

Roanoke Valley Baptist Association

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

The FOCUS Newsletter
July, August & September 2021
Edition

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

Our Vision ~ The Association is to be a regional church network to:

- **Serve as a vital resource for churches and church leaders;**
- **network with churches for church health and revitalization;**
- **model mission and ministry in our cultural context, providing opportunities for churches to partner together;**
- **reach the communities of the Roanoke Valley and beyond with the Gospel;**
- **encourage and support all ministers in the churches for personal, professional and spiritual growth.**

RVBA Staff

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Welcome to the summer months RVBA! Although this is a time for needed vacations and relaxing porch excursions with lemonade or sun-brewed iced tea, we are also keeping our noses to the grindstone. I would like to update you on several areas of development.

First, by the time you read this FOCUS newsletter, the Personnel Committee has sent a recommendation to the Board of Directors for the position of an Interim AMS. The likely action of the Board may be placing that person into a temporary assignment until our October 26th Fall Meeting. At that time, the full Association will ratify that decision, or not. The Personnel Committee has made the decision that anyone in the interim position may be a candidate for the permanent position.

That permanent position is in the capable hands of our Search Team. At this writing, I still have two individuals that I am praying will come on board to assist the 5 very competent people, whom I briefed you about at the Spring Meeting.

Our planning for the Fall Meeting is underway, and it will certainly be hybrid—both personal and virtual—in nature. Our hopes are this may add to our attendance with folks unable/uneasy about venturing out in the evening; as well as, facilitating for those young Mom's/Dad's at their busy homes setting some time aside to participate in the Association's endeavors. The format may look somewhat different than the last two years; however, that is yet to be decided.

Our Ad hoc Properties Study Committee has met twice, and I am humbled by the knowledge, experience, and passion these individuals possess. We met at the RVBA Office in June and will meet at Ward Haven in August. Our goal (goals being objectives, but not necessarily always met) is to have some viable options to present to the Fall Mtg, with a time for Questions and Answers (Q & A). If we meet this goal, we will present the options to you ahead of time in writing, so you have time to pray over them and consider what is the Lord's lead for the RVBA.

I also rest peacefully knowing the Finance and Property Committees are keeping their eyes upon our Association's assets, and that Sandy stands ready to alert us at any moment of rising concerns or possible problems.

Please continue to keep me, Sandy, Scott, Giles, and the wonderful volunteers we have in place in your prayers. I truly look forward to an engaging and enlightening Fall Meeting. Please put it on your calendar now for October 26th, with a time to be announced.

In Christ's Grace Alone, Rodger Hogan, Moderator

Dear RVBA Family, I want to thank the RVBA for its gracious gift given to me at my retirement recognition on April 27th. I appreciate all the support given to me during my 61/2 years as your Director of Missions. I also want to thank the WMU for their gift card. It has been a privilege for Sally and I to serve with the wonderful leaders and churches of RVBA. Always remember that when you love each other and the community then together you can make a difference for the gospel in the Roanoke Valley and beyond. Many Blessings, John and Sally Saunders

Plan for Valley Impact ~ Valley Impact will be on Saturday September 25, 2021. We hope that all RVBA churches will consider being a part of this important event. We will be reaching out to the Roanoke Valley together. Please prayerfully consider how you and your church can be a part.



1. **PRAY.** Pray for this special day and how your church can be involved in impacting the Valley through serving others.
2. **COMMIT.** Step out in faith and lead your church to commit to safely being a part of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association's **Valley Impact**.
3. **CONTACT.** Encourage others in your church to be a part of this area wide effort – Small groups, family, and neighbors.
4. **PLAN.** Plan the ministry projects, mission events and evangelism opportunities for your church or pick one from our list. Reach out in a way where everyone stays safe.
5. **CONNECT.** Connect with your community through ministry projects, mission events, and evangelism opportunities. Please sign-up with the form and return to the RVBA office or online at <https://forms.gle/CD779rVMQ3qSwEKu9>

Serving the Valley Together ~ We are looking for videos from churches that are reaching out to their community in unique ways. We would like you to send a 3–4-minute video. We are going to be featuring these churches on the RVBA web page and social media to applaud your efforts and encourage others to serve their community. Here are a few ideas for your church and your family to reach out to your community:



1. **Park Outreach** – Free Ice Cream Sundaes for the community.
2. **Pray and Go** – Pray for people on your street and leave a card.
3. **Free Community Car Wash** – Wash cars and hand out goodie bags.
4. **Lunch for First Responders** – Get together, make, and take lunch.
5. **Pick up trash in community** – Your family can pick up trash on street.

In every case, take the time to pray for and tell the people that you are sharing the love of Jesus in a practical way. If you are a small church and would like to partner with another church or would like any help, please contact me. Share videos using this link: [Video Link](#)

Serving together, Scott Hamilton, Missionary for Church Outreach Ministries pastorscott@gmail.com 540-798-9820

World Help Volunteer Opportunity ~ Have you ever wanted to help people around the world? Is it too expensive to go? What if there was a way for you to help someone around the world by driving an hour and working for a morning or an afternoon? Would you be willing to help? The RVBA is looking for volunteers to help an organization called World Help who works sending Bibles, food, clothing, medical supplies and building church buildings. We are seeking pastors and their churches to volunteer on Saturday August 7 for a morning or afternoon shift. Everything that we do that day will help people around the world. Please check out the link below to find more information.

<https://worldhelp.net/volunteer-with-us/>

Here are the directions for signing up:

1. Click on the link below.
<https://worldhelp.volunteerhub.com/event/2628d3fe-b9a4-4465-aed5-7dc0622dac1f>
2. The user will need to click " Create an account" on the top right-hand corner. They will follow through the directions of filling out their information. It will give them the option to enter in a join code, which is **necessary** for signing up for your event as it is reserved only for your group.
3. The join code for Teresa P. Small Group is "HOPE22".

After the creation of an account is complete, the user will be allowed to successfully register for the event slot titled "Scott H. Group Volunteer Event". You will receive a confirmation email.

Day of Prayer on September 16

We are inviting all pastors, churches, government leaders, and everyone to become a part of praying for Roanoke City and the Valley on September 16th. We need you to help by taking one or two 30-minute time slots to pray for our area for 24 hours straight on the Day of Prayer for the Roanoke Valley. Please go to the following link and sign-up. Please also share this link with others to cover our area with prayer. Together we can achieve this and watch God work in our area. <https://forms.gle/Hm8Ekj5nUEFfcVEB8>



Summer is in full swing currently, and so is the work being done at Friendship House! We are continuing to serve our neighbors in the summer months and invite you to join us. Here are a few updates:

- **BIG NEWS!** We are very excited to be hosting Faith & Finances beginning in September. Faith & Finances is a 12-week financial education ministry that empowers low-income people with practical money management skills, biblical stewardship principles, and supportive relationships. We are looking for volunteers who can help with mentoring, meals, and childcare during the class. Contact Aaron at Friendship House for more info.
- Our Food Pantry continues to serve well over 100 families each week with canned goods, fresh produce, and hygiene items. Donations typically thin out over the summer months, so would you consider purchasing some items for Food Pantry? Our needs include: canned veggies, beans, soup, cereal, peanut butter, noodles, tomato sauce, mac-n-cheese, and canned fruit.
- The summertime during our children's program means that we have the opportunity to take field trips! So far we have taken multiple hiking trips and had a pool party. We are meeting with our children throughout the summer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- We have been blessed with several interns this past year from Liberty University. They have been invaluable to the work being done here. We currently have a summer intern who is studying pastoral counseling and has been meeting with some of our families to talk.
- Additionally, we are overjoyed to see our partnership with Blue Ridge Christian Counseling coming into fruition. Their pastoral counselor is offering free services to families in our programs, and it has been such a helpful asset.

We know that these "highlights" are only possible through partnerships in the community. Friendship House exists when others give. We invite you to join us by volunteering, giving and praying! You can find out more info about partnering with us on our website (www.friendshiphouserohanoke.org) and on our Facebook page.



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Hello from the Keystone Community Center and Happy Summer! We continue to send our love to you and are so excited that we will be having a "normal" summer this year. Our children finished out the school year strong and we are proud of their resilience throughout this trying time. As always, your prayers are appreciated. Thank you for the continued support through your prayers, donations, and financial contributions! **Some quick updates:** Summer camp is in full swing. We have many fun things planned for our children over the next couple of months! We finished the school year out with a water day for our after-school children, which was enjoyed immensely. We had one 5th grader this year, who has now graduated our program and will be heading to middle-school. We will miss her in the fall! We continue to do adult Bible study with 6-8 ladies and are currently looking for a volunteer to teach on Thursdays, 10am-11am now through September. Please call the center if you or someone you know would fit this role. Our Chipotle fundraiser on Monday, April 5th raised \$397.64 and our 5K Race/Fun Walk on Saturday, May 29th raised a little over \$3,000. We have been blessed this year with continuous support and we are very thankful. We have another event coming up August 11th at Chillin' Shaved Ice from 2pm-9pm. 10% of the proceeds and 100% of the tips will benefit us! Like/Follow us on Facebook @ Keystone Community Center, Inc. to stay updated on what is going on and please stay tuned for more events and fundraising opportunities. We will be having a volunteer training for the 2021-2022 school year on Tuesday, August 17th from 12pm-2pm. Our current needs are enough hot dogs and buns for 250 people for our back-to-school party on August 14th, new school supplies for the 2021-2022 school year, items for our holiday food boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and a church sponsored Christmas party venue with enough space for 30 children and their families. Please call us or email Ms. Pat for the lists and/or if you have any questions regarding anything. Our "Angel Tree" list will be available November 1st. Please check out the website <http://www.rvba.org/> for our full newsletter which will be released in July, if you do not receive it by email. It is jam-packed with more information. 😊 Also, we are available for speaking engagements, please let us know if this would be beneficial to your church/group. Thank you for spreading the word out there so others can know more about us!



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CHURCH STAFF & OTHER NEWS

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

CHURCHES OF THE WEEK ~ please pray for these churches and their pastors: July 4 – Longdale ~ Grover Stevens
July 11 – Lynn Haven ~ Bob Hetherington, Interim Pastor
July 18 – Mayflower Hills
July 25 – Melrose ~ Mark Mofield
August 1 – Midland ~ Rodger Hogan
August 8 – Mill Creek ~ Danny Quirin
August 15 – Mineral Springs ~ Jason Gault
August 22 – Mount Calvary
August 29 – Mount Pleasant ~ Eric Spano
September 5 – Mountain Pass ~ Jack Richards
September 12 – Mountain View ~ Jeff Reynolds
September 19 – New Century ~ Chas Krug
September 26 – North Roanoke ~ Daniel Palmer

Ward Haven Retreat Center has floor tile for the lodge bedrooms. Now, we need help installing that floor tile. If you or a group from your church can help, please contact Giles Gilley at broggilley@gmail.com or 540-529-6698. We will provide sandwich makings and drinks for your group.

Troutville Baptist is seeking a Minister of Youth and a Pianist. **Lynn Haven Baptist** is searching for a full-time Youth Minister. **Oakland Baptist** is seeking a Keyboardist. Go to www.rvba.org click on RVBA Opportunities for more information. **RVBA Co-Ed Volleyball League** pictures and season results are posted under RVBA Opportunities at www.rvba.org.



*The mission and ministry to **Standing Rock Indian Reservation** that many from the Roanoke Valley have supported throughout the past 15 years or more has taken on a new look. For a second year, no mission teams have been able to travel to North and South Dakota, but God has provided a way for His love to be shared with our native American friends. Sixteen of our Roanoke Valley Churches have been collecting school supplies, stuffed animals and preschool books, toiletry items, and fleece for blankets which will be given to the residents of nine communities on the reservation the last week of July. Thanks to all who have supported with your donations and your prayers. A full report will be in the next FOCUS.*

WMU "SAVE THE DATES"

Fall Missions Celebration, September 27th, 2021 (Location TBD)
World Day of Prayer, November 1st, 2021 (Location TBD)
WMU Women's Get-A-Way November 5-6 or 6-7, 2021. Annual meeting will take place the afternoon of November 6. Registration for Getaway 2021 will open August 1 via Eagle Eyrie.

July 2021

- 15 – Properties Committee (9 am)
- 15 – Board of Directors (10 am)
- 22 – Program Committee (10 am)
- 26 – Property Study Committee (10 am)

August 2021

- 4 - Missions Development (10 am)
- 7 – World Help RVBA Volunteer Day
- 17 – Finance Committee (3 pm)
- 23 – Property Study Committee (10 am)
- 23 – RVBA Planning Day (12 Noon)
- 26 – Program Committee (10 am)

September 2021

- 6 – Labor Day – RVBA Office Closed
- 14 – Nominating Committee (10 am)
- 16 – Day of Prayer
- 23 – Program Committee (10 am)
- 26 – Valley Impact Day
- 27 – Property Study Committee (10 am)