

Roanoke Valley Baptist Association

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

THE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

October/November 2020

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

RVBA Staff

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**RVBA Fall Meeting ~ Tuesday, October 27, 2020
7:00 pm**

**Livestreamed through the RVBA Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/RVBAunited> &
the Bonsack Baptist Church website
www.bonsackbaptist.org**

**Speaker: Dr. Willie McLaurin VP, Great Commission
Relationships SBC**



We are asking that you register for the meeting by sending your list of messengers to the RVBA Office. Send them by email (sanny610@aol.com) or by calling the office (540-366-7631) as you normally would. So, mark your calendar now and plan to be a part of this unique gathering of the RVBA family. Begin to think of ways now that you can get together with your church family and participate. No business will be conducted at this meeting.

Serving the Valley Together

It has been an interesting summer and challenging time to be in ministry. How do we reach out to people during this pandemic? Many times, we have more questions than answers. I wanted to use this opportunity to give you a few different ideas for churches to reach people this fall:

1. **Grocery Delivery** for people that cannot get out to the store.
2. **Deliver Blessing Bags** with things like hand sanitizers, tissues, gift cards, or candy and leave them at people's doors.
3. **Bird Feeder Giveaway** – Give people a bird feeder, especially the elderly. Then continue providing bird seed and a note of encouragement.
4. **Leaf raking** for those who cannot rake for themselves and have no one.
5. **Breakfast for teachers** – Take breakfast to teachers at a local school.

Serving
Heart

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER

On October 27th at 7:00 pm we will gather together for the RVBA Fall Meeting. It will be a little different this year. We will not gather in person at Bonsack Baptist Church but will have a live streamed gathering. It will be live streamed through the RVBA Facebook page and the Bonsack Baptist Church website. That means you can watch it from home or even gather together with a small, social distanced group at your church and watch it together. It is our goal to keep the meeting to an hour. Dr. Willie McLaurin, Vice President for Great Commission Relationships, SBC Executive Committee will bring the message. We will also hear testimonies about the shower trailer for the homeless that was done during the summer. There will be no business. We will send to each church a Book of Reports and other information about the meeting. Please take time to be a part of the new Fall Meeting format.

The giving by the churches during this COVID 19 pandemic has been down. The giving for many of the churches has been down as well. We understand that things are tight for all of us. We are doing our best to reduce spending. Salaries have not been cut, but if things do not improve that may be the next step. The Finance Committee is asking for each church to be sure to include the association in your missions' budget for next year. The budget for 2021 has been reduced to reflect the income this year. Thank you for the support you have been able to give during this difficult year.

It has been a hard year for the Associational Prayer Emphasis and Annie Mae Broyles Offering. This emphasis is usually in May, but it is still not too late to use the materials and pray for your Association.

When we can join together to encourage churches and support local missions in difficult circumstances, then together we can make a difference.

John Saunders



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2020

Some have asked if OCC will operate, as in the past, in 2020. OCC will be full bore ahead for this year. National Collection Week will be Nov. 16-23, 2020. Please consider acquiring appropriate items and packing them as you have done in the past. You can take the packed boxes to your church, or to a Drop Off site for shipment to the Processing Center. Some churches have considered collections of \$25 donations and sending the money directly to Samaritans Purse and they will pack shoeboxes for you. Or you may decide to go online and pack your shoebox there - each shoebox will be \$25.00. You pick the gender, age, and items to go in a shoebox for each recipient. Go to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ and select **Build a Shoebox** and enjoy the exercise of picking the items for each one; you will cover your contribution online. As we do this, please remember that the shoebox is important, but most significantly it may present the opportunity to invite a child to participate in *The Greatest Journey*, and hear and learn about the miracle of Jesus Christ as we know him.

Thanks for making a special effort to support OCC in 2020.

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

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*

CHURCH, STAFF & OTHER NEWS

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

RVBA Calendar October 2020

1	9:30 am	Mission Development Team
6	3:00 pm	Finance Committee
7	10:00 am	Properties Committee
22	10:00 am	Board of Director's
27	7:00 pm	RVBA Fall Meeting
29	10:00 am	Program Committee

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

RVBA Calendar November 2020

October 4 - Arcadia
 October 11 - Belmont ~ Jon Laughinghouse
 October 18 - Bethel ~ Hilton Jeffreys
 October 25 - Big Spring ~ Ken Gray
 November 1 - Bonsack ~ Christ Cadenhead
 November 8 - Buchanan ~ Darrell Naff
 November 15 - Calvary ~ Steven Pollard
 November 22 - Catawba Valley ~ Aaron Mansfield
 November 29 - Cave Rock ~ Mark Childers

16	1:30 pm	Personnel Committee
17	10:00 am	Nominating Committee
19	10:00 am	Program Committee
26		Thanksgiving
26-27		RVBA Office Closed

Looking Ahead to 2021

Blessed Girl Teen Conference – Saturday, February 20, 2021 at Villa Heights Baptist Church from 3-9 pm

Cost: \$25 includes programming, dinner & activities

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

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

Please pray that, Lord willing, the COVID Virus will be gone enough that the Salem Fair can resume in 2021, and we can again have the **SALEM FAIR WITNESSING BOOTH**. Thanks, Jeanne the "Fair Lady"



Friendship House Roanoke has transitioned from summer to fall and as we do, we look back with gratitude and praise that God has brought us (and is still bringing us) through difficult and strange times. He has certainly been faithful and merciful during our times of need. Now, we look forward to the upcoming school year! Here is a bit of what is going on:

- Our Food Pantry continues to operate at elevated levels of need, when compared to pre-Covid 19 times. We are currently serving approximately 100 families each week with substantial boxes of canned goods and fresh food. We have benefited from some recent large donations, such as peanut butter (700 lbs), watermelon (660 lbs) and flour (750 lbs), which have been a real treat for our community families. We still need several items each week that we tend to be low on. *See the box for more info.*
- Our After-School Program has officially started for the school year on Sept. 1. We have approximately 25 children who have been regularly attending so far. With special health and safety precautions in place, we're still largely able to offer the same activities that we have always provided, such as ample play time, a Bible lesson, and a snack.
- We are pushing hard this year for extra social engagement and physical activity with our children. Many of them have been inactive at home since schools closed back in March. Furthermore, the vast majority of them are participating in virtual school at home, which means they're spending all day long on computers.

Ongoing Food Pantry Needs

- Canned fruit
- Canned veggies
- Evaporated milk
- Dry noodles
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Mac-n-cheese
- Latex gloves
- Grocery bags

So to combat the growing inactivity and isolation, we have started a new initiative called "The Marathon Club"—where 1-2 days each week we'll take the kids to Wasena Park to walk/run a mile. We will keep tally of their progress and once they reach 26 miles later this year, we'll celebrate that they've run the distance of a marathon! Fleet Feet Roanoke has heard about this and gotten onboard with the initiative. They will be providing running shoes for each child!

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



Life!

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer Monday --- November 2, 2020

The Day of Prayer is very important in the lives of Baptist women around the world. This event has a long history of connecting all of us as global sisters as we lift each other up in prayer. It is through our prayers that we are drawn closer together and are encouraged to reach our world for Christ.

Due to COVID restrictions, our Associational WMU will not be joining together in one place for prayer on November 2. But that doesn't mean that we won't pray for the concerns of women around the world! The Day of Prayer Programs (new format!) will be mailed to each church in October. You will be able to read the news, see the photos, and view the prayer requests from the seven Continental Unions. You will also find the 2020 projects listed and we encourage you to give and help to provide the financial support that is needed. Programs also may be downloaded from their website:

www.bwawd.org/day-of-prayer-this-year

Even though *we will not be able to meet face to face*, **we will host our very first Zoom World Day of Prayer meeting on November 2 at 10 am**. Beth Hetherington will be facilitating that meeting, and Amy Richardson Clegg, IMB missionary to Germany, who works with Middle Eastern refugee women, will be sharing. We will join together in praying for the needs that have been shared from women around the world. Details for how to join this hour long Zoom meeting will need to be sent directly to your email address. If you wish to participate, please send your email address to Beth Hetherington (graybranyon@yahoo.com) by October 26. If you have any questions, please contact Beth or Judy Deel (jldeel@rbnet.com). If you cannot be a part of the Zoom meeting, further information is available in this newsletter which you can use to lead your WMU group to join in the Day of Prayer.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer 2020 Projects

Mail your offering to Kathryn Sowers (1214 Jeanette Ave, Vinton VA 24179) by November 9th. Make checks payable to RVBA WMU.



Cambodia – Hydroponic Greenhouse for The Shelter of Love Children's Home

The home already has 3 greenhouses but needs another to provide food for the home as well as products which they can sell in the market. The 4th greenhouse's profits will be used as funds for the educational needs of the children.



USA/North Africa - BFA Education and Engagement Church Project

This project is based in North Africa and focuses on church members being trained in involvement in local and global issues such as human trafficking.



Hong Kong - Care and Share Homely Shelter

Taking in women in crisis, especially those from ethnic minorities, under privileged communities and oppressed women, they care for them, as well as teaching them life skills and introducing them to Christ.



Australia – We See We Care

Statistically, one woman a week is being murdered in Australia. Pastors are requesting resources to work with the problem, and the women of the Pacific and Australian Convention are attempting to provide kits for Baptist churches.

Prayer Guide

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

Connecting Through Prayer For Women Around the World

Asia – Pray for those Christians who are being persecuted, and for believers to be bold in sharing the Gospel. Pray against social injustice toward women. Pray for political stability and for the youth who are trying to improve the society.

North America – Pray that God would empower Baptist women to stand up against all forms of injustices which women and girls experience. Pray God will raise up women - godly women - women of prayer who are fearless in service to Him, women who are risk takers for His name's sake, and women who are an inspiration and motivation for others to serve Him.

Pacific – Pray against domestic violence as the highest rate in the world is in the Pacific islands. Pray for the new fellowship groups of Christian women, their leaders, and their outreach to other women. Pray for independence and justice for West Papua .

Africa – Pray that God will renew the passion of Baptist women of Africa in the areas of missions and evangelism. Pray that God will raise up God-fearing leaders who will be concerned about the improvement of life for people. Pray that God will bless the efforts of women who minister despite discrimination and violence against them.

Caribbean – Pray for those churches still recovering from hurricane damage. Pray for parents to take seriously the responsibilities of raising their children. Pray for children affected by child abuse. Pray that the older women will undertake the role of mentors for the younger women who are eager to give themselves for ministry.

Europe – Pray for the refugees in Europe that they may be welcomed and helped by Christians who will see them through Christ's eyes. Pray for a revival in Europe where many are indifferent to Christianity. Pray that the authorities will fight against modern day slavery and trafficking.

Latin America – Pray that Latin America will get a toll-free number line to care for women who suffer from abuse. Pray against violence, drug trafficking, kidnappings, and human trafficking. Pray for the caravans of immigrants arriving in the countries and our sharing the message of salvation with them.

*Suggestions for Emphasizing
The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer*

- 1) **Work with your pastor to include an emphasis on the Day of Prayer in a worship service** whether it is in-person or a Facebook or Zoom service. For visual impact, consider having a centerpiece which could include a globe, dolls, flags, or artifacts from different countries.
- 2) **Make copies of the Prayer Guide and the 2020 Project List to share** with others.
- 3) **Host a prayer meeting in an outdoor setting.** Practice social distancing.
- 4) Give each member of your mission group a prayer list from one of the Continental Unions and then **develop a phone prayer chain among members.**
- 5) **Create an email** and assign each member a time throughout the day to pray for the needs of the Continental Unions.
- 6) Gather a group and **commit to text and pray** for specific requests from the Prayer Guide
- 7) **Set up an area to “prayer walk”** in your church and offer a variety of prayer stations representing the Continental Unions. Place prayer requests at each station and have people move from station to station praying for the concerns mentioned.
- 8) **Make the DAY of Prayer a YEAR LONG event** by encouraging each other to take prayer requests and continue to pray over them during the year.
- 9) **Join the RVBA WMU Zoom World Day of Prayer Meeting on November 2 at 10 am.** Contact Beth Hetherington by October 26th to receive the Zoom meeting number and Password.
graybranyon@yahoo.com
- 10) **Prayerfully consider giving your own offering in support of the 2020 projects** or consider giving from your church's WMU budget. Checks may be made payable to RVBA WMU and mailed to Kathryn Sowers (1214 Jeanette Avenue Vinton, VA 24179) by November 9th . Online giving can also be made at www.bwawd.org/giving.
- 11) **Download the 2020 Day of Prayer program** and find other helpful suggestions at www.bwawd.org/day-of-prayer-this-year. For other creative ideas, please visit www.bwawd.org/Creative-Day-of-Prayer .

Keystone Community Center PO Box 13042, Roanoke VA 24030

The children are back! Not as many but our building is smiling with happy children. After school needs: volunteers to help with snack making & tutoring.

Thanksgiving 2020 Food Box Item

Boxes given out Nov19, \$500.00 needed to buy eggs, milk, butter, meat. Bring donations in by Nov 12.

1 Lg box instant potatoes (26.2 oz)

1 sm bottle cooking oil

2 cans corn

2 cans green beans

3 cans evaporated milk

1 box cereal

1 box pancake mix (just add water)

1 bottle syrup

1 sm bottle dishwashing liquid

1 box brownie mix

2 boxes Mac N Cheese

2 boxes of Jello

1 box saltine cracker

1 small plastic jar peanut butter

1 small plastic jar jelly

1 box of 1lb sugar (not confection)

1 sm box foil

1 roll Toilet Paper

4 cans soup

Small bag dried pinto beans

1 pkg of gravy (no glass jars)

Personal hygiene soap, hand soap, shampoo, deodorant, washcloth

Christmas boxes given out Dec 17 bring donations in by Dec 10. Use the same list

Jan and Feb we will stock pantry with soups, crackers , oatmeal, cereal, hot chocolate, spaghetti and sauce, canned meats(tuna, chicken, beef stew etc) instant potatoes and canned milk.

Too get more exciting news email me or call to be added to our mailing or email list:

coming in Dec, Christmas concert and Photography show a fundraiser event, a

Motorcycle run in early spring, a new website plus other new programs

To date over 3000 meals have been delivered to our participants since March 12

A special heartfelt THANK YOU to all the volunteers who have continued to serve and those who have supported financially.

Cheyenne our intern (till Dec) from Virginia Western learns how to can pasta sauce, freeze strawberries and peas



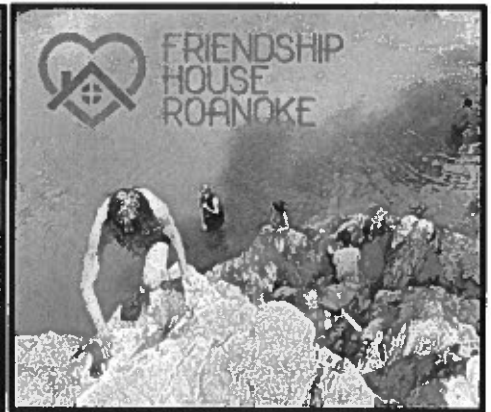
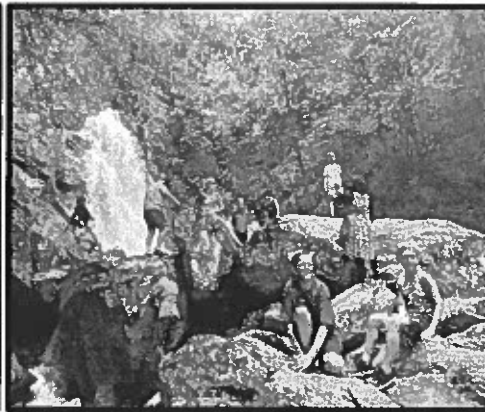
Our swings are swinging again while the children grab a little tomato from one of our gardens. Cheyenne takes one of our after school kids on an adopt a street cleanup, guess what the 2 veggies are and what they will turn into (answer on face book(Keystone Community Center Inc.) or come by to see for yourself, you won't believe the answer.



Watch Lucky dog auction to help us with our fall fundraiser to pay for insurance,



workers comp and taxes due Jan 1, 2021



STOP, THINK, THANK, TELL

Summer has officially ended and the school year has begun, so as we make the transition between seasons and programming, we look back with gratitude at God's faithfulness and mercy during a time of need. On top of that, we look forward to this upcoming school year with hopeful expectation in light of our Lord's faithfulness!

In the Bible, God's own people sometimes made it a point to stop what they were doing and remember all the good that God has done for them. In Joshua 3, after God miraculously dried up the Jordan River for the Israelites so that they could safely cross over into the Promised Land, they set up twelve stones as a memorial so that Israel would remember what God accomplished for his people that day.

At other times, they failed, such as in Exodus 14 & 16, when they grumbled about being hungry after God rescued them out of slavery and miraculously opened up the Red Sea and defeated Pharaoh's army for them!

As we transition from summer to fall, we want to be sure to faithfully STOP and THINK about God's good work. Then we ought to THANK him for all he has done.

Finally, we want to be sure to TELL of his great work!

And speaking of his great work, let us TELL you about the good he has done for us lately...

After a lot of prayer and waiting for local schools to make final decisions, our After-



Some of our kids enjoy a recent puppet show at Friendship House.

School Program officially started up on Sept. 1. We have approximately 25 children who have been regularly attending so far. It has been a real joy to welcome our neighborhood kids to Friendship House each day.

With special health and safety precautions in place, we're still largely able to offer the same activities that we have always provided, such as ample play time, Bible lesson, and a snack. Additionally, we're very excited to have started a new initiative for our children in the After-School Program...

The Marathon Club



This year we are pushing hard for extra social engagement and physical activity with our children. Many of them have been inactive at home since schools closed back in March. Furthermore, the vast majority of them are participating in virtual school at home, which means they're spending all day long on computers.

So to combat the growing inactivity and isolation, we have started The Marathon Club. One or two days each week, we take everyone in the After-School Program to Wasena Park to walk/run a mile. Then we keep a tally of how much each child has run on a big poster board back at Friendship House so we can all encourage one another along the way. Once we all get to 26 miles later this year, we will hold a big party with the kids to celebrate having run the distance of a marathon!

We have also been scattering some "fun days" in each week, such as hiking and playing in the river, in order to allow the kids to have fun in nature.

To top all this off, Fleet Feet Roanoke has generously agreed to provide running shoes for each child! We're all very excited and grateful for this partnership. We'd like to send out a BIG thanks to **FLEET FEET !!**

Loving Neighbors. Walking with the Church.
635 Elm Ave, SW Roanoke, VA 24016 / 540.343.5437
fthranoke@gmail.com / www.friendshiphouseroanoke.org

Food Pantry Needs:

- Canned fruit
- Canned veggies
- Evaporated milk
- Dry noodles
- Rice
- Spaghetti sauce
- Mac-n-cheese
- Latex gloves
- Grocery bags

Faithfulness in Food

Our food pantry continues to provide food to an elevated amount of people compared to pre-Covid times. Using the model that Jesus set forth, we try to be steadfast and generous in making sure that we don't have to turn anyone away that requests nourishment.

Lately, we've had some very large donations of items such as peanut butter (700 lbs!), watermelon (660 lbs!), flour (750 lbs!) and cereal (400 boxes!), which have been a real treat to be able to provide to families. We are extremely grateful for the provision that shows up. *(Please see the grey box for our current food pantry needs.)*

Opportunities to Serve

As fall activities start to pick up, we have heard from many of you asking about volunteer opportunities with Friendship House. Believe us, there are plenty of ways to help! Here is a quick listing of our current, most pressing needs:

- On Wednesdays, from noon until about 1:00, we need a volunteer who will go with another of our regular volunteers to deliver approximately 5 boxes of food to shut-ins.
- We could also use a pair of people who are available to be substitutes for delivery drivers to shut-ins on Wednesdays or Thursdays, noon-1:00pm.
- 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 and Thursdays, 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".

If any of these interest you, we'd love to chat! Please email us (fhroanoke@gmail.com) or call us (540-343-5437).

To the right: Some of our faithful volunteers help sort food for our food pantry



Introducing Katelyn!

Three weeks ago we welcomed our very first social work intern—Katelyn Dilcher from Liberty University! Katelyn is originally from Roanoke and attends Rainbow Forest Baptist Church. She is passionate about global missions and hopes to spend time working overseas one day. She enjoys playing volleyball and spending time on the Blue Ridge Parkway. She (and we) are very excited that she will be with us this fall! Katelyn has already jumped right in and is an invaluable part of the ministry at Friendship House. She graduates from Liberty in the spring of 2021.



**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,

Aaron & Faith Doud

WMU NEWS FOR CHILDREN'S EVENT

Howdy do, yall! Sept 26 was a perfect day for a children's round-up. The Associational WMU of Roanoke Valley held a children's event with, cowboy style with 31 in attendance; 13 children, 8 parents, 10 volunteers which included guest speaker Tana Adams, sharing garden ministry at Bonsack Baptist Church. Pat Carter from the Keystone Community Center shared the story of the Runaway Pumpkin in a makeshift pumpkin patch and challenged all to run towards Jesus not away. The children's mission project was to make Thank You cards for Keystone Community Center. Susan and Steve Bandy graciously brought their truck full of hay bales for hay ride all around Ward Haven. Lots of games and a scavenger hunt was also a part of the event. Thanks to all who helped and donated their time to make the event a success. Enjoy the pictures.

