latin American Mission Project"

Greetings,

Evelyn Horner was elected as Chair of the Latin American Mission Project, and G. C. Harbuck, Vice-Chair.

In January, La Primera Iglesia Bautista held a special service with the purpose of helping more people become involved in the ministry. Thirty-two people responded "Here I am, send me," Isaiah 6:8. We offered 25 different materials for starting the Discipleship process and they chose one to use in 2008 and to give to others.

I am beginning to have more fellowship with pastors from the Assemblies of God Church in Richmond. The purpose is to join efforts to reach the Latino Community in Richmond, and to train missionaries to go into the World.

In His name,
Rev. Louis Orsatti, Latino Church Planter
Phone: 804-833-9909; Email: lorsatti@yahoo.com

Rev. Louis Orsatti's family is in need of a donated or very low cost automobile. Looks aren't important as long as it is mechanically in good shape. If you can help, please contact Louis at 833-9909.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTRIES NEWS FROM NITA



Greetings,

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries is delighted to announce that **GAYLE TAYLOR WAS HIRED AS CENTRAL VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTRIES (CVBM) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** beginning January 1, 2008. She will be providing administrative support services to the CVBM Regional Ministries Coordinator, Rev. Nita May.



Gayle previously served as an adjunct instructor of English at John Tyler Community College and is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Gayle and her family are members of Graceland Baptist Church where she serves as organist. She and her husband Jeff are the parents of twins, Kyle and Meredith, who will be 15 years old in April.

We welcome Gayle as the newest member of the CVBM staff.

%%%

2008 Pastor-Deacon Conference

(see flyer on front cover)

The Central Virginia Baptist Ministries (CVBM) **PASTOR/DEACON CONFERENCE** will be held on **Monday, March 10, 2008**, at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. The evening will begin with light refreshments served at 6:45 p.m. This year the conference sessions will be presented one time – and if your church is able to send at least ten deacons, you can cover the entire conference.

We hope you will distribute the list of the conference sessions being offered (see front cover of this issue) and ask each deacon to choose one session to attend. The deacons can then report back to your church on that session. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Baptist Seminary here in Richmond, this will be a special opportunity for you to reflect on both your call and the call of those in your church. It is an honor to be chosen to serve God. Serving as a **deacon** is a call. Anyone that has made a profession of faith in Christ has received a call to serve. John Ortberg writes,

"And don't forget, the next time you go into a church, to hold your breath in wonder. What you gaze on is not just a group of people singing songs or listening to a message. It is God's body on earth. Where two or three of them gather in his name, he is there too." (John Ortberg, *God Is Closer Than You Think*, Zondervan, 2005, 108)

Today, 50% of pastors leave the ministry within ten years. And of every three retiring pastors, only one is entering a ministry vocation. How can we help men and women in our congregations hear and respond to both vocational and lay-ministry? Join us at B TSR for the Pastor/Deacon Conference as we "gather" to talk about how our call unfolds – and how God continues to meet us where we are in our lives.

Blessings....

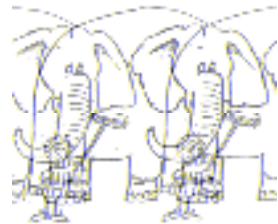
Rev. Nita May, Regional Ministries Coordinator,
 Central Virginia Baptist Ministries
 7200 Cogbill Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832
 (H) 271-8299, (cell) 332-4670; (e) nita.may@cvbm.org



2008 SUMMER CAMP STAFF APPLICATIONS are now being accepted. Interested persons can apply online at www.alkulana.org or call Gracie for an application (329-1701 x206). Check the website for what it takes to be a summer counselor.

SOUP LABELS

A special thanks to all who saved Campbells Soup labels over the past few years for Camp Alkulana and to the ladies of Sandston Baptist Church for cutting and counting. A new computer was purchased last spring with the labels. We're still collecting labels and plan to purchase a projector.



Want to do Something BIG?

Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days at Camp Alkulana

May 17* and May 31*, 2008

Please note that these dates are in May and not June as usual.

HELP US GET READY FOR THE SUMMER SEASON!

PLENTY TO DO:

- Yard work ♦ Spring cleaning
Light carpentry ♦ General repair

GREAT BONDING OPPORTUNITY FOR CHURCH GROUPS*

- Leave Richmond early, eat breakfast on the way.
Arrive at camp by 10:00 and work until 4:00 with a lunch break.
Stop in Staunton on the way home for dinner.

*Okay for youth to come with your adult group; however, youth should understand that "normal" camp activities will not be available, as the goal is to fix up camp.

For more information and to let us know that we can count on you, call or email Gracie Kirkpatrick, Camp Director: 329-1701, ext. 206 or alkulana@juno.com

A VALENTINE STORY

by

Beth Reddish Wright (Mrs. Art Wright)

I'm not a mushy or cheesy sort of person. I don't often broadcast my emotions. So, when Gracie asked me to share this story with you all, I paused and thought, "How can I do this with out becoming the token Valentine's Day love story for the newsletter?" This will be my best effort.

Those of us who have spent a number of years involved with Camp Alkulana have come to know it as a sacred place. Whether you've come to volunteer on a work day or to staff the camp for an entire summer, if you've come for a retreat, or grown up attending as a camper—so many of us have found that Alkulana is a place of transformation, of genuine interactions, and of real beauty. And so, three and a half years ago, in that very setting, I met the man who is now my husband.

Art and I were counselors together the summer of 2003. We led high adventure groups together to rappel and rock climb, we learned cave routes together, life guarded together, worked together to entertain campers at lunch tables, and generally encouraged each other through what can at times seem like a marathon summer. Between our efforts to sneak glances at each other through crazed dining hall meals we shared with sixty other counselors and campers, and conversations we stole during free time in the evenings, we began what was a patient course towards understanding one another in this place that brought us together. Through the encouragement of friends (and Gracie!) we dated between sessions that summer, and continued throughout the coming years.

When we were engaged, our camp family was among the first to know, and they celebrated with us in each step we took. Indeed, some of our coworkers saw my engagement ring even before I did. We were thrown a very special Alkulana-style shower last spring (think gag gifts and enthusiastic skits). And even on our wedding day, we were joined by a large representation from our Alkulana staff family.

In our own way we have been so blessed by this place, this ministry, and this family we call Alkulana. It is, in that way, the place where our love came to life.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN CHINA

To be a volunteer in China requires a willing heart, a sense of adventure, an openness to learn as well as to teach. Well, okay, there are a few restrictions and requirements, and it isn't free, but first consider if God may be leading you to volunteer in China.

Lynn Yarbrough is Virginia's missions' coordinator living in China. She will be in Virginia in mid-February and will be present at a meeting on February 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Virginia Baptist Resource Center. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to meet Lynn and talk with her personally about coming to China.

At the meeting she will discuss some of the ministry opportunities available through the Virginia Baptist Mission Board partnership with the Amity Foundation (www.amity.oundation.org). These include the three-week Amity Summer English Program, an intense language program working with Chinese English teachers; opportunities for college students to minister this summer at the Xi'an YMCA; as well as a variety of short-term projects working with children for 10-14 days.

If you have questions you can contact Lynn Yarbrough at lynn.yarbrough@gmail.com or the Virginia Baptist Resource Center at www.vbmb.org for more information on a wide variety of opportunities.

SOUTH AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

The Virginia Baptist Mission Board has signed a partnership agreement with the Baptist Union of South Africa to start new churches in the Free State Association. Presently there are only 35 small churches in that association. The VBMB accepted a goal to double that number by the year 2010. Several churches have agreed to sponsor a new church start in the association. Many groups within RBA are sponsoring orphans who have lost parents to AIDS. Others are sponsoring work in the Door of Hope Ministry to abandoned babies.

The Baptist Union is in the midst of an extensive evangelistic campaign, known as "IMPACT 2010". In 2008, the focus will be in the Free State Province. Virginia Baptists have been asked to send 30 evangelistic teams to blanket the province with various outreach projects. Many of these teams will engage in visitation and outreach projects during the day, inviting people to nightly tent meetings. Ideally, a small outreach team would have 3 or 4 volunteers: someone to preach, someone to lead a local team in children's ministry, and someone to lead a local team in youth outreach. There would also be some requests for teams to do outreach projects which do not involve traditional visitation, things such as sport camps and backyard Bible clubs.

Teams will be sent during the first two weeks of August, September, and October of 2008. The cost of the trip for each person will be around \$2,500. If you have an interest in becoming a part of this campaign, please contact Craig Waddell, Missions Partnership Coordinator, Virginia Baptist Mission Board, at 915-5000, or craig.waddell@vbmb.org for more information.

AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

CHURCH NEWS

BETHLEHEM (PENICK) is planning a summer mission trip to Frederiksted, St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands. BON AIR will have their first WMU Children's Ministry Day on Saturday, February 16. They are also offering a BTR Master of Divinity level course, "An Introduction to the Missional Church Movement" beginning February 7. DERBYSHIRE collected 1200 pounds of non-perishable food items for Lamb's Basket Food Pantry which serves over 1,900 families per month, plus 622 individuals with disabilities and 820 seniors in Henrico County. FIRST will have a Ministry Fair on Sunday, February 3, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for members to browse through exhibits and booths, and to celebrate the numerous ministry and mission opportunities offered at FBC. GAYTON has commissioned a visionary team to travel to Western Europe to explore a long term mission partnership in Lisbon, Portugal. HUGUENOT ROAD held a Winter Bible Study, "Christian Hospitality", lead by Dr. Beth Newman, professor of theology and ethics at BTR. LAKESIDE will have a Winter Variety Show on February 13, 6:45 p.m. OAK FOREST will host Vascular Screening of Virginia, Inc. for Stroke, Thyroid, Leg Circulation and Abdominal Aneurysm screenings on February 2. RIVER ROAD collected items for First Interfaith Services of Henrico (ISH) mission of providing duffle bags and backpacks of emergency needs for youngsters who have to be removed from their homes. They will be hosting CARITAS February 23-29 and will begin "Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey", a six week small group experience on February 10. STOCKTON MEMORIAL will start providing bagged lunches on the first Saturday of each month for Friends of the Homeless of Richmond. WOODLAND HEIGHTS' food closet recently served 24 families and 85 individuals.

STAFF NEWS

MONUMENT HEIGHTS welcomes Rev. Rupert Rose as their new Associate Pastor of Families and Administration and NORTHMINSTER welcomes Amy Holtz as their Interim Youth Coordinator.

2008 CHURCH AND CLERGY TAX SEMINARS

A number of unique rules apply to churches and "ministers for tax purposes." To help church staff and church lay leaders understand and comply with the tax laws a series of church and clergy tax seminars sponsored by the Financial Support Planning Ministry of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board will be held across the state in February 2008. The Richmond seminar will be held on February 26 at the Virginia Baptist Resource Center, 2828 Emerywood Parkway.

Jeff Cranford, Financial Support Planning Specialist, Empowering Leaders Team, VBMB will lead the conference. Pete Wills, C.P.A., will may assist if available. The seminar will begin at 10:00 a.m. and break for lunch at noon. After lunch there will be a Q & A session with the seminar leaders. The seminar will end by 2:00 p.m.

For information on this conference or to register for the conference contact Raymond Cady, GuideStone Administrative Assistant at 1-800-255-2428 or by email to raymond.cady@vbmb.org.