

Roanoke Valley Baptist Association

PO Box 7588, Roanoke, VA 24019

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rvba.office@gmail.com

THE FOCUS

April, May & June 2025 Issue ~ **Our Mission Statement:** “Building Partnerships for The Great Commission.”
Vision Statement: “We want to see local churches partner together to give our valley a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.”

The RVBA Spring Meeting will be held at Bonsack Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, - *Board of Directors Changed Date Due to EASTER WEEK.* Beginning at 6:00 pm with Mission Display Tables in the Lobby to share information and volunteer opportunities. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

This meeting will be both in-person and virtual. When your church sends in your messenger names, please let us know if your messengers will be attending in-person or virtually. There will be several items that will be reported on at the meeting which include:

RVBA Staff

Rev. Scott Hamilton
Interim Associational
Mission Strategist
pastorscotth@gmail.com

Mrs. Sandy Sloane
Office Manager/Treasurer
sanny610@aol.com

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Ritchey
Moderator
jeff.ritchey6@gmail.com

- **ReFOCUS Team Recommendation**
- **SWVA Mission Trip Testimony (Nickelsville)**
- **Mission Video – Annie Mae Broyles**
- **AMS Search Team Report**

The meeting will be Livestreamed through the RVBA Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/RVBAunited>.

You all can vote virtually by using the RVBA Facebook page chat feature. We will need to know names and church name when you are joining virtually. The program booklet for this meeting will be posted on the RVBA website (www.rvba.org) under RVBA Spring Meeting, as well as emailed to pastors as well as messengers. So please include email addresses if you would like them to receive the email. Please send messenger names and email addresses by Friday, April 25th! **You can email those to sanny610@aol.com.**

Help with ImPACT Virginia 2025

We are making plans to work with ImPACT Virginia again this summer. The dates are July 7-11, 2025, and we are looking for churches to help with lunches and other needs for the teams of teens and adults. These teams will be helping homeowners with projects and sharing the Gospel and the love of Jesus with their community. If you would be willing to help, please sign up using the following link: <https://forms.gle/WBCb7veNhxDPEycZ7>

Monthly Pastors/Staff Meetings

The RVBA has opportunities for pastors and staff to come together for prayer and fellowship. Our lunch meetings will be on the third Tuesday of each month at **12:00 Noon and will last no more than one hour.** We are working to have a speaker at each meeting that can share about their ministry that our churches can participate in or ways to help you and your ministry be more effective and healthy.

Weekly Pastors/Staff Prayer Meetings

The RVBA has opportunities for pastors and staff to come together for prayer and fellowship. Pastors and staff need to come together to pray, support, and encourage each other. Our prayer meetings are held every **Tuesday at 10:00 AM at Oakland Baptist Church.** The only exception is when we have the third Tuesday Pastor/Staff lunch. Please contact Scott Hamilton if you have any questions.

RVBA Serving Together

The RVBA Missions Development Team is working on developing a ministry called, “Serving Together” where one or more churches partner with local ministries and bless the community by meeting physical and spiritual needs. We are working with the following ministries: **Friendship House, Hope Tree, Keystone Center, Roanoke Rescue Mission and Solomons Mission.** We have made videos for these ministries and have posted them on our website and Facebook pages for churches that would like to volunteer. To see videos with detailed needs and contact information please click on the following link: <https://www.rvba.org/about-3>

RVBA Event Postings

All RVBA events will be posted on our event page on our website. We will also begin posting events on Facebook for people to keep up with everything that is going on with the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association. If you would like to post an event on the event page from your church or an RVBA group there is a request form to complete online, you may email the event or call Sandy Sloane at the office number, and we will gladly post your event. Here is the link to the online form: <https://www.rvba.org/contact-8>.

ReFOCUS Update

Mission Statement: “Building Partnerships for The Great Commission”

Vision Statement: “We want to see local churches partner together to give our valley a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.”

The ReFOCUS Team presented a final proposal to the RVBA Board and after revisions from the board, there is a written Final Presentation that will start to be presented to pastors and staff, and then to church leaders, and finally to the RVBA at the Spring Meeting at Bonsack Baptist on April 29, 2025. There will be informational meetings between the spring and fall meetings before a final vote on the presentation at the Fall Meeting on October 28, 2025.

Recommendation of ReFOCUS Team

This is a three-year plan to guide our RVBA member churches toward greater health and greater collaboration for a greater missionary impact. To accomplish this, we will need to update our organizational structure, our goals, and how we function. This process will be championed by the AMS.

The RVBA as a group will focus on planting churches, replanting, and revitalization of existing churches and supporting these churches with a 3–5-year commitment to support financially, prayerfully, resources, and with manpower to reach their community with the Gospel and begin to make disciples and grow the church.

A brief overview of this proposal is below, and the entire proposal will be emailed to pastors and staff in the first week of April. We will have a presentation and question and answer time at the pastor and staff lunch on April 15, 2025, at Oakland Baptist Church. We will also be hosting additional informational meetings throughout the year leading up to the vote at the 2025 Fall Meeting. We plan to present the full proposal at the 2025 Spring Meeting with a vote on the proposal at the 2025 Fall Meeting.

COOPERATE AND COMMIT

- Get input on a bold 3-year plan, focused on missions, from the RVBA Board and Staff.
- Get input on the 3-year plan, over the course of 3 months, from a group of our pastors.
- Identify a clear way to apply the vision with strategies and goals for the next three years.
- Agree to modify the structure of the organization to be more effective. This means updating the bylaws and the policies.

COLLABORATE IN CLUSTERS

Instead of having everything so centralized, the Association will operate more like a network.

- Partner all our member churches/pastors up into smaller cohorts. These will be based partly on geography but mostly on calling and mission.
- This will make these gospel partnerships quicker and more focused with deeper fellowship.
- Have these pastors meet monthly in their separate cohorts for the first three months to iron out the focus of their group. After that, each pastor could have their ‘champion’ from their church attend the meeting in their place if they choose.



For the past few years, Friendship House’s unofficial motto has been “Loving Neighbors. Walking with the Church.” We are very intentional about serving as a bridge between the local church and the community. We do this so that churches have the opportunity to be faithful to loving their neighbor and making disciples of all nations.

With the spring upon us, we have some exciting opportunities for the church to reach their neighbor. Check out some ideas below: • **Good Neighbor Refugee Program**—Does your church have a house or apartment that at one time was used for staff housing or a parsonage? Would you consider opening up the doors to allow a refugee family to temporarily stay there while they work to rebuild their lives? • **Talitha Koum Program**—We are looking for individuals, groups or families willing to invest one afternoon each week towards the children in our program. Lately our program has grown and now includes children from Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, Haiti, and Sudan. These children would love to have a reading buddy, someone to kick the soccer ball with, or someone to help serve snacks. • **MercyWorks Program**—Our food pantry is in desperate need of both canned goods and frozen meat. Is this something your family or small group can take on? • **Restoring Hope Program**—We are in need of mentors for our upcoming Jobs for Life and Faith & Finances classes. These are great ways to empower our neighbors with biblical principles! If you are interested in partnering with any of the ministries above, please reach out to us at 540-343-5437 or aaron@friendshiphouseroanoke.org. You can also find more info at www.friendshiphouseroanoke.org and on our Facebook page.



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After school putting labels in books for the RVBA Booknet, a little lamb found the bird feeder for letter B, after school making snow pictures, entry into the new Child/Adult Bible Playground

The Keystone Community Center has started 2025 off with a lot of activity!! Thank you WMU and AOM for your support and all the volunteers you have sent to help with our programs. Summer plans are being made, and we are looking for more volunteers to join us. 2 new programs are being expanded with the Backyard Garden program. The Kids Gardening will host a Kids’ Market 2 times a month to sell vegetables, and the Backyard Gardens will host Art in the Garden for an art exhibit in the fall. Eight gardens so far in 2025. You can be a part of this fun ministry if you call and volunteer to help.

\$50 sponsorship for the 5krun/walk needs to be turned in by April 20th to have your church or SS class or business name on shirts. You can sign up for the 5k online now to help us celebrate our 10-year anniversary. Due to so many factors the Adult Bible Study may be canceled June to end of August, but food bags will still be given out the last Thursday of month. Sponsorship for WMU Children’s Camp is \$75.

Volunteers needed for summer: Pre-k teacher and helper for 6 weeks starting in July - Mon, Tue & Wed from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Mission teams to fill in weeks we don’t have VBS, volunteer art teacher, possibly a paid position for a mature Christian Adult able to lead 20 children for summer camp.

Motorcycle Ride to Read July 26, 2025



KEYSTONE
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 PO BOX13042,
 ROANOKE VA 24030
 540-342-8452



Hiring a Mature
 Christian Adult for a
 Director position
 send Resume to:
 PO Box 13042,
 Roanoke VA 24030

Food preservation, Mites for Missions (dime collecting) and Jesus sits on a shelf watching us at all times.

Speakers are available for SS, meetings and events, call 540-342-8452, can leave a message.

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WMU Monthly Emphasis:

April – Truckstop Ministry
May – Annie Mae Broyles Offering
June – Standing Rock Missions

April 26 – RA Pinewood Derby

Bonsack Baptist Church
11 am – 3 pm
Contact: Bonsack Baptist with questions 540-977-5701.

WMU Children's Camp – July 21-24, 2025, for grades 2nd – 7th
If you pay for camp by May 31, it is \$75, in June or July it's \$100.
Questions contact by email: asheleykshepherd@yahoo.com or
call/text: Anthony Shepherd 540-988-3460.

CHURCH STAFF & OTHER NEWS

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

April 6 - Garden City ~ Brian Willard
April 13 – Grandin Court ~ Kevin Meadows
April 20 - Gravel Hill ~ Jason Bennett
April 27 - Green Ridge ~ Greg Moser
May 4 – Haitian Sinai ~ Castin Mesadieu
May 11 – Haran ~ Don Summerville
May 18 – Heights Community ~ Nelson Harris
May 25 – Hollins Road ~ Mark Washington
June 1 – Journey ~ Michael DuVal
June 8 – Lithia ~ Leonard Southern
June 15 - Living Water ~ James Bergquist
June 22 - Longdale ~ Grover Stevens
June 29 - Lynn Haven ~ Bryan Crouch

April 2025

8 – Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10 am)
10 – RVBA MDT, Zoom (7 pm)
15 – Pastors/Staff Lunch, Oakland (12 noon)
18 & 21 - RVBA Office Closed
20 – Easter
22 - Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10am)
25-26 – Mom & Me Camp, EE
26-27 - Mom & Me Camp, EE
29 – Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10 am)
29 – RVBA Spring Meeting, Bonsack (6:30 pm)
6 pm – Mission Display Tables

May 2025

Week of Prayer Annie Mae Broyles Month

1 – Program Committee, Zoom (10 am)
6 – Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10 am)
11– Mother's Day
13 – Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10 am)
20 – Pastors/Staff Lunch, TBA (12 noon)
20 – RVBA Finance, Oakland (3 pm)
26 – Memorial Day – RVBA Office Closed
27 – Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10 am)

June 2025

3 – Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10 am)
10 – Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10 am)
16-21 – WMU Girls Week at Camp Crossroads
17 – Pastors/Staff Lunch, TBA (12 noon)
19 – RVBA MDT, Zoom (7 pm)
24 – Pastors Prayer Meeting, Oakland (10 am)