

Roanoke Valley Baptist Association

3926 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012
540-366-7631 ~ www.rvba.org

THE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

August/September 2020

Our Mission is to partner with and strengthen churches to advance the Kingdom of God and to meet needs in the community.

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Valley Impact 2020

Prayerfully consider being a part of Valley Impact this year on Saturday September 26, 2020. We are living in a time where the needs of people are so great. As church leaders, we have a wonderful opportunity to meet the needs of people and reach them with the Gospel. We will practice safety protocols like social distancing and masks when possible. We desire to reach others safely and effectively. Churches can complete their own project, or we can pair you with a need from a list of needs we created from around the Roanoke Valley.

Serving Heart

The time is now for the church to start ministering outside the walls of the church building. The RVBA would like to unite churches in ministry on a regular basis. As the Missionary for Church Outreach Ministries for the RVBA, I am seeking pastors and churches to begin serving together for God's Kingdom. I ask that September 26th, be just the beginning of a group of churches striving together to share the Gospel and make disciples. Please contact me if you are willing to be a part of this RVBA team.

Here is a video link: <https://youtu.be/inR1nn4n9ms>

Scott Hamilton
pastorscotth@gmail.com
540-798-9820

**RVBA Fall Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2020
6:30 – 8:00 pm
Bonsack Baptist Church
Features Speaker: Dr. Willie McLaurin,
VP, Great Commission Relationships SBC**

ON MISSION

This summer has been very different from previous years. No mission trips. No World Changers. No booth at the Salem Fair. We are all learning to “be the Church” in innovative and creative ways. Churches are finding innovative and creative ways to connect with their members and their neighbors. This pandemic has affected each of us in different ways. I have worshipped with many of you through TV, on-line, drive-in, outdoors and a few in your building as we “social distanced.” Through this crisis let’s remember that this is an opportunity for us to share hope through Jesus.

Valley Impact is scheduled for Saturday, September 26. Make plans now for how your church can be involved in ministry, missions and evangelism on that day. What better way to show our communities hope, than God’s people showing his love in the midst of the pandemic. Check out the RVBA website for more information.

The RVBA is facing some very tough economic times right now. Some of our churches are feeling a financial pinch because of the Corona Virus and not being able to meet in person. So, thank you for continuing to give to the association in these tough times. However, our receipts from churches are down. We are working to keep our expenses down, but we are still seeing a reduction in financial resources. We cannot operate without the funding from the churches and we do not want to make drastic budget cuts to the budget. Please do not forget to financially support your association.

The RVBA Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 27 at Bonsack Baptist Church. As of the writing of this article, we will have the meeting. Three changes with the meeting so far: 1. No meal will be served; 2. The meeting will be from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; 3. We will practice social distancing and ask that everyone wear a mask. There may be other changes as well. The Program Committee will make you aware of any other changes. We are excited to have Willie McLaurin, Vice President for Great Commission Relationships for the SBC as our main speaker that evening.

When we can turn crisis into opportunities to encourage others and share the gospel, then together we can make a difference.

On Mission Together, John Saunders

The RVBA has the following series available to any church that could use them. All are VHS series unless otherwise noted. First come first serve – please email sanny610@aol.com and let me know if your church could use any of these series:

Beth Moore

- *Believing God (DVD)*
- *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things (DVD)*
- *To Live is Christ*
- *A Heart Like His*
- *Jesus the One and Only*
- *Breaking Free*
- *Beloved Disciple*

Other Series:

- *The Measure of Spiritual Maturity (includes workbooks)*
- *Share Jesus Without Fear*
- *God’s Story – Anne Graham Lotz*
- *A Conversation Piece – Mary A. Kassian*
- *Shaping the Next Generation – David & Elaine Atchison*
- *Lead Like Jesus*

The RVBA has wood on our back hill available to anyone that can use it. Just come and get what you can use.

THE RVBA WMU Leadership Team met on Saturday, July 19th. We made several difficult decisions that need to be shared with everyone:

1 - We voted to NOT have a WMU Missions Celebration this fall. The numbers are still rising with the virus. We do not feel comfortable trying to encourage a large gathering at this time. Therefore, we decided to wait until the Spring of 2021 to look at a Missions Celebration.

2 - We voted to NOT have the Hope Conference "Change the Dance" at Villa Heights Baptist on October 17th, for the same reasons that we decided against the Missions Celebration. We feel it is not wise to host a large gathering at this time. We will look to 2021 to try to hold that conference when we feel it is safer.

3 - We voted NOT to host the Baptist World Alliance Baptist Women's Day of Prayer at a church this year for the same safety reason. We WILL however, promote the World Day of Prayer. We are ordering books and will get them to our churches and encourage members to pray at their churches in that time frame. We will let you know the finalization of this as soon as we know it.

We will be having a mailing in August. We will still be doing missions.....just some will be done differently than what we have in the past.



Friendship House resumed children's activities for the neighborhood families as Virginia transitioned into Phase 2 & 3. Each gathering with the children involved special precautions, such as operating at 30% capacity, using face masks when in close-quarters, and encouraging frequent hand-washing. Here is a sampling of what has been taking place:

- We have held "mini" Vacation Bible Schools for the children in our program, in which the kids were reminded of God's love for them and how it is seen through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- On top of that, we've also begun some informal activities with our teens. So far we've hiked Dragon's Tooth and Cold Mountain. Some of the teens expressed concern because, as they said, they've done nothing but sit on their couches for 3 months! When all was said and done though, they did well.
- In addition to the children's program restarting, we're also thrilled that we have been able to slowly reintroduce English language tutoring with our refugee family.
- Finally, our weekly food pantry is in full operation as usual. We are still averaging approx. 120 families each week, which is triple of our average before Covid-19. We certainly would not be able to maintain such an average were it not for the generosity of donors who give canned goods or funds. We also are deeply grateful for the reliable team of volunteers from local churches that have stepped forward to help sort food, pick up donations, & deliver boxes of food to shut-ins.

As we continue to move through the summer towards fall, we are also gearing up for our annual "Back-to-School Drive" for our children and the local schools. Each year we provide the children in our neighborhood with the required school supplies that they need to start the year. This is a huge help for our families, as many of them have multiple children in school and costs can be prohibitive. See the box for our school supply needs list.

Back-to-School Supply List

(needed by Aug. 10)

- Backpacks (non-rolling, and preferably larger sizes for teens)
- Glue sticks
- Pencils
- Dry erase markers
- Tissues
- Index cards
- Ziplock baggies (assorted sizes)
- Composition notebooks
- Baby wipes
- Bottles of glue
- 2" binders
- Dividers with tabs
- Loose-leaf paper
- 3-subject spiral notebooks

Fine us online! www.friendshiphouserohanoke.org and <https://www.facebook.com/FriendshipHouseRoanoke/>



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3926 Plantation Road
Roanoke VA 24012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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CHURCH, STAFF & OTHER NEWS

Please pray for the following RVBA Churches that are currently without Senior Pastors: Arcadia, Cave Rock, Cedar Bluff, Craig Valley, Fort Lewis, Mayflower Hills, Melrose, Mount Calvary, Pleasant Hill and Troutville.

John Graybill has resigned as Interim Pastor at Cave Rock and they have called Mark Childers as Interim Pastor.

Mill Creek has called Joel Elmore as Minister of Youth.

CHURCHES OF THE WEEK - Please pray for these churches and their pastors:

August 2- 17th Street/Access ~ John Hayden
August 9 - Springwood ~ Brian Clingenpeel
*August 16 - Troutville ~ Reggie Warren**
August 23 - Villa Heights ~ Jake Huffman
August 30 - Vinton ~ Travis Russell

September 6 - Waverly Place ~ Adam Triplett
September 13 - West Salem ~ Nick Shaffer
September 20 - Windsor Hills ~ Lawrence Dodson
September 27 - Zion Hill ~ David McIntosh

RVBA Calendar August 2020

6	9:30 am	Mission Development Team
17	1:30 pm	Personnel Committee
18	3:00 pm	Finance Committee
24	10:00 am	RVBA Leadership Planning, WH
27	10:00 am	Program Committee

RVBA Calendar September 2020

7		Labor Day Day - RVBA Office Closed
8	10:00 am	Nominating Committee
24	10:00 am	Program Committee
26		Valley impact

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY CENTER

**Mailing address--PO Box 13042, Roanoke VA
24030**

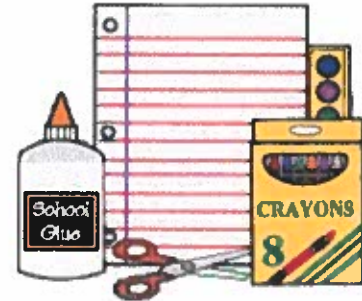
**342-8452 office—101 17th ST SE, Roanoke
24013**



- one pound granulated boxes sugar
- small bottles of dish detergent
- pancake syrup
- spaghetti sauce
- small bottle vegetable oil
- canned chicken
- sugar free and reg jello
- packets of brown gravy
- small boxes of foil and saran wrap
- brownie mix (just add water preferred)
- saltine crackers
- jam/jelly plastic bottles
- small bottles of mayonnaise
- ramen noodles
- instant potatoes
- pork n beans
- bottled water (water fountains off till Jan 2021)

We are planning now for Thanksgiving as many items may be hard to find. Some of the above items will go in the boxes. We still want to bless 50 families. If you have a donation please call to make sure someone is in the building to receive.

The back pack/school supply drive is still on for July & Aug with bags given out August 18 & 19. As of now Rke City will go back Aug 31. Please call to make sure someone is in the building for deliveries. 342-8452



MINI TISSUES, WIDE RULE PAPER, 2" & 3" BINDERS, CRAYONS, FOLDERS W & W/O BRADS, GLUE STICKS, PENCIL BOXES & POUCHES, 3 & 5 SECTION COMPOSITION BOOKS, MARBLED NOTEBOOKS, BLUE, BLACK & RED INK PENS, COLORED PENCILS, MARKERS, HIGHLIGHTERS, BOOKBAGS FOR k-COLLEGE SIZE



FOOD PRESERVATION

RINGS & LIDS FOR QUART & PINT, PRE-MIXED SALSA, PASTA, PICKLE MIXES (IN CANNING SECTION @ WALMART (or grocery), PINT SIZE JARS

Anyone having extra veggies for give away we will take them to can or freeze.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 2 DOOR MONITORS, Monday to Thursday, can volunteer one day or all. Job will entail taking temps, calling for child when parent arrives to pick them up, screening questions
- 1 or 2 to work in kitchen preparing food for after school children.
- tutors in math, reading, writing on Tue or Wed 4-5 or 5-6pm now till school starts. When school starts some morning tutors for students not going back to school (more info end of Aug)
- garden maintenance
- treasurer for Keystone, it is a board of Directors position, need to know quick books, do not have to do payroll, pay bills or deposits, will need to file 940 taxes in Jan. & do quarterly report, work with director on budget in Oct for the next year. Position open now

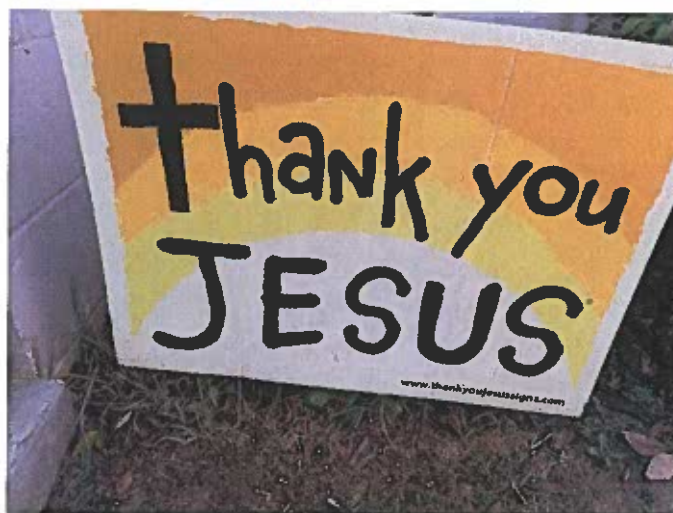
We don't know what tomorrow brings but as Christians, we know the promise that God has given us if we profess His Son Jesus, as the Messiah, we have a secured place in heaven. It's very difficult in times like these to see people you know without Christ as their Savior. Sometimes God allows things we cannot explain to happen to make us lean on Him and show how much faith we have.

James 2: 14-26 is clear how Jesus guided James in delivering a message that fits these times. People say they have to be confined and locked up; yes for those with medical conditions you have to be cautious but the rest of us have an obligation to carry out James's message, both in faith and works. Friends the Keystone ministry has not missed one day of work and seen the fear, the excuses, the sad side of death, of this virus. I have also seen the faithful side from those Christians who are practicing James' message. I have been so blessed by those who keep up with the ministry and answer the beckoning call of needs when I put it out there. Our pantry has been filled several times, volunteers have helped with food deliveries, churches have stepped up their giving, and people have called just to check on us. Yes I am blessed with the sound of children laughing on our playground again and the bible study group anxiously awaiting a picnic in July, Community business's helping us to help others, a few youth groups working in our garden, church

friends helping to find beds for kids and helping to get our playground ready for playful return and as of this newsletter 1,822 cooked weekly meals and even a few VBS's conducted on site. Now I am asking for all Christians to start praying heavily for our country, leaders, and for souls to be saved. I am available to make video's for your church if you are still doing on line worship and if you can share our needs list with whomever is responsible for getting info to church members I would be very grateful. Financial gifts are down around \$9K from this time last year. We are still a very viable ministry and continue to serve God with our faith that he will answer our prayers. We love you all and thank you all so much for supporting us.



One of our kids with us since age 3 now 4th grader lets us know how she feels



Our virtual 5K run/walk has raised \$1500 to date so we are leaving it open for a while longer. Log in to runsignup to register. Check out the 5K face book page.

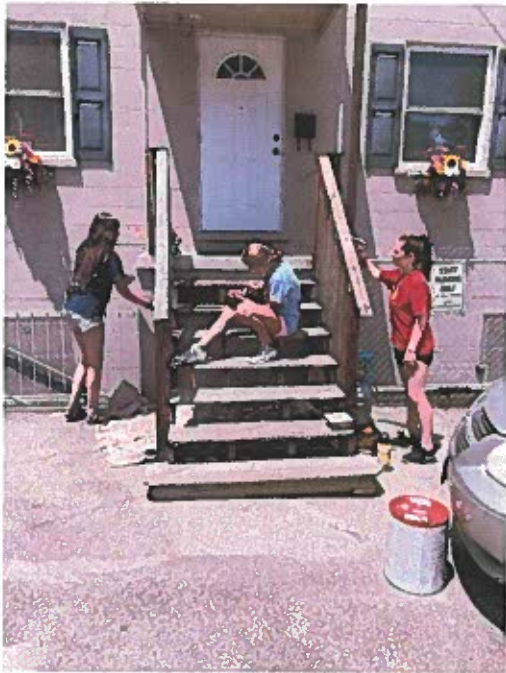
Check out the Keystone Community Center Inc. face book page



Top: Thank you Jesus for all you did for us
Next 3 pic are from July 20-22 Bonsack Baptist VBS brought to us, stories, music, and a cooler to wet heads to cool off, 1st bread & butter pickles for 2020

ADVOCATES MEETING AT KEYSTONE FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 10AM OUTSIDE ON PLAYGROUND

Volunteer training/meeting Tue Aug 4 10 to 11 please call to register



amazonsmile

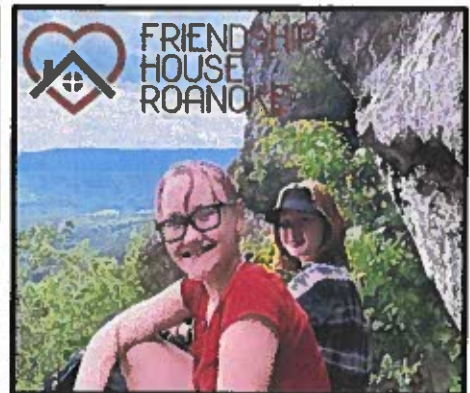
You shop. Amazon gives.

helps us earn free money. Set you Amazon account to support us and we get % every quarter .

If you have ideas on how we can raise money or a great fundraiser please contact me - \$3,000.00 will be due in Jan for our commercial insurance.



Thank you Buchanan Baptist youth for crushing our cans, sealing steps, working in the garden and cutting up pork loins for grocery bags.

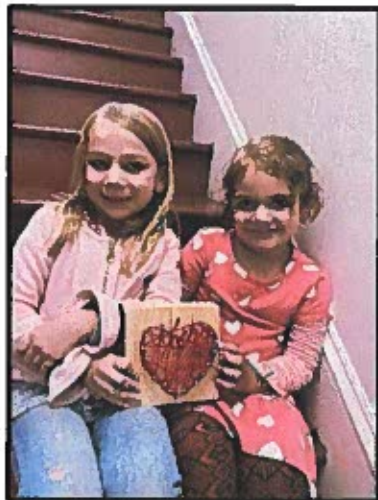


Old Activities that Feel New

Water balloons were tossed to and fro. Paint was smeared on fingers and hands. Praise songs were in the air. Hand sanitizer and face masks were passed out.

June was an eventful month! With the transition into "Phase 2" of Virginia's re-opening plan, Friendship House resumed children's activities for the neighborhood families. Each gathering with the children at Friendship House involved special precautions, such as operating at 30% capacity, using face masks when in close-quarters, and encouraging frequent hand-washing.

Thanks to the contributions of local churches, we were able to hold a Vacation Bible School for the children in our program, in which the kids were reminded of God's love for them and how it is seen through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. During free time, we were able to hold some outdoor games that often came with the requisite water and balloons.



Naomi & Capri proudly share a creation they made during craft-time at VBS.

On top of that, we've also begun some informal activities with our teens. At the end of June, we took 19 people on a hike to the top of Dragon's Tooth. Some of the teens expressed concern because, as they said, they've done nothing but sit on their couches for 3 months! When all was said and done

though, it was a beautiful day and a great hike.

As the children program continues to move through the summer towards fall, we are also gearing up for our annual "Back-to-School Drive" for our children and the local schools. Each year we provide the children in our neighborhood with the required school supplies that they need to start the year. This is a huge help for our families, as many of them have multiple children in school and costs can be prohibitive. See the box below for our school supply needs list.

In addition to the children's program restarting, we're also thrilled that we have been able to slowly reintroduce English language tutoring with our refugee family. At the end of June, one of our original three tutors had restarted tutoring the mother again and we have plans for all three to be regularly tutoring again by the end of July!

Back-to-School Supply List

(needed by Aug. 10)

- Backpacks (non-rolling, and preferably larger sizes for teens)
- Glue sticks
- Pencils
- Dry erase markers
- Tissues
- Index cards
- Ziplock baggies (assorted sizes)
- Composition notebooks
- Baby wipes
- Bottles of glue
- 2" binders
- Dividers with tabs
- Loose-leaf paper
- 3-subject spiral notebooks



Our food pantry recently benefited from a substantial donation of fresh produce!



Finally, on top of all the “new” activities going on, our food pantry has been in full operation as usual. The last week of June showed no signs of letting up as we served 122 families with boxes of canned goods, baked good, and fresh produce through our “curbside” and delivery services.

This remains approximately triple of our

average before Covid-19. We certainly would not be able to maintain such an average were it not for the generosity of donors who give canned goods or funds. We also are deeply grateful for the reliable team of volunteers from local churches that have stepped forward to help sort food, pick up donations, and deliver boxes of food to shut-ins.

How to Help While Practicing Social Distancing

1. **PRAY.** Pray for us as we determine our children’s program schedule for the fall. We are keeping an eye on the decision of Roanoke City Schools and will adjust our plans accordingly, based on what they do.
2. **VOLUNTEER.** With the resumption of our children’s program, we could use volunteers to help play with and tutor our kids on a regular basis. We also need additional volunteers for our food pantry, such as drivers to deliver food once every week or every other week to someone on our list of shut-ins. (Protocols are in place for “no contact deliveries” to mitigate the risks for our volunteers and shut-ins)

3. **GIVE** school supplies towards our annual “Back-to-School” program. (More info can be seen on the front page in the blue box.) You can also give canned goods & toiletries to our food pantry. We would like to be able to give generously and encourage everyone

- Food Pantry Needs:**

 - Canned fruit
 - Canned veggies
 - Cereal
 - Canned meat
 - Evaporated milk
 - Dry noodles
 - Peanut butter
 - Spaghetti sauce
 - Soap
 - Toilet paper
 - Latex gloves
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Grocery bags

that comes to us in need. God has been full of grace and friends like you have given freely. Please continue to do so! See the gray box for our full list of pantry needs.

4. **DONATE FINANCIALLY** to help keep our shelves stocked and doors open for the community. In addition to our need for food & toiletries, Friendship House needs regular financial donors to partner with us to help pay our staff, utility bills, and purchase much-needed supplies. We invite you to join us as a monthly or quarterly donor!

**If you would like to give while minimizing physical contact during the current public health crisis, there are multiple ways you can safely & easily donate online. Just go to:*

<http://friendshiphouseroanoke.org/donate/>

In Christ,