

Roanoke Valley Baptist Association

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

THE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

December 2020/January 2021

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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the RVBA Staff

RVBA Staff

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Serving the Valley Together

With Christmas just around the corner, we must think about people who are isolated and hurting this year more than ever. As the church, we have an opportunity to reach out to the neighbors in the community around our church, and the neighbors on our own street. We must be safe about everything that we do, but we must get out there and share Christ this Christmas. Here are a few ideas for your church and your family to reach out to your neighbors:



1. **Christmas Cards to Neighbors** – deliver them on their windshield.
2. **Yard Christmas Caroling** – your family sing for the neighbors.
3. **New Testament Giveaways** – give New Testaments to your neighbors.
4. **Gift a Senior** – buy a gift like a puzzle for a senior in your community.
5. **Breakfast for Nurses** – Take breakfast to a local doctor's office.

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.

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

Help for Honduras

We have an opportunity to partner with North Roanoke Baptist Church and to help people and churches in Honduras after Hurricane Eta has left devastation. We can do so much more together!! For a list of needs and how to help: <https://www.oaklandbaptistchurch.net/help-for-honduras>.



On Mission Together

Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there are seasons of life. Both good seasons and bad seasons. In each of these seasons we are to walk by faith. I am entering a new season of walking by faith in my life. I have shared with the Personnel Committee that I will be retiring as the Associational Mission Strategist of Roanoke Valley Baptist Association effective April 1, 2021.

I want to thank you for the privilege of serving with you to expand God's Kingdom in the Roanoke Valley. It has been challenging at times, but always rewarding to see God's people responding to meet needs of the community and sharing the gospel. You have great opportunities to really make a difference, but it will take every church uniting together to get the job done that God has called you to do.

My prayer for the RVBA is the same as Paul prayed for the Philippians "And this my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11, HSB

Please know that Sally and I will be praying for you as you go through this time of interim and decision making about what kind of association you will become and the leader that will best be able to lead the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association into the future that God has ordained for you. It truly is a future filled with hope.

When the association unites to focus on God's future then together you can make a difference.

On Mission Together,

John Saunders

Thank you to **Bonsack Baptist Church** for hosting the RVBA Fall Meeting. Things were much different this year and we appreciate all the work and effort put into this meeting. You can watch the RVBA Fall meeting via a link to YouTube on www.rvba.org then click on the RVBA Fall Meeting tab.



Annual Church Profile (ACP) ~ It is that time of year to complete the Annual Church Profile. The 2020 profile is available online. You can log-in by going www.sbcworkspace.com and then entering your username and password. Then you can begin filling out your profile. You can save the information as you go along. The RVBA is trying to save on printing and postage costs by not printing and mailing them this year. If you need a printed copy or if you need your username and password, please let me know (sanny610@aol.com or 540-366-7631). The deadline this year is **February 28, 2021**. This information is valuable to your local, state and national conventions. If your church does not complete the ACP – there is no information recorded for your church for 2020. Please make sure your church ACP Contact, Clerk and/or church secretary is aware that the ACP is available online. Thanks, Sandy Sloane, RVBA Office Manager/Treasurer/RVBA ACP Contact

Looking Ahead to 2021:

RVBA Spring Meeting ~ Tuesday April 27, 2021 ~ 7 pm ~ Lynn Haven Baptist Church

CHURCH STAFF & OTHER NEWS

Rev. Mark Mofield has been called as Senior Pastor at Melrose.

Please pray for the following RVBA Churches that are currently without Senior Pastors:

Arcadia, Cedar Bluff, Craig Valley, Fort Lewis, Mayflower Hills, Mount Calvary, Pleasant Hill and Troutville

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

December 6 - Cave Spring ~ Pete Schemm

December 13 - Cedar Bluff

December 20 - Central ~ Willis Greenstreet

December 27 - Colonial Avenue ~ Quentin Madden

January 3 - Connection Community ~ Troy Mueller

January 10 - Connelly Memorial ~ George Bulson

January 17 - Coopers Cove ~ Kyle Dooley

January 24 - Craig Valley

January 31 - Crystal Spring ~ Jeffrey Dickson

RVBA Calendar

December 2020

3 - Missions Development Team (2 pm)

3 - Program Committee (10 am)

7 - Personnel Committee (1:30 pm)

21-31 - RVBA Office Closed

25 - Christmas

January 2021

1 - New Year's Day - RVBA Office Closed

6 - Properties Committee (10 am)

12 - Nominating Committee (10 am)

18 - Martin Luther King Day - RVBA Office Closed

21 - Board of Directors (10 am)

28 - Program Committee (10 am)

Focus on WMU Week is February 8 – 14, 2021. I doubt that our meetings will be going on at that time because of the COVID-19 virus. A lot of us have in person Sunday services. Most of us also have live-stream or YouTube service. Many have services in the parking lots. I encourage everyone to be creative in celebrating WMU.....Missions.....during that time in some way.



The RVBA WMU will host "Refresh Our Commitment to Missions" on Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 10:00 – 11:00 am. Because of the Corona Virus, we will not be able to meet face-to-face, but we will be able to meet virtually! An exciting and informative program is being planned with the help of Mrs. Lucianne Warren, the new President of WMUV. Lucianne's husband, Rev. Reggie

Warren is the interim pastor at Troutville Baptist Church. Let's join together and focus on how we can refresh our commitment to missions! More information to come.

Our Children's Ministry Day is February 13th, 2021. This is usually a time where the children do some mission activity. I know it will probably be different....I know your creativity will help involve celebrate children and missions.

Mark your calendars for **Blessed Girl Teen Conference on Saturday, February 20, 2021** at Villa Heights Church from 3 – 9 pm. Cost is \$25.00 and includes programming, dinner and activities. For more information contact jeri@straightstreet.org. A flyer is included with this issue of the newsletter.

Blessed

Family Missions Fair is planned for Saturday, March 13th, 2021 at Villa Heights Baptist Church from 10 am- 12 noon. For more information or to register contact: jerih1975@gmail.com

Southwest Virginia Partnership.....The 2021 spring mission trip to SW Virginia has been postponed. We will attempt to go again in 2022.

Going into the holiday season, we have much to offer thanks and praise to God. Whether we are looking back at 2020 or looking forward to celebrating the incarnation of Jesus Christ, joy is in our hearts. Here is a quick update on God's mercy and grace to Friendship House:

-In October there was a case of Covid with the Dowdy family. We shut down the Friendship House for two weeks and asked families to quarantine. Thankfully, Covid didn't spread and it stayed contained within the Dowdy family. Everyone has recovered and we're now back to operating our 3 main programs again! Thanks be to God!

-We are accepting food for our Christmas food boxes! Every year we give our program households a holiday box of food so they can have the fixings for a nice meal. The deadline this year for the food is Monday, December 14. See the box to the side for details on what is needed.

Christmas Food Box Needs

- Mac-n-cheese
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Brownie mix
- Green beans
- Evaporated milk
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Money so Friendship House can purchase perishable items

*Needed by Monday,
December 14*

-We also are preparing for our annual Christmas Toy Store! Each December we host a toy store for our program families so that they can shop for their families with dignity. We accept new, unwrapped toys and mark them down 80% off of the retail price. All the proceeds that come in from the sale go towards the After-School Program. Examples of toys that are needed for the store include: kids' art supplies & crafts, costumes, scooters/bicycles, sports equipment, blocks & building toys, board games, baby dolls & accessories, hair bows/brushes, journals & gel pens, puzzles, and cars/trucks.

For more info about volunteering or donating, you can email us at fhroanoke@gmail.com or give us a call at 343-5437.

Christmas Opportunity

Greetings from Enon Baptist Church.

There is a special opportunity coming up for any churches or civic groups that are doing a Christmas presentation of Christmas music or a Christmas play this year.

A large Christmas gift has been donated by an anonymous person to bless the residents at Richfield Living.

"Richfield is a not-for-profit senior living and healthcare community located in Roanoke County near the City of Salem."

The gift is a large team of tech professionals in the area of broadcasting and thousands of dollars of equipment to bring the residents special programming over their own internal network. The equipment and software will be given to Richfield after the project is over.

So I am asking you if you have something special this Christmas that you would allow professionals to record and distribute to Richfield residents. It can be music by instrumentalists, or solos, etc. It doesn't have to be a large production. Think outside the box.

One of our Deacons, Al Bailey, is in a corporation that has been putting all this together along with key volunteers from Cox and Verizon and a local High School. It is the inspirational content we are now looking for.

Please contact me if you might have something you would be willing for them to record and broadcast to the residents at Richfield.

Serving with you,
Pastor Glenn


**KEYSTONE
COMMUNITY CENTER**
PO Box 13042
Roanoke, VA 24030
(540) 342-8452

Pat Carter, Director and Sommer Casto, Ministry Assistant

Greetings from the Keystone Community Center! We have been busy with our children and preparing for the holidays. We appreciate your prayers as we continue to navigate our new "normal." We are still available for speaking if churches need to know more about the ministry.

Here are a couple updates:

- Almost 4,000 meals have been sent out since KCC started delivering meals in March. Praise the Lord! Thank you, Bonsack Baptist Church, for making this possible.
- We are currently serving 13 after-school children. We are happy that most have been able to go back to school 2 days a week and are able to come to KCC in the afternoon to learn about our precious Savior.
- All of our children plus some have been adopted out for our version of Angel Tree. Thank you to those who felt led to provide presents. Gifts need to be at the center by Dec 15.

Things you should know:

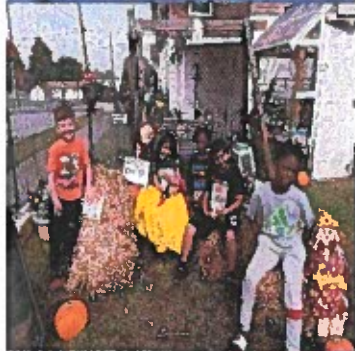
- We are having a photography fundraiser! Our intern Cheyenne, from VWCC has been doing a great job teaching the children about cameras. The exhibit will be Dec 8, 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the gym at First Baptist on Marshall Ave Roanoke.
- Looking for a way to help out? Call the center and be added to our snow crew!
- KCC is closed to the public beginning Friday, December 18th and will reopen Monday, January 4th. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- Constant needs for the center are printing ink, paper towels and kids' disposable masks
- Want to give back? Add us on Amazon Smile, check out our Amazon wish list

and connect your Kroger card/account to the Community Rewards Program. All can be linked by searching and adding Keystone Community Center, Inc.

- Like/Follow us on Facebook @ Keystone Community Center, Inc.

Needs List:

- 50 Christmas Food Boxes (items listed are what is needed per box). Boxes will be given out Thursday, December 17th. \$500 is needed to buy eggs, milk, butter, and meat. Please bring donations in by Monday, December 14th.
 - 1 large box instant potatoes (26.2 oz.)
 - 1 small bottle cooking oil
 - 2 cans corn
 - 2 cans green beans
 - 3 cans evaporated milk
 - 1 box cereal
 - 1 box just add water pancake mix
 - 1 bottle syrup
 - 1 small bottle dishwashing liquid
 - 1 box just add water brownie mix
 - 2 boxes mac & cheese
 - 2 boxes jello
 - 1 box saltine crackers
 - 1 jar peanut butter
 - 1 small plastic bottle jelly
 - 1 2lb box granulated sugar
 - 1 small box foil
 - 1 roll toilet paper
 - 4 cans soup
- January is a time for us to restock our pantry from the busy holiday season.
 - Canned milk, soups, meats vegetables, and fruit
 - Boxes of saltine crackers
 - Oatmeal
 - Instant or regular hot chocolate
 - Spaghetti and sauce
 - Instant potatoes
 - Pancake mix and syrup
- Call now for the Easter list or find it in the February/March Focus. Please bring donations in by Thursday, March 25th. Boxes will be given out Thursday, April 1st.



Pictures from top to bottom:
Birthday celebrations,
enjoying playing outside,
snack after working hard on
school assignments, pumpkin
scavenger hunt in the garden,
learning about the nativity,
sweet potato harvest from a
garden program participant,
tomatoes from our garden,
turkeys being prepared for
our families meals

Down the Alley

Loving Neighbors. Walking with the Church.

THANKFULNESS IN EVERY SEASON

As we head into November and December each year, we typically talk about thankfulness and hospitality and generosity to those in need. That said, the year 2020 has been hard to handle, to say the least! It might be tempting to just put our head down and plod through the rest of what this year offers. Issues such as the pandemic, widespread business/school/church closures, social unrest, and a very contentious election season are leaving many of us exhausted, frustrated, frightened, and just waiting for this season to pass. These are certainly understandably inclinations to have!

Psalm 124 talks of the mercy of the Lord when all seems to be going wrong. When all the people and elements of earth seem to be out to destroy Israel, the Psalmist recognizes that their hope & help depends on the Lord. He opens Psalm 124 by stating, "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side..." (v.1) and then he closes the Psalm out by declaring outright, "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (v.8)

It might be hard to see that our hope comes from the Lord at this very moment. However, with the Psalm as a guide, let us encourage you to consider it and give thanks to the Lord. He has shown mercy on all of us. His lovingkindness and goodness to us ought to move us to show lovingkindness on others out of thankfulness.

Here at Friendship House, we intend on loving our neighbor, regardless of the season. As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, we have two special ways for you, your family, your office, or your church to join us. Check out our mini-flyers on the other side!



We spent a recent afternoon painting pumpkins

~ Let's ~
GIVE
THANKS



NOVEMBER 2020

HELP A FAMILY PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Toy Store

Donate new, unwrapped toys & gift items by December 5 so that Friendship House families can shop for their children at 80% off of the retail price.

(Parent is only paying 20% of the cost.)

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT FRIENDSHIP HOUSE AT 540-343-5437 OR FHROANOKE@GMAIL.COM

Types of toys and gifts needed: kids art supplies & crafts, costumes, scented lotions and body sprays, scooters, bicycles, sports equipment, blocks & building toys, cars/trucks, puzzles, board games, card games, journals & gel pens, hair bows, brushes, etc. and baby dolls w/ accessories

LET'S GIVE THANKS!

THIS YEAR FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS, FRIENDSHIP HOUSE WILL PROVIDE 150 BOXES OF HOLIDAY FOOD FOR ITS FOOD PANTRY AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FAMILIES.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING TO A FAMILY IN NEED DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

Each family will receive a box of food with the following: **Mac-n-cheese, stuffing, brownie mix, gravy, green beans, evaporated milk, instant mashed potatoes, and hygiene items** (such as shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)

Money is also needed in order to purchase perishable items right before giving them out (such as ham/turkey, butter, milk, eggs, bread, etc.)

Call us at (540) 343-5437 or email us at fhroanoke@gmail.com for inquiries.

Opportunities to Volunteer

- On Wednesdays OR Thursdays, from noon until about 1:00, we need a couple volunteers to deliver approximately 5 boxes of food to shut-ins.
- Thursday mornings from about 10:00 until noon, we could use a couple people to help us sort food donations and prepare approximately 15-20 boxes of food to be delivered that day.
- We need volunteers on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays 2:15 until 4:30 to assist with our After-School Program. We currently need people willing to help with snacks, play with our kids outside, and help as a "floater".

In Christ,



635 Elm Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016 / 540-343-5437
fhroanoke@gmail.com / www.friendshiphouseroanoke.org

BLESSED *girl*

Teen Conference

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021 3:00-9:00 p.m.

Villa Heights Baptist Church 4080 Challenger Ave. Roanoke, VA

3:00-9:00 p.m. \$20 includes programming, dinner & activities

Teen Girls in Grades 6-12 are invited to attend this 8th Annual Blessed Girl Teen Conference. This fun day is to encourage students as they continue along their Christian journey, with specific topics intentionally focused towards young ladies.

There are 2 large group sessions and 2 breakout times. Dinner and a Dessert Room is included, as well as crafts, nail painting and a "Selfie Station."

Virtual option for those unable to attend will be \$15. You will receive a Party Kit with theme decorations and a craft to do. If you plan to host a Group Party please contact Jeri at 540-206-7349.



For more information
contact:
jeri@straightstreet.org
or check out
blessedgirl.org for
previous pictures,
schedule and activity