

Roanoke Valley Baptist Association

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

THE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

June/July 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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In a recent podcast by The Malpurs Group the following statement was made, "You've never had a better opportunity to change." Each of us has seen a dramatic increase in our change meter. Use these changes as a way to leverage creativity, innovation, and momentum toward a God given mission and vision to reach people and make disciples.

One-way RVBA will be helping you do this is through the Missionary for Church Outreach Ministries. The Association voted at the spring meeting in 2018 to create a new staff position to come along beside churches to reach their communities. After several interviews with candidates, the Personnel Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors have selected Scott Hamilton to serve in this position. Because of the current situation right now, his title will be the interim Missionary for Church Outreach Ministry until we can gather once again as an association and vote. This is a part time position. Scott brings much experience to the position as a pastor, church planter and educator. Scott is a native of Roanoke and a graduate of VA Tech and Liberty University. The main function of the position is to "empower churches of the association in their efforts to reach people for Christ by ministering to human needs in their communities through healthy ministry." We are excited to have Scott joining our Associational team. More information about the position and about Scott is available on the RVBA website.

You have received information about the annual **Associational Prayer Emphasis and Annie Mae Broyles Offering** which is scheduled for May. We realized it may be difficult to have this emphasis in your church right now. The Mission Development Team is asking you to use the materials when you can sometime later this year. A PowerPoint is available on the website along with prayer materials. The theme is 2020 Fix Your Eyes.

When our churches are united in fixing our eyes on the mission of reaching people and making disciples, then together we can make a difference in the Roanoke Valley.

On Mission Together, John Saunders

RVBA Valley Impact Day – Saturday, September 26, 2020

More information is available on the RVBA website at www.rvba.org then click on RVBA Valley Impact Day 2020.



HOPE Conference, "Change the Dance: Loving Someone Through Addiction and Recovery" (Addiction and the Family Breaking through the stigma – the hidden family crisis). The date is October 17, 2020 from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm at Villa Heights Baptist Church. Watch for more detail. Wanda Ware, RVBA WMU Adult Consultant Email: redrwanda@aol.com Home: 540-389-7985 Cell: 540-588-0896.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer will be November 2, 2020. This is an important day in which all the churches around the world meet to pray for our missionaries and the needs of the people they work with.

WMU Women's Get-Away and Annual WMUV Meeting will be November 6-7 or 7-8, 2020 at Eagle Eyrie.

Details will be forthcoming in the FOCUS and in our WMU August mailing about the above events.

Thank You to pastor Jason Hay and the volunteers from Lynn Haven Baptist Church for repairing the front porch of the Log Cabin at Ward Haven. They purchased the materials and did the repairs. We really appreciate all of their effort and good work.

WORLD CHANGERS FOR 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED. LIFEWAY HAS ALSO DECIDED TO DISCONTINUE THE WORLD CHANGERS MINISTRY COMPLETELY. THANK YOU TO ALL THE CHURCHES THAT HAVE SUPPORTED THIS SPECIAL MINISTRY THROUGH THE YEARS.

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.

RVBA Calendar June 2020

4	9:30 am	Mission Development Team
9	10:00 am	Nominating Committee
21		Father's Day
25	10:00 am	Program Committee

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

RVBA Calendar July 2020

	3		RVBA Office Closed
	4		Independence Day
June 7 - Pleasant Hill	10	10:00 am	Nominating Committee
June 14 - Preston Oaks ~ Randy Martin	15	10:00 am	Properties Committee
June 21 - Red Hill ~ Jim Frankie	16	2:00 pm	Board of Director's
June 28 - Ridgewood ~ Roy Kanode	23	10:00 am	Program Committee
July 5 - Riverdale ~ Guy Thompson			
July 12 - Riverland Road ~ Terry Nester			
July 19 - Roanoke Avenue ~ James Bergquist			
July 26 - Rosalind Hills ~ Joe Elmore			

**RVBYA Water Park Day at Massanutten
July 21, 2020 has been cancelled.**



We're two months into the "Quarantine of 2020", and though things have changed dramatically in the past several weeks, we are thrilled to see brothers and sisters around Roanoke take this opportunity to love their neighbor. At Friendship House, we made the decision to keep our food pantry open. As a result, we've tripled in size...going from serving 40 families/week to 120 families/week! We've been able to serve each family that comes to us in need thanks to your generosity! Here are some examples of brothers and sisters from around the valley who have loved their neighbor during the quarantine:

- One local Sunday school class that was meeting over Zoom decided to hold a canned food drive for Friendship House during one of their meetings. As a result, they brought us 2 car-loads of canned goods!
- We have a consistent set of volunteers who come each week to help sort food at the food pantry. They've also searched grocery stores for needed canned goods, AND they've made hundreds of masks for our neighbors each week.
- Two local high schools donated their concessions from spring sports that they were unable to use due to the cancellation of all school activities.
- 25 volunteers, representing 9 churches, signed up to deliver food boxes each week to our shut-in neighbors who were elderly, disabled, or ill. We are thrilled to see the church--the body of Christ--reach out to the sick the less fortunate, the lonely.

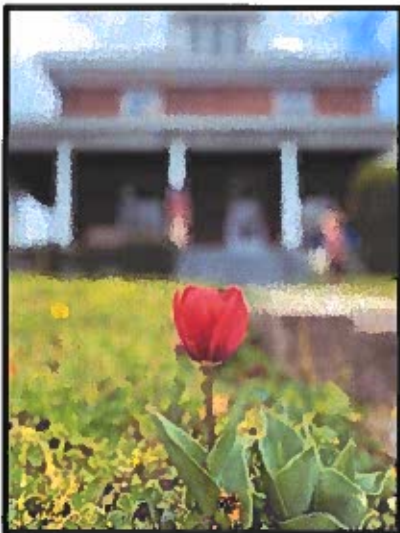
Find us online! www.friendshiphouserohanoke.org and <https://www.facebook.com/FriendshipHouseRoanoke/>

May 2020



Signs of Life and Love in a Season of Trial

We're now well over a month into the "Quarantine of 2020", and though we've settled into a steady routine at Friendship House with the changes, it still feels odd. The "new norm" still doesn't feel normal.



A tulip shows signs of beauty and life on the front lawn of Friendship House.

The suspension of our after-school program and the restraints of social distancing posed challenges and requirements that we haven't had to deal with in the past. That said, with our last newsletter, we stressed that along with the changes and challenges that COVID-19 brought, there were also

opportunities to love God and our neighbor in different ways than perhaps we've done

before. As we walk into our 2nd month of quarantine, we're thrilled that so many friends seized on opportunities to serve their neighbor in need. Here are just a few examples:

- One local Sunday school class that was meeting over Zoom decided to hold a canned food drive for Friendship House during one of their meetings. As a result, they brought us 2 car-loads of canned goods!

- We have a consistent set of volunteers who come each week to help sort food at the food pantry. They've also searched grocery stores for needed canned goods, AND they've made hundreds of masks for our neighbors each week.
- Two local high schools donated their concessions from spring sports that they were unable to use due to the cancellation of all school activities.
- 25 volunteers, representing 9 churches, signed up to deliver food boxes each week to our shut-in neighbors who were elderly, disabled, or ill. We are thrilled to see the church--the body of Christ--reach out to the sick the less fortunate, the lonely.

These are just a sampling of the different ways local churches and individuals have contributed this past month. The generosity of our friends and neighbors has been instrumental in our being able to continue to serve.

Since coronavirus hit, the needs of our food pantry have tripled! We're averaging 115-120 boxes of food given out each week to households that are hungry and in need.

We invite you to join us! See the flip side for ways you can help while continuing to practice social distancing.

Some of our volunteers lovingly create face masks each week for our neighbors.



Loving Neighbors. Walking with the Church.
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Above: Eliza surveys some of the food that was recently sorted. Below: Friendship House received 168 gallons of milk as a donation in March!



How to Help While Practicing Social Distancing

1. **PRAY.** Pray for the families of our after-school program. The children have been home for the past month since the cancellation of schools. Parents are dealing with an assortment of pressures and stresses, such as having bored children in the house all day, the prospect of a recent job loss, and not having enough food in their homes
2. **VOLUNTEER.** We could use volunteers to sign up 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. **ADVOCATE!** Do you know of restaurants or grocers with a surplus of food and produce? Let us know about it or reach out to them on our behalf and let them know that we would put their excess supply to good use! We recently have had hotels, grocers,

and even local high schools give to us out of their surplus the past couple of weeks, and we need it to continue in order to be able to provide for our growing number of neighbors in hunger.

4. **GIVE** canned goods & toiletries to our food pantry. We are giving out an average of 115-120 boxes of food EVERY week right now! We would like to be able to give generously and encourage everyone 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.

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

5. **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 commit to join us as a monthly or quarterly donor! Or, perhaps you will receive a stimulus check in the mail shortly and don't need all of it?

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

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

In Christ.

Aaron & Faith Dancy


**KEYSTONE
COMMUNITY CENTER**

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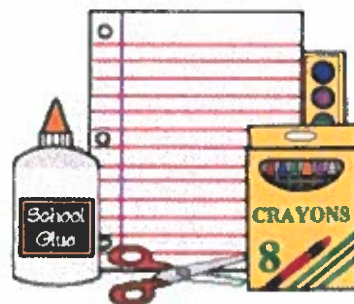
A lot has happened since the last Focus; things that have affected so many people of all ages. We have learned new terminology and social rules. Will there ever be a normal or what does that mean? I learned this past Easter that if Christians want to worship God, there is no stopping them throughout the world and the main thing to remember is, God is in control. Keystone stayed “closed” to the public but the ministry never stopped. We fed children when we saw them and delivered boxed meals with Bonsack Baptist chef cooking the meals once a week, we boxed it up and have fed over 600 people since the last Thursday in February. This gave the families a break in meal cooking and it gave me a chance to see how they were doing physically and mentally. I worked with the school on getting leftover food to feed children that were not at their bus stops and helped deliver some of the school packets to children who never received one, we have implemented lots of social media with the children who have internet. After we gave out the 50 Easter food boxes and packed the bible study group’s next bag of groceries the pantry was drained of essentials so we had to shut it down to restock. Several churches found out and had drive through food drives that gave us enough food to make 30 bags to be delivered at the end of May. The summer at this time is changing weekly as the out of town mission teams have all cancelled. Please check with us the first week in June to see what we will be doing.



**Feeding the
Community We**

still need basics, instant potatoes, evaporated milk, 1 pound boxes of sugar, cereal, dried beans, corn, pork n beans(or any kind of beans, plastic jars of peanut butter, plastic jars of jelly, canned fruit, pancake mix (just add water) syrup, brownies, soups and personal hygiene products.

The back pack/school supply drive is still on for June & July with bags given out in August. Please call to make sure someone is in the building. 342-8452



All pictures are activities and events since March 1, 2020. Snowflakes made in Jan turned into butterflies in March for Spirit FM butterfly hugs ministry, one of our teens getting in volunteer hours for civil air patrol, 2 of our kids just finished making dirt cake recipe from our kids on line cooking class



Cheeseburger meal being packed for delivery (117 that week), one of our kids (2nd grade) learning how to till his garden, peas finding something to grow on



Showing the community what Easter is about from our front porch, delivering boxed meals to after school families, delivering boxed meal to adult bible study family with Sommer sporting a new "uniform"



Bible study participant getting boxed meal, family in community getting a meal, some we had to leave on porch

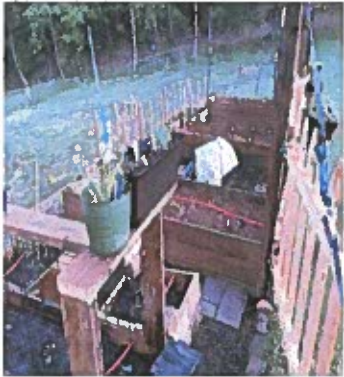


Part of the 117 meals delivered on Thursdays, some of our kids in the street were hungry but had to eat outside. We had a welcome spring party planned with a hat contest but spring never came so here are a few that modeled on their front porch for us and one of our kids wearing his mask (pray we don't have to wear gas masks)





The 5K Run/ Walk is still on. Virtual which means you can do it on your time and anywhere. Treadmill, backyard, park, hayfield as long as you register by June 15th and finish by June 30th. Go to runsignup.com to register.



Backyard Gardens are getting geared up. We have 10 this year impacting 43 people plus what we use to serve at the center. They are all different sizes and styles. Bigger pics later. Stay tuned for the Big Zac contest.



The story of Peter denying Jesus 3 times before the cock crowed was told to our children via facebook and then we shared the hatching of the baby chicks. It was sad they didn't get to hold them so I let my grandsons'. We had 7 hatch, 4 roosters & 3 hens.



Thank you to all who have called to check on us and pray with us. Financials have been steady but a little lower than normal. Thank you, to all who continue to send your monthly support; churches, WMU's, Sunday Schools and individuals.