

# THE FOCUS



RVBA Newsletter  
October/November 2019  
Edition

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**Roanoke Valley Baptist Association**  
3926 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012  
Phone: 540-366-7631 Fax: 540-366-7882 ~ www.rvba.org

**RVBA Fall Meeting, Tuesday, October 22, 2019**  
**Villa Heights Baptist Church**

*We have a different format for this year's meeting.*

**We will have one session that will begin at 4 pm.**

**We will conclude with dinner following the session.**

**Speaker: Chris Cadenhead, Pastor, Bonsack Baptist**

**We will also hear testimonies from several mission projects supported by the RVBA.**

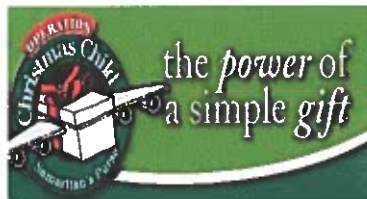
Dinner reservations need to be made by Tuesday, October 15, 2019, by sending name(s), church name, and money to the RVBA Office (3926 Plantation Road, Roanoke, VA 24012). Make checks payable to the RVBA. Note on check that money is for the RVBA Fall Meeting Meal. Please pass this information on to all persons attending the fall meeting. **Dinner menu:** grilled chicken, green beans, tossed salad, scalloped potatoes, rolls, assorted desserts & drinks ~ Cost \$8 per person.

**Messengers for the RVBA Fall Meeting** should be elected from each church. You do not have to be an elected messenger to come to the meeting, but only elected messengers are allowed to vote. If possible, each church should send those names to the RVBA Office before the meeting, so we can have registration cards and name tags already prepared.

**The Promising Future of Small Churches**  
**Small Church Conference ~ Saturday, October 12, 2019**  
**Bonsack Baptist Church ~ 10 am – 2:30 pm**

Leader: Dr. Chuck Warnock, Pastor of Chatham Baptist Church  
**\$15 for BGAV church members or \$20 for non- BGAV church members**  
**(lunch provided)**

Register online at [BGAV.org/SmallChurches](http://BGAV.org/SmallChurches)  
Childcare is available for children ages 4-12 at a cost of \$10/child.  
Children will also be served lunch.



**Operation Christmas Child ~ Collection Week Opportunities November 18-25, 2019** - if you or a group from your church, would like to volunteer for a shift at the Salem BC Collection Center, please contact the Salem coordinator, Richard Ikenberry at [ricjoy@cox.net](mailto:ricjoy@cox.net), or 540-819-3552. Bonsack Baptist and Lynn Haven Baptist are also collection sites.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for INDIVIDUALS** - Many are aware that the retail facilities that distributed OCC shoeboxes to individuals are no longer open. INDIVIDUALS who want shoeboxes may pick them up at RVBA Office, 3926 Plantation Road on the following dates and times: October 7 & 9 from 1-3 pm and October 10 & 15 from 9-11 am. Shoeboxes may be picked up at Salem BC Collection Center on the following dates and times: Monday, November 18, 11 am – 2 pm & Tuesday, November. 25, 12 Noon – 3 pm. Individuals may request shoeboxes for 2020 at the Drop Off Site where you deliver your OCC Shoeboxes for transport to the Processing Center.

On Mission Together ~ On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October we will come together to celebrate what God is doing through the churches of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association. This year you will notice a new format for our celebration. There will only be one session at 4:00 pm. We will worship, hear testimonies and enjoy the fellowship of being an Associational family. After the session we will eat dinner to conclude the meeting. I hope that you will elect your messengers and plan on being at Villa Heights Baptist Church for this special time in the life of your association.

Five years. It is hard to believe that I have been serving with the churches of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association for five years. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission and practice the Great Commandment through the churches of the association. During the next year let's see what God can do when we encourage pastors, strengthen churches and help churches to connect with their community with the Gospel of Jesus.

When we focus on those who need the love and hope of Jesus, then together we can make a difference. John Saunders

Please mark your calendar for our Children's Mission Experience Day on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at Bonsack Baptist Church from 10 am – 2 pm. This is a WMU sponsored event. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. **Guest speakers are missionaries Doug and Laura Lee. Special visitors will include three heroes.** Also, there will be activities, crafts, picture stations with the heroes and more. **The children will be making special crafts that requires plenty of plastic shopping bags (all Sizes) and old T-shirts without seams in the sides.** Please start collecting now and call Diane Shepherd at t 540.798.9165 or email [dsva540@aol.com](mailto:dsva540@aol.com) for pickup or any questions regarding this event

**Women's Get-Away – November 1-2 or 2-3, 2019 – Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg** - Registration begins August 1, 2019 and can be made by calling the WMUV office at 800.255.2428, ext. 8267 or email [wmuw@wmuw.org](mailto:wmuw@wmuw.org) or check the website at <https://wmuw.org/getaway>. Highlights include our Keynote Speaker, Sylvia DeLoach; Valerie Carter Smith (Mindful Mission Moments); Worship Leader, Teresa Harmening; and many breakout sessions for learning about our spiritual and physical well-being. Be sure and plan to attend the WMUV Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> after lunch so you will have an opportunity to hear what our Roanoke Valley Abigail Girls have accomplished and the mission trips that our WMUV staff have been on this past year. Looking forward to seeing our local churches represented. Fleta Dillon, RVBA WMU Director, 540.580.4377



**World Day of Prayer – Oakland Baptist Church – November 4, 2019 at 10:00 am**  
Our Theme for this year is "Arise Shine When We Rise Up – He Shines Though Service".  
Menu includes: soups/crackers – salads – ham biscuits - desserts – beverages ~ cost: \$8  
Reservations to Kathryn Sowers (1214 Jeanette Ave Vinton 24179) by October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**\*FOCUS TRAINING 'MISSIONS AT OUR DOORSTEPS' ~ Saturday, February 15, 2020 from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon**  
TROUTVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH (5520 LEE HIGHWAY TROUTVILLE, VA 24175) 540-992-1026  
COME AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS AND LEARN OF NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ROANOKE VALLEY!  
For further information contact Shirley Mullins 540 992-1339 or 354-1471.

**\*Blessed Girl Teen Conference - February 22, 2020 ~ Villa Heights – from 9 am – 3 pm and the cost is \$20.00**  
This will be the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference! Pics from previous ones are online at [blessedgirl.org](http://blessedgirl.org). More information to be forthcoming. Questions, call Jeri Harris at 206-7349 (cell).

**\*SWVA Partnership Mission Trip to Nickelsville VA will be March 29 – April 2, 2020.** Start making plans to go and help share God's love with the children in the schools, the homeowners who need help with repairs, families coming to the Food Pantry, and the residents of the Nova Nursing Home. Cost is \$100 for registration. Manor accommodations is \$15 per night. More details to come. Fleta Dillon, 580-4377 (cell)

**\*Salem Fair Witnessing Booth – July 1-12, 2020 ~ Call to reserve your day to be in charge of supplying servers: 540-375-3245.** We also need 12 churches to donate \$38 each to cover the cost of the booth rental and other Fair expenses. Thanks, Jeanne, the "Fair Lady"

**Friendship House Roanoke, Inc.**

540-343-5437

635 Elm Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016

[fhroanoke@gmail.com](mailto:fhroanoke@gmail.com)

**Fall Semester is going strong.** With the finish of a busy and encouraging summer comes the beginning of a busy and hopeful fall semester at the Friendship House. Our After School Program is in full swing with students learning and growing in every way we can help them from homework help to, most importantly, growing in their understanding of the Gospel! Please pray for the children and our staff to glorify God this semester by trusting in Jesus and growing together in grace. Sponsor a child to attend this program for \$300 a semester (which = \$50 per month).

**Christmas Store before you know it!** While the heat the past few weeks still screams summer, it is time for us to look ahead to the holidays. We want to grow the reach of our Christmas Store this year to not only give gifts at Christmas, but to use additional donations received, beyond what is needed for the parents to give great gifts to their children, to go toward continuing to serve the kids all school year long. Our goal is to serve all the families of our 30 children in our After-School Program, their siblings and then more if possible! If you or someone you know is interested in giving gifts at Christmas and more that last throughout the year, please contact us! Food pantry donations still needed continuously. Canned soup, meats, and fruits, evaporated milk, noodles, cereal, shampoo, conditioner. We will also be helping families with Thanksgiving meal bags. All coming soon!



**101 17<sup>th</sup> ST SE, Roanoke, VA 24013 ~ office 342-8452 cell 330-6263**

The time goes by quicker as we get older. Time is of the essence to win souls and plant seeds to the lost in this part of SE Roanoke. Call to volunteer with the many opportunities at the Keystone. The name reflects the stone that holds a door arch together, you can help to be the volunteer that helps hold a precious child or adult together by giving your time and financial support to keep the ministry alive. God is doing his part how about you.

As we turn our plans towards the end of fall, we have given out over 190 book bags, the deeding of the building is final, the children have started new handbell songs and plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas are upon us. Please call or check the online version for food needed for boxes. A few items we are out of or very low is Lysol or Clorox wipes, instant potatoes, canned fruit, canned meats and bottled water. Fall crops are planted so spring food can be harvested.

Come to advocate meeting Friday, October 4 to get more info on helping to get your church involved in missions. The meeting will be at Keystone 10 am. Again, thanks to all who give of their time and financials to keep these programs going. Lots more info in the online version. Call Sandy at the RVBA or me, Pat Carter to get on the email list.



**Roanoke Valley Baptist Association**  
**3926 Plantation Road**  
**Roanoke VA 24012**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**ROANOKE, VA**  
**PERMIT NO. 76**

**CHURCH, STAFF & OTHER NEWS**

**Jim Frankie** has been called as **Pastor** at **Red Hill**. **Tom McCann** has been called as **Intentional Interim Pastor** at **Melrose**. **Greg Denton** has been called as **Interim Minister of Music** at **Melrose**. **Jordan Dickens** has been called as **Associate Pastor for Youth & Children** at **Mount Pleasant**.

Please pray for the following **RVBA Churches** that are currently without **Senior Pastors**: **Cave Rock, Cedar Bluff, Craig Valley, Fort Lewis, Garden City, Melrose, Mount Calvary and Troutville**.

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

- October 6 - Eagle Rock ~ Billy Ronk*
- October 13 - East End ~ Troy Mueller*
- October 20 - Emmanuel ~ Dan Levesque*
- October 27 - Enon ~ Glenn Giles*
- November 3 - Faith ~ Jr. Westmoreland*
- November 10 - Fellowship ~ Ken Nierke*
- November 17 - Fincastle ~ Kevin Cummings*
- November 24 - First, Roanoke ~ Bryan Smith*

**RVBA Calendar October 2019**

3	9:30 am	Missions Dev Team, RVBA Office
9	10:00 am	Properties Committee, RVBA Office
10	12 Noon	Youth Team, Bad Wolf BBQ
12	10:00 am	<b>Small Church Conference, Bonsack</b>
12	10:00 am	<b>RVBA WMU Children's Mission Experience Day, Bonsack</b>
16	2:00 pm	Board of Directors, Vinton
19	10:00 am	WMU Leadership Team, RVBA Office
22	4:00 pm	<b>RVBA Fall Meeting, Villa Heights</b>
24	10:00 am	Program Committee, RVBA Office

**RVBA Calendar November 2019**

1-2/2-3		<b>WMU Women's Get-Away, Eagle Eyrie</b>
3		<b>Daylight Savings Time</b>
4	10:00 am	<b>Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, Oakland</b>
5		<b>Election Day</b>
11-13		<b>State Convention Meetings, Roanoke</b>
14	11:00 am	<b>Youth Team, Jersey Lily's 460</b>
18	1:30 pm	<b>Personnel Committee, RVBA Office</b>
19	10:00 am	<b>Nominating Committee, RVBA Office</b>
19	3:00 pm	<b>Finance Committee, RVBA Office</b>
20	2:00 pm	<b>Board of Directors, TBA</b>
21	10:00 am	<b>Program Committee, RVBA Office</b>
28-29		<b>Thanksgiving ~ RVBA Office Closed</b>

**Bonsack Baptist Church (4845 Cloverdale Road, Roanoke, VA 24019) is hosting the following seminars:**

**\*Surviving the Holidays Grief Share** ~ for those who have lost a loved one through death, the holidays can be a difficult time

**\*Surviving the Holidays Divorce Care** ~ dealing with the pain and heartache of separation and divorce can be especially difficult.

Come join us for a time of encouragement and sharing with others to obtain some ways you can use this time for healing from hurting.

Both seminars will be held on Friday, November 8, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Childcare provided upon request. Call to register by October 28 - 540-977-5701.



FRIENDSHIP  
HOUSE  
ROANOKE

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

October 2019

### ***A Wednesday in the Life of the Friendship House:***

The Bible tells us we are to speak of God's faithfulness to one another. These testimonies of His working uplift and encourage believers to persevere in struggles and rejoice in joys. This past Wednesday we had our family meal with the After-School Program families as usual at 5:00. As we sat eating a delicious spaghetti dinner together, we marveled at all the people God used to meet the needs of the day. I would like to share this to give you a taste of how your efforts whether small or large work together for His good provision for this ministry.

Let's look at Wednesday... It begins with a **food pantry**. Food Lion and Outback Steakhouse provide a total of 400-600 lbs. of food they can no longer sell. We have a team of volunteer delivery drivers who transport it to us twice a week. Today it is a man from my church, weary from a large yardwork project but he still faithfully delivers the food to us.

Volunteers from 4 different church homes arrive to assist the people getting food. It takes an hour to set up the room and food then we pray before we open the doors. We ask each person if there is anything we can be praying about for them when they check in. This simple act has really helped us grow our love for these folks. We are also beginning to offer pastoral counseling free of charge to those struggling. Some of our compassionate volunteers go back to their churches and request items be donated that specific individuals need, then they watch for them in the line the next week to hand the special item to them personally. One Sunday school class member brings in a blender for our kitchen to help us make smoothies for the kids, and an envelope with enough money to pay the fees for all 8 kids who want to attend AWANA with us this year. (I had asked this as a special request last week when we knew the cost would prohibit some from attending. A few tears might have been shed at this provision.) In addition to the grocery store donations, multiple churches, individuals and two large non-profit food pantries donate canned goods, hygiene items and clothing to add to the food pantry. A woman from a supporting church brings their second load of collected coats and blankets so we will be prepared to give them out when the cold weather hits. Once again, we have plenty to provide for all who come.

Next, the **After-School Program** begins. Three, long time volunteers come to help the kids with homework, reading, and play. One helps with homework. One cuts up fruit and veggies for snack and then addresses envelopes to help with the next newsletter mailout. The final one spends the afternoon cooking the evening meal. The refugee mom living upstairs comes down to help in any way she can; cleaning, watching the kids and practicing English. She is a delight as are her 3 children learning their ABCs and playing alongside the other children.

October 2019



FRIENDSHIP  
HOUSE  
ROANOKE

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Besides our regular faithful volunteers, Roanoke College sends students to help get experience serving in the community. Today, 4 girls come and keep busy with children demanding to play after homework and the groans that accompany that have ended. The children spend most of their playtime riding (church donated) bikes in the parking lot, swinging and playing with baby dolls. The Roanoke College students help us clean the building before they leave. Their cheerful encouragement and energy are refreshing! Mrs. McKenzie, ministry assistant, leads the younger kids in a bible study and prayer time before dinner while our longest serving volunteer teaches the teens that congregate on the porch.

Sometimes churches or Sunday School groups bring **dinner** but not tonight. Tonight's meal itself is a beautiful compilation of donations. One lovely lady sees a sale at Kroger on ground beef, buys it and brings it to us. Rescue Mission shares items they have plenty of so they provide us with the spaghetti noodles, Zaxby's donated all their spaghetti sauce and paper goods when they went out of business and the Food Lion food pantry donation provides the garlic bread, veggies and cheese. The children help us gather cherry tomatoes and noodle beans from our garden to add to the meal. It is scrumptious! As 6:15 approaches we load up our vans full of children to head to 2 churches for their Wednesday night AWANA program.

This concludes the day's activities but not the Lord's provision for this work. The churches and individuals who give monthly and one-time generous donations help keep operating expenses covered. Some of our 31 children in the program have been sponsored at \$300/semester. We are still looking for a few more **sponsors** to cover them all. The Friendship House as an after-school safe haven has been faithfully beside these families for years and we are excited and grateful to be able to continue being a constant and positive environment. So many hands have gone into making all this possible! It is awe inspiring and humbling to watch as God works and provides. Another 2 pages could be written for the provisions of every other day of the week!

**\*\*We will begin working on collecting Thanksgiving and Christmas food meal bags soon and our Christmas toy store is just around the corner! Details soon to come!**

We greatly anticipate moving forward with more growth this November as Aaron Dowdy will be coming on staff, Lord willing, to take on the role of Executive Director while Faith Dowdy gets back to focus on running the programs. This will be a huge leap of faith for our family and for the ministry. We believe the time is right. The foundation has been laid. Everything has been blanketed in layers and layers of prayer. We need your support more than ever! Please pray with us, volunteer, bring supplies and donate financially! Contact me if you would like to get involved. We are so grateful to be here to glorify God by meeting needs, loving our neighbors and as our long-time precious supporter, Mary Cooper, who passed away at the age of 101 on September 16<sup>th</sup> regularly encouraged me... **"to promote His Kingdom."**

**OCTOBER 12 CHILDREN'S MISSION EXPERIENCE DAY**  
*sponsored by WMU Missions of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association. For: CHILDREN & YOUTH age 5-17.*

## **LEARN ABOUT HEROES.....**



Special visitors: Spider Man, Cat Woman and a special princess will be welcoming us and will be available for pictures



Activities, Africa-based Missionary Speakers , Crafts & projects, Picture station and more!

**DATE:** Saturday, Oct. 12

**TIME:** 10 am -2 pm

**PLACE:** Bonsack Baptist Church  
4845 Cloverdale Road Roanoke

**COST:** FREE (Lunch also provided)

For questions please contact Diane Shepherd at 540-721-6407, Fleta Dillon at 540-580-4377 or Jeri Harris at 540-206-7349.

**REGISTER  
ONLINE**

Beginning  
August 1 at  
[https://wmuv.org/  
getaway](https://wmuv.org/getaway) for online  
registration or use  
mail-in registration  
form.

# Women's Get-Away

.....**Make Me Mindful**.....

*Love the Lord you God with all you heart, soul and MIND!*

**November 1-2 or 2-3, 2019**

**Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg**



**Sylvia DeLoach**  
Keynote Speaker



**Valerie Carter Smith**  
Mindful Mission Moments



**Teresa Harmening**  
Worship Leader

**General Schedule**  
**Friday and Saturday**  
**Evening**  
4:00 Registration  
5:00-6:30 Dinner  
6:45-8:15 Worship  
8:30-9:20 Conference session  
9:45 Fellowship  
**Saturday and Sunday**  
**Morning**  
6:30-8:00 Breakfast  
8:15-9:05 Conference session  
9:15-10:05 Conference session  
10:15-11:50 Worship  
12:00-1:30 Lunch

Each Session begins with dinner at 5:00 pm and ends with lunch

**Costs for BGAV churches:**

Hotel (program fee and three meals)-\$117.00  
Lodge (program fee and three meals)- \$99.00  
Commuters (day) - \$20.00 (does not include lunch)

For registration forms or information, call the WMUV office  
at 800.255.2428, ext. 8267, email [wmuv@wmuv.org](mailto:wmuv@wmuv.org) or check  
the website at <https://wmuv.org/getaway>

For specific information on lodging or meals, contact  
Eagle Eyrie directly at 1-434.384.2211.

**Conferences Offered:**

Mind Games  
Peace of Mind  
Learning to be Mindful  
The Addictive Mind  
The Aging Mind  
Peace, Sabbath, Silence  
Remind Me  
Different Ways to Pray  
The Growing Mind  
Mindful Art  
Zumba

**AND MANY MORE!**

**Spanish-Speaking  
Special Session at the  
Women's Get-Away  
November 2-3  
Saturday and Sunday**

**WMUV Annual Meeting**

**November 2, 2019**

**1:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Eagle Eyrie**





***When We Rise Up  
He Shines Through Service***

**November 4 at 10:00am**

**Oakland Baptist Church**

(3623 Roundhill Ave NW, Roanoke)

**Cost of Lunch—\$8**

**soups/crackers – salads – ham biscuits - desserts - beverages**

**Payment mailed by Wednesday, October 16  
to Kathryn Sowers**

(1214 Jeanette Ave., Vinton, 24179)

**Children's Mission Experience Day  
October 12, 2019  
Bonsack Baptist  
10 am – 2 pm**

Ladies, please mark your calendar for our Children's Mission Experience Day on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at Bonsack Baptist Church from 10 am – 2 pm. This is a WMU sponsored event. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. **Guest speakers are missionaries Doug and Laura Lee. Special visitors will include three heroes.** Also, there will be activities, crafts, picture stations with the heroes and more. **The children will be making special crafts that requires plenty of plastic shopping bags (all Sizes) and old T-shirts without seams in the sides.** Please start collecting now and call Diane Shepherd at t 540.798.9165 or email [dsva540@aol.com](mailto:dsva540@aol.com) for pickup or any questions regarding this event. **\*\*\*Please pass this date along to your children's leaders so that they may mark their calendars. We would love to have a large turnout.**

**Operation Christmas Child - Collection dates Nov. 18 - 25, 2019**

Boys and girls from more than 130 countries around the world have experienced God's love through the gift of a simple shoebox from Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes filled with new toys, school supplies, and other needs for children are collected in November. OCC shoebox collection centers are at Bonsack Baptist, Lynn Haven Baptist, Mill Creek Baptist, and Salem Baptist churches.

**How you can be involved:**

\*Pack a shoebox for one or more children. See [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) for details.

\*Encourage others to participate

**\*MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE THE DATES\***

**\*FOCUS TRAINING 'MISSIONS AT OUR DOORSTEPS'**

SAT. FEB. 15, 2020, 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

TROUTVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

5520 LEE HIGHWAY TROUTVILLE, VA. 24175 540 992-1026

COME AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS AND LEARN OF NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE ROANOKE VALLEY!

For further information contact Shirley Mullins 540 992-1339 or 354-1471.

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Villa Heights – from 9 am – 3 pm and the cost is \$20.00

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More information to be forthcoming. Questions, call Jeri Harris at 206-7349 (cell).

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Start making plans to go and help share God's love with the children in the schools, the homeowners who need help with repairs, families coming to the Food Pantry, and the residents of the Nova Nursing Home. Cost is \$100 for registration. Manor accommodations is \$15 per night. More details to come. Fleta Dillon, 580-4377 (cell)

**The RVBA WMU Children's Mission Camp was held July 22, 2019 at Ward Haven Retreat**

**Center.** We had 17 campers to register but only 14 actually attended the week. There were 5 counselors and CITS along with 14 volunteers who helped with Bible Study, drama, music, special activities, cooking and security at night. Our theme was a Servant's Heart and the children learned about serving others. Mission projects: decorated lunch bags for the Rescue Mission, made posters for Keystone Mission Center's Family Nights, wrote two thank you cards to Missionaries, one home and one IMB (and received a reply from one), made different beaded bracelets each day to help share the gospel with others, and prepared and seeded the bare spots where shrubs had been removed from the campground. Our missionaries for the week were Rhonda Marstin and the Abigail Girls sharing their mission projects; Jeanette Templeton and two other ladies that brought their dogs used in their pet therapy ministries; and John Saunders, Associational Missions Executive Director who shared missions' opportunities RVBA have participated in. The children had a blast at a block style party with the bouncy houses, games and food that Journey Church shared with us. The children enjoyed making s'mores and singing around the campfire and visiting with a baby calf from Homestead Creamery. We would like to thank those who prepared our evening meals and served them – Christian Soldiers Food Pantry, Red Hill and Garden City, Connelly Memorial and Coopers Cove. A special thank you to all the counselors, volunteers for their help, and the parents for allowing us to share this special week with their children. Diane Shepherd, Fleta Dillon and Jessica Gutiérrez-Arnold, Camp Team Leaders.

## S. F. WITNESSING BOOTH REPORT 2019

The Salem Fair reported 300,000 people came through the gates during the 12 days of the Fair.

The Witnessing Booth gave away (according to numbers recorded by our "Servers"):

**255 dozen** Ziplock Baggies of cookies with John 3:16 attached to the outside of baggie

**100 dozen** Ziplock Baggies of pretzels with John 3:16 attached to the outside of baggie

**Uncounted number of HARD CANDY stapled to a business size card w/ poem and I John 4:10**

Hundreds of prizes to children who "caught a fish at Fishing game, including 37 "Moses to Creation" DVD's donated through RVBA (Thank you RVBA!)

**73 "Jesus Film DVD's (I know that 26 were the kind that also has the shorter version for children, plus about 8 other languages on it, The rest had 24 languages including English, Spanish, French and Arabic. (Roa. Valley 44, Other VA cities 28, Oklahoma 1,**

The Devil fought the Witnessing Booth harder this year than I can ever remember, then the Lord just smoothed everything out; some folk got sick, some couldn't find people to serve in the booth, but the Lord provided others to take the empty spaces. We had a first time church to take charge of a Saturday, and another church, which had not taken a day for many years, choose July 4<sup>th</sup> as their day. Thank you, thank you to each church that helped serve, and also to those who supplied cookies, pretzels, candy, and the funds for booth rental, children's prizes, and postage for mailing the info to the churches in charge of the days !! This mission couldn't happen without all of you. A special thanks to all who prayed!!!

I personally was given the opportunity to witness to a young Jewish "Vender" who left his booth to come over to ours. He asked me a question that "opened the door" to quote Isaiah 7:14, ask him some questions, remember a tract I had that listed OT prophecies re Christ's death' and the NT verses fulfilling those prophecies. My helper in booth saw him reading it, and in a few minutes he returned, holding the tract, and said, "I believe this was JUST for ME." I replied, "I do too, because I felt God was compelling me to bring it to the Fair!" I truly believe God is drawing him. Please join me in praying for his salvation.

**NEXT YEAR DATES FOR SFWB: JULY 1-12, 2020. Call to reserve your day to be in charge of supplying servers: 375-3245. Thanks. Jeanne, the "Fair Lady"**

**We need 12 churches to donate \$38 each to cover the cost of the booth rental and other Fair expenses.**