

WMU Fall Missions Celebration

March 23, 2026

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church



- We are passionate about the lost.
 - We are compelled by love.
 - We are generous in sharing.
- We serve with great delight (joy).

“Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

(1 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV)

RVBA WMU Spring Missions Celebration
March 23, 2026
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

- Prelude Amy Duffy (Mt. Pleasant)
- Call Order Shirley Mullins, RVBA WMU Director (Troutville)
- Welcome and Devotion Rev. Levi Halye, Associate Pastor (Mt. Pleasant)
- Recognition of Missionaries and Pastors Kathryn Sowers (Vinton)
- Financial – Budget and ByLaw changes Kathryn Sowers (Vinton)
- SWVA Partnership Mission Trip Report Fleta Dillon (Connelly Memorial)
- Hymn for the Hurting Rev. Dr. Connie Cruze, Assoc. Pastor/Minister of Music (Melrose)
Accompanied by Teresa Wallace
- Election of Officers and Consultants Fleta Dillon (Connelly Memorial)
- Installation and Prayer Dr. Bethany Warren Hunter, Executive Director/Treasurer
of HerMissionVA
- Recognition of Abigail Girls Diane Shepherd (Cooper’s Cove)
Luna Hartsfield, Esther Hipes, and Brianna Stokes (Bonsack Baptist Church)
- Prayer Calendar Marcia Richardson (First Roanoke)
- Offering Recommendation and Prayer Kathryn Sowers (Vinton)
- Special Music Ethan Exline and Heather Wiggins (Mt. Pleasant)
- Introduction of Speaker Melissa Gibson, RVBA WMU Director Elect
- Guest Speaker Dr. Bethany Warren Hunter, Executive Director/Treasurer
of HerMissionVA
- Hymn - “ Let Others See Jesus In You” Rev. Dr. Connie Cruze (Melrose)
Accompanied by Teresa Wallace
- Closing Comments Shirley Mullins, RVBA WMU Director (Troutville)
and Melissa Gibson, **new** RVBA WMU Director
- Benediction Rev. Levi Halye, Associate Pastor (Mt. Pleasant)
- Postlude Amy Duffy (Mt. Pleasant)

The RVBA WMU Leadership Team would like to thank Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church for hosting our 2026 RVBA WMU Spring Missions Celebration. We appreciate your hospitality and faithfulness in serving the Lord.

Per request from Dr. Bethany Warren Hunter, Executive Director/Treasurer of HerMission, the RVBA WMU Leadership Team is recommending that the offering taken up tonight be given to the HerMissionVA treasury for staff expenses as they travel to churches to speak.

Dr. Bethany Warren Hunter Bio

Dr. Bethany Warren Hunter is the Executive Director/Treasurer of HerMission and has a long history in WMUV and BGAV life. Born into the congregation at Providence Baptist Church in Red House, VA, she began her WMUV journey as a Mission Friend and GA at Sycamore Baptist Church in Franklin, VA, and enjoyed spending summers at Camp Little Cross Roads. As a teen, she was a camp counselor there and also spent time with her youth missions group in ImpACT Virginia. Throughout college, she was an active member of the Baptist Campus Ministries at the University of Virginia and Longwood University, and spent summers on the ImpACT Virginia team, serving at Metro Baptist Church in New York City, assisting with the Baptist World Alliance Youth Conference in Hong Kong, and serving as a summer youth intern in Smithfield, VA. More recently, Bethany has been an Abigail Girl mom and member-at-Large on the WMUV Board of Trustees.

Dr. Hunter earned her B.S. Degree from Longwood University and began her 10-year education career teaching middle school in Appomattox, VA in 2005. While teaching, she earned a Master of Education and then a Doctorate of Education from the University of Virginia, and in 2014 moved to the high school to teach English. From 2019 to 2025, Dr. Hunter served as a high school Administrator.

Bethany is married and has three children ranging in age from ten to fifteen. She lives on a century farm in Red House, VA and is an active member of Grace Hills Baptist Church in Appomattox where she has served on various committees, was ordained as a deacon, and rings handbells.

Bethany is the very proud daughter of former BGAV President, the late Dr. M. Reginald Warren, And WMUV President Lucianne Warren. She is looking forward to engaging with women across the state as HerMission looks toward the future.

Hymn for the Hurting:

God is Calling Through the Whisper

(sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

God is calling through the whisper
Of our neighbor's urgent prayers:
Through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing,
Strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling, can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?

God is calling through the music
Of sublime and human arts:
Through the hymns of earth and angels,
And the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing,
Days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling, and we hear!
God is calling, and we hear!

Parting Hymn:

Let Others See Jesus in You

While passing through this world of sin,
And others your life shall view—
Be clean and pure without, within,
Let others see Jesus in you.
Let others see Jesus in you.
Let others see Jesus in you!
Keep telling the story;
Be faithful and true,
Let others see Jesus in you.
WHAT JOY 'twill be at set of sun
In mansions beyond the blue
To find some soul that you have won,
Let others see Jesus in you.
Let others see Jesus in you!
Keep telling the story;
Be faithful and true,
Let others see Jesus in you.

RVBA WMU Monthly Emphasis

January – BookNet

February – SWVA Partnership Mission Trip - Nickelsville, VA

March – North American Missions Emphasis – Annie Armstrong Offering

April - Truck Stop Ministry

May - Annie Mae Broyles Offering

June – ImPACT Virginia

July – Standing Rock Missions

August – Local Mission Centers

September – State Missions Emphasis – Alma Hunt Offering

October – The Least of These Ministries

November - WMU World Day of Prayer

December – International Missions Emphasis – Lottie Moon Offering

Prayer Calendar for March 23, 2026

North American Mission Board:

Georgia: John Cuentes Garces

Louisiana: Deanna Corbett

Ohio: Jeramy McDaniel

Tennessee: Judy Hansard

International Mission Board:

American Peoples: Ann Boyter,
Ronda Massey and Tammy Richardson

Central Asian Peoples: BF

Northern African and Middle Eastern

Peoples: SR

South Asian Peoples: MH

Chaplains * Volunteers

State Convention Missionaries

Retired NAMB:

Missouri: Judith Worley

South Carolina: Carole Fairbanks

Retired IMB:

Wayne Brinkley

John Brown

Debbie Harrison

DM

Jeri Moore

Wayne Pennell

Robert Shehane

Information of Missionary Resources in the Valley

Pat Carter m spatatbcc@gmail.com
(540) 342-8452 (540) 330-6263
Keystone Community Center
P O Box 13042
Roanoke, VA 20030

Faith & Aaron Dowdy aaron@friendshiphouseroanoke.org
540-343-5437 faith@friendshiphouseroanoke.org
Friendship House
635 Elm Avenue
Roanoke, VA 24016

Thomas High topdhigh@gmail.com Retired IMB Missionary
Danette High dwisemanh@yahoo.com Retired IMB Missionary

Steve & Barbara Manuel
103 Tree Swallow Drive
Vinton, VA 24179

Jim and Marcia Richardson walimu@pobox.com
540-556-5242

Dr. Jeff Ritchey Former IMB Missionary
306 Hunters Creek Road jeff.ritchey6@gmail.com
Forest, VA 24551
434-485-6137

Rev. Bill Wakefield Retired IMB Missionary
Glebe Adult Center
200 Glebe Blvd., Apt. 4031
Daleville, VA 24083

Phil and Jeannie Wakefield wakelikechoc@gmail.com
540-685-0985

Roanoke Valley WMU

2026 Budget

The PURPOSE of our associational WMU is to provide leadership, to inform, to grow, to involve, and to network with all ages in mission education and awareness.

Our Budget consists of the following divisions:

\$ 800 Meetings (February Focus, Spring, Fall, and World Day of Prayer)

Pay costs incurred for speakers, childcare, meals (missionaries and program personalities) and supplies for meetings.

\$ 1,000 Training

* Provide yearbooks for leadership team members.

* Pay for 1/3 of the team to attend training at Crossroads Camp & Conference Center with our Director. (Team members will be encouraged to attend once during their three year term.)

* Provide training for church WMU leaders.

\$ 2,100 Growth Involvement

* Adults - \$200

* Youth - \$800

* Children - \$800

* Preschool - \$300

\$ 700 Correspondence (information shared)

* Provide \$30 to each Area Group Leader, Treasurer, and Secretary
\$100 to Director for printing/paper costs.

*Postage for Spring and Fall mailings

\$ 1,200 Mission in Action

* Fund new and ongoing projects

* Fund costs of networking and involvement

\$ 1,000 Recognition

* Pay for meals at Fall Meeting for pastors and spouses, missionaries, Abigail Girls, leadership team

\$ 50 Contingency

\$ 500 Administrative/Professional Fees

Tax Preparation Fees/Legal Fees, Flowers, etc.

\$ 500 Grant Funds

Grants to assist Church's/Groups for Mission Outreach

\$ 7,850 Total 2026 Budget

RVBA WMU Calendar 2026

March

23 RVBA WMU Spring Mission Celebration – Mt. Pleasant Baptist

April

24-26 Mom & Me Weekend Conference for Elem. Girls – Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
28 Roanoke Valley Baptist Association Spring Meeting – Oakland Baptist

May

2 RVBA WMU Leadership Team Meeting – 10:00 AM – Melrose Baptist

June

15-20 Girls Week at Cross Roads Camp
22-25 RVBA WMU Children’s Camp – Ward Haven

July

11 RVBA WMU Leadership Team Meeting - 10:00 AM - Melrose Baptist
29-31 Adventure Boys and Family Camp Week
Standing Rock Mission Teams

August

1-31 Christmas in August – help our NAMB missionaries- more info can be found at
<https://wmu.com/missions-discipleship/christmas-in-august/>
23 Global Hunger Day

September

13-20 Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions
28 RVBA WMU Fall Celebration – TBD

October

17 RVBA WMU Leadership Team Meeting – 10:00 AM – Melrose Baptist
WMU Children’s Event – Date and Place TBD
27 Roanoke Valley Baptist Association Fall Meeting

November

2 Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer – Troutville Baptist
Women’s Get-Away – Eagle Eyrie Conference Center - Date TBD
16-23 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Week
11/30-12/7 IMB Missions Emphasis – Lottie Moon Offering

RVBA WMU AREA GROUP LEADERS AND CHURCH GROUPS

<p><u>Area I: Marv Gilley 529-6698</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bethel 2. Connelly Memorial 3. Enon 4. Green Ridge 5. Hollins Road 6. Journey 7. Layman 8. Melrose 9. North Roanoke 10. Oakland 11. Preston Oaks 12. Riverdale 	<p><u>Area II: Della Hylton 254-1825</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arcadia 2. Buchanan 3. Cave Rock 4. Cedar Bluff 5. Daleville 6. Eagle Rock 7. Fincastle 8. Forest Grove 9. Lithia 10. Longdale 11. Mill Creek 12. Springwood 13. Troutville 14. Zion Hill
<p>2818 Emissary Drive Roanoke, VA 24019 <u>angelclkr@aol.com</u></p>	<p>PO Box 183 Buchanan, VA 24066</p>
<p><u>Area III: Judy Tear 427-5482</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belmont 2. CommUNITY 3. Craig Valley 4. Fort Lewis 5. Mount Pleasant 6. Mountain Pass 7. Pleasant Hill 8. Salem 9. West Salem 	<p><u>Area IV: Susan Bandy 384-6263</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Big Spring 2. Catawba Valley 3. Central 4. Faith 5. Fellowship Community 6. Grandin Court 7. New Century 8. Radiance 9. Red Hill 10. Ridgewood 11. Windsor Hills
<p>1920 Mayfield Drive Roanoke, VA 24014 <u>jtear@netzero.net</u></p>	<p>3838 Bradshaw Road Salem, VA 24153 <u>schurse@msn.com</u></p>
<p><u>Area V: Diane Shepherd 798-9165</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bonsack 2. Coopers Cove 3. Garden City 4. Lynn Haven 5. Midland 6. Redemption 7. Seventeenth Street/Access 8. Villa Heights 9. Vinton 10. Waverly Place 	<p><u>Area VI: Carolyn Vaughn 416-3299</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cave Spring 2. Crystal Spring 3. First (Roanoke) 4. Gravel Hill 5. Haran 6. Heights Community (VA Heights) 7. Living Water 8. Mayflower Hills 9. Riverland Road 10. Rosalind Hills
<p>55 Overlook Road Hardy, VA 24101 <u>dsva54@aol.com</u></p>	<p>PO Box 113 Troutville, VA 24175 <u>Lhfaninva@gmail.com</u></p>

These group leaders keep in touch with the WMU leaders or contact persons in each of our churches. They send the information and inform them of all happenings. **If you have recently become your church's WMU leader, please contact your Area Group Leader to begin receiving information. We wish to keep all churches informed and involved.**

Upcoming Events

A mission opportunity will be coming to our area **August 1-3, 2026**. It has been confirmed that the Brazilian Soccer Missions team will be returning this summer. If your group would like to help provide and serve lunches, support for check in's each day and other opportunities to be involved in this ministry, **contact Steve Dalton** at coachsteve4life@gmail.com . More details and flyer will be forthcoming.

ADVENTURE DAYS & FAMILY CAMP

Wednesday, July 29, 2026, 2:00 PM

-

Friday, July 31, 2026, 11:00 AM

CrossRoads

2247 Little Piney Road, Lowesville,
VA, 22967

This 3 day/2 night experience is a great opportunity to introduce your church, friend group, or family to CrossRoads summer camp ministry and to offer younger children a camp experience.

Family Camp Cost: \$180/person; includes lodging, meals, all activities, and a camp t-shirt. Children under 8 are half price, and children under 3 are free.

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Needed:

**Host church to sponsor our WMU Fall Missions Celebration on
September 28, 2026**

(Contact Melissa Gibson at 540-874-6438 or email mgbh71@gmail.com)

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Mark your calendars

Nov. 2, 2026 - World Day of Prayer – Troutville Baptist – details to come

Mar. 22 , 2027 - RVBA WMU Spring Missions Celebration – Troutville Baptist

RVBA WMU

Lila Gilmer Scholarship

University of Richmond



The RVBA WMU sponsors the Lila Gilmer Scholarship which is awarded each year to a deserving student who has been accepted to attend the University of Richmond and must be an affiliate of a Baptist Church. We have been informed that the amount budgeted for the 2026 scholarship is \$3,290.00 (based on the interest earned each year).

Applicant's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ (Home) _____ (Cell)

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s) _____

Address _____

Father's Occupation _____

Mother's Occupation _____

Sibling(s) Name(s) _____

COMPONENTS OF APPLICATION

1. A one-page written statement of your educational goals
2. A resume of your school activities
3. A resume of your community activities and employment
4. Three letters of recommendation
5. A transcript of course work

Deadline to apply: April 15, 2026

Mail completed form and requested information to:

Mary Gilley
2818 Emissary Drive
Roanoke, VA 24019

Questions call 540-529-6698

RVBA WMU

Southwest Virginia Mission Trip Report

(March 1 – March 5, 2026)

Since 2004, our RVBA WMU has been involved in serving those who live in Southwest Virginia. This began with an opportunity to give books to students during the summer and has grown to be the SW Virginia Mission trip that we know today. We serve with others through the Southwest Virginia Partnership.

It was in 2009 that three Baptist Associations (Clinch Valley, Powell River, & Wise) and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) founded the Southwest Virginia Partnership Inc. God then provided a location for the ministry - "The Manor." Later that year, Jan and Tony Johnson were led to become missionaries in residence and coordinate the mission teams. By spring of 2010, the first mission teams began arriving and engaging in ministry and mission outreach in the region. Since then, hundreds of volunteers from all around Virginia have shared Christ's love with residents.

Our RVBA WMU Team is blessed to be able to serve through this organization and assist families. We are the only group working with the SW VA Partnership that emphasizes the importance of reading and the only ones to give books to children. The financial support for this ministry to our neighbors comes from registration fees of participants, WMU groups, individuals, and a few churches in the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association.

Our 2026 RVBA team had 43 members who came from 12 churches from across the Roanoke Valley. These churches included: Bonsack, Buchanan, Catawba Valley, Connelly, Cooper's Cove, Lithia, Lynn Haven, Melrose, Mill Creek, Ridgewood, Troutville, and Fincastle Methodist. This mission week is led by our associational WMU and funded through donations given by our churches and individuals.

Once again work was done in Scott, Lee and Russell Counties and included these ministries:

BookNet While in SW VA, this busy team visited and read to students (from Preschool – Grade 7) in 8 schools (about 1600 students). They gave cloth ditty bags filled with health supplies to most of the students. These ditty bags were sewn by many across our association and become keepsakes for the children long after the toiletries are gone. In addition to in-school visits, the team dropped off books at five different schools. Throughout their four days of visiting schools, the BookNet Team gave away over 6000 books! They were also able to offer and give Bible storybooks and Bibles to students who wished to have them.

Construction Missionary Tony Johnson organizes and purchases the materials for the construction work that is done by our volunteers. This year workers replaced floors in two manufactured homes. This was often painstakingly slow work. A porch and steps were also added to the front of one of the homes. Deserving homeowners request help with repairs from the SW VA Partnership and are often on the list for 2 years before teams are able to assist. Our construction teams are more skilled than some who come and projects are chosen accordingly.

SCMA Scott County Ministerial Association Food Pantry Missionary Jan Johnson supervises and plans the work that is done at the food pantry. Volunteers from the RVBA worked two days at this Gate City facility. They met and served 85 families. Much work was done behind the scenes.

- 396 bags of USDA food were packed and stored on the shelves.
- 100 produce bags were filled.
- 80 bags of frozen foods were packed.
- Diapers were counted and coffee was measured and readied for distribution.

Nursing Home Ministry Plans were in place to visit the Nova Health and Rehab Center in Weber City, but at the last minute those were canceled due to health concerns. This ministry has not taken place since Covid, but plans are in place to visit in 2027.

Much work is done behind the scenes to assure that the work of these ministry groups is accomplished. In Nickelsville, the **Prep Team** packed over 1500 ditty bags that were given to students. In advance, toiletry supplies had been ordered and ditty bags had been sewn. That first week of March, others on the Prep Team ensured that all the BookNet Teams had the books, Bible storybooks and Bibles that were needed each day. Prior to the arrival in Nickelsville, volunteers had worked countless hours to review, label, count and pack books in the appropriate grade level boxes.

The **Cooking Team** labored to prepare and serve delicious meals to the entire team. They prepared breakfast, lunch and dinner that were enjoyed at the Manor. They also packed lunches for the Construction Team each day. Everyone was well fed!

This trip to visit our neighbors in Southwest Virginia is a testimony to cooperative missions. We can do so much more together than we can do alone! There is great value in returning to the same place year after year. Relationships are built and trust is strengthened. Partnerships prove that we are stronger when we work together!

Plans are already in motion for next year. Mark your calendar for February 28th through March 4th. Maybe God will call you to be a part of the 2027 SW VA Mission Team!

RVBA WMU Children's Camp

Date: June 22 – 25, 2026

Location: Ward Haven Camp, 4048 Bugle Lane, Salem, VA 24153

Theme: Road Trip to Faith

Grades: completed 2nd – 8th in current year

Cost: \$100 per child \$50 per teen

Our campers will be enjoying lots of fun activities such as Bible study, music, drama, crafts, watersports, campfires, testimonies from missionaries, and so much more. We look forward to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with your children. Asheley Shepherd is the Camp Director. If you need additional information or have questions, please send an email asheleyksheherd@yahoo.com. A flyer and registration forms can be found on the rvba.org website under WMU.



635 Elm Avenue, SW Roanoke, VA 24016
540-343-5437 \ friends@friendshipouseranoke.org
www.friendshipouseranoke.org

Spring is here! As we consider the prior year, while looking at 2026 and beyond, we are thankful for God's provision. We are also grateful for the faithfulness & generosity of local churches throughout the Roanoke Valley. These past 6+ years as a non-profit have shown us plenty of signs of grace!

- Our Good Neighbor Refugee Program provides safe & secure housing for families fleeing war, violence or persecution. This spring we also have men's and women's English classes in operation. Through this ministry and our church partnerships, we are able to serve close to 100 men & women from around the world!
- Our Talitha Koum After-School Program has 24 children that attend each day. It is such a blessing to be able to minister to kids from all walks of life—American kids, as well as kids from Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Brazil and Haiti. This year we have been walking through the Bible from start to finish with them.
- This spring we're holding Jobs for Life classes for our families who struggle with unemployment or underemployment. This ministry empowers our marginalized neighbors with job readiness & training in Biblical stewardship.
- This semester we have been blessed with 4 interns from Liberty University and Roanoke College! They have been a huge help to us and we've enjoyed pouring into them.



Why Govan???

We asked this question often. Here are 3 (of several) reasons we give:

- Scotland was once known as the “Land of the Book” after its devotion to God’s Word. Glasgow itself was a home to great gospel ministry as it had the motto of “Let Glasgow Flourish by the preaching of thy Word, and the praising of thy name.” However, over the Centuries the church in Scotland has largely diminished to the point now where scores of church buildings are sitting empty or are being turned into apartments or museums. Now, for the first time, the majority of Scots consider themselves unreligious or atheist.
- The picture is even bleaker once you get in schemes like Govan. Schemes in Scotland are largely marked by generational poverty, addiction, broken families, and domestic violence. And crucially, many schemes simply do not have a gospel-preaching church within it, which accounts for the reason why many schemes have less than 1% of the population attending church. *Whole generations are living and dying without any access to the gospel.*
- Lately we’ve been meditating on Paul’s greeting to the Roman church. In verse 5 he describes his aim in establishing churches and spreading the gospel by saying that he is called “to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations.” Paul’s concern in everything he did as a church-planting missionary was for God’s glory to be known.

So when you consider these 3 facts, the question for us then shifts from “Why Govan?” to “Why NOT Govan?” God has richly blessed the Roanoke Valley with many gospel churches proclaiming the glory of God while many of the schemes of Scotland have no church present.

Partnership Opportunities

45 New Partners Can Close the Gap!

This month leading up to Easter, we are making a push to close the gap with as many new partnerships as possible. We will be sharing some more regular prayer updates and facts about Govan over these next weeks.

In February we were blessed to be able to form 5 new partnerships. We also have a couple of churches that are considering partnering with us. We're so excited to be nearly halfway to our goal and are hoping, Lord-willing, to move to Scotland this summer.

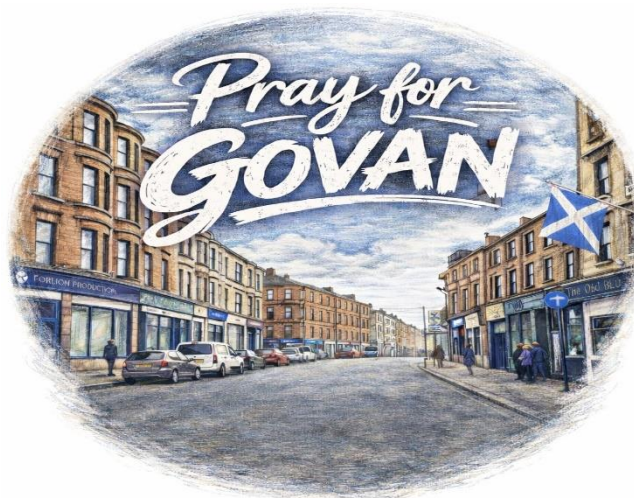
In order to make up the remaining 55% of our budget, we estimate that 45 new monthly supporters will close that gap. We invite you to prayerfully consider whether you might join us as one of those new 45 partners.

Please give us a call and we will share how to make a partnership possible. Donations can be made out to "20schemes" and mailed to: 20schemes, PO Box 1491, Bardstown, KY, 40004. (Be sure to write "Aaron & Faith Dowdy" in the memo.)

Pray with us!

There is a lot that has to happen before we are able to leave. Here are some ways you can labor with us in prayer:

- Friendship House has begun the interview process to find Aaron's replacement for the Executive Director. Pray for wisdom and unity through this process.
- We have started talking to realtors as we consider what to do with our house.
- Pray that God would give Eliza, Jesse, Naomi, and Oswald abundant grace in this process. Pray that he would give them a growing affection for Jesus.
- Pray for David and Diane Childs as they continue to labor in the scheme of Govan. As they wait our arrival, pray that the outreach groups David has started will bring about gospel fruit.
- Pray for our oldest child, Silas, as he continues to serve 20schemes and Grace Church Orkn





**KEYSTONE
COMMUNITY CENTER**

I want thank all the WMU groups who have supported the Keystone ministry throughout the many years. The name for so many of these groups have changed from WMU to Adults on Mission, Women with a Vision, and many others but they all focus on ways to share Christ.

Some dates to Remember:

March 27-April 6 closed

April 9-adult Bible study starts back through June 4th

April 16- we go to Coopers Cove to participate in their slot car race

April 21-closed Election day

May 1-July 30 school supply collection

May 17- Volunteer Desert Reception 2-4pm (call for info)

May 20- Vegetable sale 4:30pm to 6:30pm

May 23- 11yr 5k Run/Walk sign up on line or in person.

May 25- closed

June 2- graduation & ice cream social for prek & after school 5th graders 4pm

June 3- Vegetable sale 4:30 to 6:30pm

June 4 -last day of school

June 8-10 Melrose VBS

June 15 -19 First Roanoke VBS

June 22- 25 Childrens WMU overnight camp (\$100 sponsorship needed for 6 children)

June 29 – July 3 closed

July is not planned yet and more vegetable sales will be added

July 25- Motorcycle Ride fundraiser (Ride to Read sponsors after school)

July 30-bookbag pick up

Aug 4- Volunteer training for all programs 9:30am to 12:30pm

Aug 11- Roanoke City and County Schools start back

Sept call for Holiday food boxes

Oct children's Fall festival watch for date

November 12 deadline to turn in Thanksgiving food box donations boxes given out

November 19

November 25 to 27 closed

December food box deadline December 10 boxes given out December 17, closed

December 18 to January 4, 2027

Some dates may change and new dates may be added please call for verifications and to make sure someone is in the building for deliveries

540 342 8452 or 540 330-6263

I am also available for speaking engagements and the Bible Playground is open for meetings and cookouts

Serving Christ

Pat Carter

Executive Director, Keystone Community Center

RVBA WMU Mission Projects for 2026-2027

Leaders are available to share with your church about these ministry opportunities.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer - Nov. 2, 2026

Location: Troutville Baptist Church

Opportunities to pray for needs of women around the world.

Contact:

Judy Deel (Mill Creek) (h) 540-473-2522 (c) 540-759-1914

Marcia Richardson (First Roanoke) (c) 540-556-5239

Ministry to Internationals/Refugees

This ministry will provide opportunities to assist refugees who are coming into the Roanoke Valley.

Contact:

Aaron & Faith Dowdy, Friendship House Roanoke, 540-343-5437 (O) 540-761-2361 ©

English as a Second Language

God can use us to change someone's life by helping them learn English by being an ESL teacher.

Contact:

Aaron & Faith Dowdy, Friendship House Roanoke, 540-343-5437 (O) 540-761-2361 ©

Human Trafficking

This ministry will address the issue of human trafficking in our community.

Contact:

Jeri Harris (Villa Heights) jeri@straightstreet.org (c) 540-206-7349

BookNet

This ministry project involves collecting new and gently used books for Pre-School – 8th Grade.

These are sorted, labeled, and boxed to be used for mission opportunities locally or for associational missions (Southwest Virginia/Nickelsville and Standing Rock). It is our desire that the children who receive the BookNet books will know that someone cares about them and loves them.

Contact:

Judy Deel (Mill Creek) (h) 540-473-2522 (c) 540-759-1914

Beth Hetherington (Cooper's Cove) (c) 540-597-0027

Jill Ferguson (Mill Creek) (c) 540-759-2503

Chronological Bible Storying

Telling Bible stories can help to communicate the gospel on the mission field, to children, and to non-English speaking adults in our community.

Contact:

Diane Shepherd (Cooper's Cove) DSVA540@aol.com (c) 540-721-6407

Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation Ministry

Since 2004, the RVBA has been involved in a ministry to Native Americans living on the reservation in North and South Dakota. Weeklong mission trips have helped to strengthen relationships and foster opportunities to share the love of Christ with others.

Contact:

Mission Centers

Begun over 80 years ago by a group of committed Baptist women, Baptist Mission Centers have continuously served the people of inner-city Roanoke. Our two mission centers, Friendship House Roanoke and Keystone Community Center, seek to be the presence of Christ for residents of our city who undergo unique and difficult challenges every day.

Contact:

Pat Carter – Keystone Community Center, 101 17th Street, SE, Roanoke, VA 24013
Office # 540-330-6263

Aaron & Faith Dowdy – Friendship House Roanoke, 635 Elm Ave, SW, Roanoke, VA 24016 -
540-343-5437 (O) 540-731-2361 ©

Scholarship –University of Richmond

The Lila Gilmer Scholarship is available to a graduating senior who has been accepted by the University of Richmond. The scholarship amount is budgeted for \$3,290 in 2026.

Contact:

Mary Gilley (Melrose) angelcltr@aol.com (c)540-529-6698

Southwest Virginia Partnership - Feb. 28 – March 4, 2027

An annual mission trip sponsored by the WMU which encourages churches in the RVBA to work together to meet the needs of our fellow Virginians. Projects involve construction, distribution of Bibles, children's books and ditty bags with personal care items, food pantry work, and other ministries as needed.

Contact:

Fleta Dillon (Connelly Memorial) fletad@hotmail.com (c) 540-580-4377

Mary Gilley (Melrose) angelcltr@aol.com (c) 540-529-6698

RVBA WMU Children's Missions Camp - June 22 – 25, 2026

Plan a week of Missions Camp for children who have completed 2nd- 6th grade. Also, an opportunity for teens to serve as counselors. Camp will include worship, Bible study, missionary speakers, mission projects, crafts, recreation, music, puppets, and drama.

Contact:

Asheley Shepherd asheleyskshepherd@yahoo.com (c) 540-759-8006

WMU News/Information

News of the work of the WMU is published in an e-mailed version of the FOCUS, the RVBA's quarterly newsletter. Call the office to find out when newsletter needs information.

Contact:

Sandy Sloane (Melrose) sanny610@aol.com (c) 540-293-0148

On-Going Ministries

GraceInside

GraceInside is Virginia's prison chaplain service provider. The Chaplains are licensed or ordained ministers from various denominations. They receive specialized training for their unique ministry setting. Chaplaincy in prison includes one-on-one pastoral care, leading worship services, coordinating volunteers, supporting correctional staff, and overseeing all religious programming.

GraceInside has provided Chaplains for Virginia's correctional facilities since 1920, when the organization was founded by seven Christian denominations. Virginia is unique in that its prison Chaplains are not employees of the state. Over the years they have received support from various faith communities who are seeking to "remember those in prison."

Financial donations may be sent to: GraceInside 2828 Emerywood Parkway Henrico, VA 23294
Contact (804) 358-7650 or email: mail@graceinside.org for more information.

Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women has a HUGE Christmas toiletry kit drive, greeting card/Christmas card and stationery drive each year. Even though these efforts are focused on the period leading up to Christmas, many donors are giving at other times of the year. All items need to be mailed or delivered to Effort Baptist Church at 7820 Thomas Jefferson Parkway, Palmyra, VA 22963. The church office is open 9 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday and their phone number is 434-589-8962 (option 1). If you are delivering donations and the office is closed, please contact Silva Quick (434-589-7214) or Ann Cagel (434-989-4481), who live near the church.

The Least of These (Ministry to Roanoke's Homeless)

This past year has brought much growth, many lessons and tremendous support from a most compassionate community. The lives of Roanoke's homeless have been impacted positively.

Our 2025 ministry in review:

- * 9,591 meals were served to those residing on the streets of our valley.
- * 3,886 showers were provided to those without homes.
- * 1,667 loads of laundry performed for those experiencing homelessness.
- * 6,377 pantry items distributed to our unsheltered friends.
- * 2,224 individuals provided with a warm night's sleep utilizing the warming bus when temperatures dropped below 40 degrees.
- * 63 guests were provided with transitional shelter utilizing the suites in the motel which was purchased and refurbished to help the homeless who needed a permanent address to receive mail and keep important papers.
- * 36 new lockers were provided the homeless
- * 13 people were permanently housed and provided with furnishings.

Contact Dawn Sandoval at 540-556-3200 or visit <http://www.theleastoftheseministry.org> for more information. You can also follow this ministry's FB page, The Least of These.

Pure Water, Pure Love

Since 1997, missionaries have relied on the generosity of God's people to provide clean water for themselves and those they serve. Our gifts to PWPL can provide water filtration devices to SBC missionaries throughout the world. More than 2000 requests for devices are received annually with the average cost being \$250. All water filtration projects through PWPL are funded solely by donations from individuals. Read more at www.wmu.com.

Operation Christmas Child - Collection dates November 16 – 23, 2026

Since 1993 more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries around the world have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes filled with new toys, school supplies, and other needs for the children are collected in November. OCC shoebox collection centers are at Bonsack Baptist, Lynn Haven Baptist, Mill Creek Baptist, and Lakeside Baptist. Contact: Laurie Fitzgerald, Area Coordinator or Jon Fitzgerald at evergreeninn24426@gmail.com or 540-968-1724 for more information.

Truck Stop Ministry

This ministry seeks to provide assistance and minister to truck drivers and their families at the Pilot Station off Interstate 81 at Ext 150. **You can be involved by:** purchasing pocket size New Testament Bibles and donating money for emergency aid and other ministry expenses (Checks payable to RVBA). For more information contact Dallas Norris at 540-520-4832.

Blue Ridge Women's Center

The Blue Ridge Women's Center is a Christian medical clinic specializing in unplanned pregnancies. Since 1984, they have served thousands of women – all completely free of charge. Tours of the center are available. BRWC has moved to their new location at 325 Elm Ave, SE, Roanoke, VA 24013 and is highly visible at the intersection of Elm Ave and I-581. How you can be involved: donating diapers, crib sheets, formula, car seats, clothes, etc., and participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign (Collection spare change in bottles supplied by the center.) Contact Lynette Mull, Development Director at lynettem@blueridgewoman.org or 540-362-3007 ext. 220 for more information.

Church Name	WMU/Mission Leader	Address	City & State & Zip	Phone	e-mail	Cell Phone
Arcadia	Elizabeth Petty	49 Chestnut Run Rd.	Buchanan, VA 24066	254-1992		
Belmont	WMU Missions Ldr	PO Box 3025	Roanoke, VA 24015	343-5539	info@belmontlife.org	
Bethel	Patsy Clark	318 Maple Street	Salem, VA 24153	580-9838	patsyclark98@gmail.com	
Big Spring	Jared Via	9135 Roanoke Road	Elliston, VA 24087			
Bonsack	Ann Nixon Debbie Bowling	370 Tinkerview Drive 5146 Britaney Road	Cloverdale, VA 24077 Roanoke, VA 24012	591-7483	Mamanix3va@gmail.com bowlingdr@msn.com	434-738-7707 797-4998
Buchanan	Della Hylton	P.O. Box 183	Buchanan, VA 24066	254-1825		588-0515
Catawba Valley	Karen Bedwell	12476 Catawba Road	Troutville, VA 24175	992-1131	kbedwell@lumos.net	312-6631
Cave Rock	Mary Beth Childers	4764 Nelms Lane, NE	Roanoke, VA 24019	366-6265	caverockbaptistchurch@gmail.com	
Cave Spring	Allen James	4873 Brambleton Ave SW	Roanoke, VA 24018	989-6136	ajames@csbcroanoke.com	
Cedar Bluff	Terry Link	26476 Lee Highway	Buchanan, VA 24066	254-2694	tlblink@hotmail.com	460-1777
Central	WMU Missions Ldr	5656 Starkey Road	Roanoke, VA 24014	989-8779		
CommUNITY	WMU Missions Ldr	1923 East Main St	Salem, VA 24153	389-2287	joinus@connectioncommunitychurch.org	
Connelly Memorial	Fleta Dillon	828 Brownwood Dr NW	Roanoke, VA 24017	563-4055	fletad@hotmail.com	580-4377
Cooper's Cove	Diane Shepherd	55 Overlook Road	Hardy, VA 24101		DSVA540@aol.com & Dshep540@gmail.com	798-9165
Craig Valley	Carol Looney	171 Salem Avenue	New Castle, VA 24127	864-5525	cvbc@tds.net	
Crystal Spring	Jeffrey Dickson	P.O. Box 8116	Roanoke, VA 24014		jrdickson@liberty.edu	
Daleville	WMU Missions Ldr	PO Box 195	Daleville, VA 24083	992-1570		
Eagle Rock	Nancy Ronk	PO Box 219	Eagle Rock, VA 24085	884-2996	nancyrnk1957@gmail.com	
Enon	Vicky Carrell	6927 Dallas Road	Roanoke, VA 24019	563-2517		
Faith	Cynthia McKinney	3770 Luther Drive	Salem, VA 24153	404-3320	sportsma03@gmail.com	520-9489
Fellowship Community	Kathy Walker	6311 Meachum Road	Salem, VA 24153	387-3200	kwalker@fcclife.org	
Fincastle	Katie Stutler	PO Box 707	Fincastle, VA 24090		katie@fincastlebaptist.org	
First Roanoke	Barbara Jirka	403 Stonehaven Lane	Blue Ridge, VA 24064	520-6397	bljbr@aol.com	
Forest Grove	Barbara Austin	131 Austin Lane	Eagle Rock, VA 24085	884-2349	bbaustin9@gmail.com	525-7644
Garden City	Lois Tarter	2340 Mayfield Drive	Roanoke, VA 24014		red91yota@aol.com	797-2323
Grandin Court	Melissa Kessler	2660 Brambleton Avenue, SW	Roanoke, VA 24015	774-1684 ext 118	melissak@grandincourt baptist.org	
Gravel Hill	Linda Waldron	3618 Eton Road	Hardy, VA 24101	890-5041		
Green Ridge	Rev. Frank Ellington	5521 Green Ridge Rd., NW	Roanoke, VA 24019	562-0225	fellington@greenridgebc.com	
Haran	Judy Moore	7647 Apple Grove Lane	Roanoke VA 2408	761-2823	Moore1235@aol.com	
Heights Community	Rev. Nelson Harris	2014 Memorial Avenue	Roanoke, VA 24015	344-7748	nharris@heightschurch.info	
Hollins Road	Carrie Tolley	5202 Huntridge Rd	Roanoke, VA 24012	556-0629	tolleycarrielynn@gmail.com	
Journey	Women's Ministry	3574 Read Mountain Road	Roanoke, VA 24019	966-5683		
Lithia	Rachel Ayers	1252 Wheatland Road	Buchanan, VA 24066	871-5665	rayers5665@yahoo.com	
Living Water	Sharon Jones Bergquist	1291 Windhurst Drive	Hardy, VA 24101		james.bergquist@yahoo.com	309-5676
Lynn Haven	Shirley Hall	1035 Almond Drive	Vinton, VA 24179	345-8611	sph1950@verizon.net	
Mayflower Hills	Women's Ministry	3652 Rutrough Road, SE	Roanoke, VA 24014	427-3101		
Melrose	Mary Gilley	2818 Emissary Drive	Roanoke, VA 24019		angelclctr@aol.com	529-6698

Midland	Drema Barlow	1270 Ruddell Road	Vinton, VA 24179	400-8432	coolmntnrain@cs.com	
Mill Creek	Judy Deel	2136 Blue Ridge Turnpike	Fincastle, VA 24090	473-2522	jldeel@rbnet.com	
Mineral Springs	Missions Leaders	1030 Bible Lane	Vinton, VA 24179	890-4465		
Mount Pleasant	Judy Tear	1920 Mayfield Drive	Roanoke, VA 24014	427-5482	jtear@netzero.net	
Mountain Pass	Mary Otey	1436 Gun Club Road	Roanoke VA 24017	986-0961	MEOMWO1234@gmail.com	
New Century	Sherry Holland	PO Box 6187	Roanoke, VA 24017	366-6111		
North Roanoke	Jenean Blackmon	28 Pondview Court	Daleville, VA 24083		mbkayla15@yahoo.com	843-687-0044
Oakland	Alma Lee Eden	3321 Preston Avenue, NW	Roanoke, VA 24012	366-7274	gal1920@cox.net	
Pleasant Hill	Anne Christensen			204-3101	christensenfive@aol.com	828-553-5050
Preston Oaks	Mildred Gilbert	164 Crittendon Ave. NE	Roanoke, VA 24012	366-6810		
Radiance	Evelyn Lewis	PO Box 12226	Roanoke, VA 24023	330-5455	sloell@cox.net	
Red Hill	Doris Harris	5068 Stable Road	Roanoke, VA 24014	774-8978	Dnr1934@cox.net	
Redemption	Carter Mundy	622 Campbell Avenue, SW	Roanoke, VA 24016		carter@redemptionroanoke.com	
Ridgewood	Susan Bandy Janice Bishop	3838 Bradshaw Road 5227 Victoria Street	Salem, VA 24153 Roanoke, VA 24017		scbnurse@msn.com jbmtwy@yahoo.com	384-6263 588-9578
Riverdale	Barbara Bouldin	209 E Virginia Avenue	Vinton, VA 24179	343-4362	barbbouldin@icloud.com	598-9833
Riverland Road	Virginia Austin	444 Riverland Road	Roanoke, VA 24014	427-4861	virginiamelvin@aol.com	
Rosalind Hills	Mission Leader	2712 Brandon Ave	Roanoke, VA 24015	344-7888	Douglas.Lidwell@RosalindHills.org	
Salem	Missions Leader	103 N. Broad Street	Salem, VA 24153	387-0416	salembaptist@salemabc.net	
17th Street/Access	Mission Leader	113 17 th Street, SE	Roanoke, VA 24013	871-9745	pastoraccess@gmail.com	
Springwood	Helen Coffey	11363 Blue Grass Trail	Eagle Rock VA 24085	884-2508		
Troutville	Rita Goodbar	1602 Haymakertown Road	Troutville, VA 24175	293-4554	nanabana818@gmail.com	
Villa Heights	Lisa Taylor	4080 Challenger Avenue	Roanoke, VA 24012	977-7305	office@villaheights.com	
Vinton	Juanita Barbour	539 Greenway Landing Pl.	Vinton, VA 24179	890-3168	carrie@vintonbaptistchurch.org	
West Salem	Melody Booker	611 Poplar Ave.	Salem, VA 24153	389-2490		795-0431
Windsor Hills	Patty Canady	4436 Grandin Road, Ext, SW	Roanoke, VA 24018	772-2638		354-9421
Zion Hill	Kathy McClung	140 Sugar Tree Hollow Rd	Eagle Rock, VA 24085	884-2839		589-1102

Updated 3/12/26

Contact Melissa Gibson if there are changes or corrections to your church mission contact information mgbh71@gmail.com or 540-874-6438