

**Roanoke Valley Baptist Association**

**Spring Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026**



*I can do  
all things  
through  
Christ who  
strengthens me*

*- Philippians 4:13 -*

**Oakland Baptist Church**

**ROANOKE VALLEY BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING**

**APRIL 28, 2026 – 6:30 pm**

**Oakland Baptist Church**

**Prelude Music . . . . . Denis Looney**

**Welcome, Scripture & Prayer . . . . . Job Marquez**

**Theme: Come and See!**

**Theme Verse: Psalm 66:5**

**Congregational Music. . . . . Elizabeth Sweet**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee  
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

**Oakland Testimony . . . . . Mark Patterson**

**Interim AMS Presentation . . . . . Scott Hamilton**

**Mission Report from Nickelsville Mission Team . . . . . Dr. Connie Cruze  
Ed Miller**

**Christian Soldiers Food Pantry . . . . . Rayma Mills**

**Special Music . . . . . Elizabeth Sweet**  
*Thank You Jesus for the Blood*

**Introduction of Speaker . . . . . Job Marquez**

**Speaker . . . . . Ray Moore**

**Call the Meeting into Business session . . . . . Danny Quirin**

**Recommendation from RVBA Board . . . . . Susan Bandy**

**Special Prayer for RVBA . . . . . Dr. Bob Hetherington**

**Annie Mae Broyles Promotion Video**

**Congregational Music. . . . . Elizabeth Sweet**  
*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

**Closing Prayer . . . . . Jeff Reynolds**

**Appreciation to Host Church: We want to express appreciation to Oakland Baptist Church for serving as host church for the Spring Meeting of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association.**



**<https://www.facebook.com/RVBAunited>**

**RVBA Mailing Address : PO Box 7588, Roanoke VA 24019**

**Program Personalities:**

Susan Bandy (Ridgewood)  
Dr. Connie Cruze (Melrose)  
Dr. Bob Hetherington (Coopers Cove)  
Scott Hamilton, RVBA Interim AMS (Oakland)  
Denis Looney (Oakland)  
Job Marquez (Oakland)  
Ed Miller (Troutville)  
Rayma Mills – Christian Soldiers Food Pantry  
Ray Moore – Care Portal  
Mark Patterson (Oakland)  
Danny Quirin (Mill Creek)  
Jeff Reynolds (Midland)  
Elizabeth Sweet (Oakland)

**Upcoming RVBA Dates 2026:**

**Annie Mae Broyles Month of Prayer ~ May or August (or whatever month is best for your church)**

**WMU Children’s Missions Camp ~ Monday – Thursday, June 22-25 – Overnight Camp at Ward Haven Retreat Center for grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> --.** Cost is \$100.00 if paid by May 31, 2026, and \$125.00 if paid after May 31<sup>st</sup> . Registration form and camp flyer on [www.rvba.org](http://www.rvba.org) under WMU tab. Questions contact: [asheleykshepherd@yahoo.com](mailto:asheleykshepherd@yahoo.com) or call or text 540-759-8006.

**IMPACT Virginia in Roanoke ~ June 22-26 – if your church can help with lunches and other needs for the teams of teens and adults, sign-up using the following link: <https://forms.gle/fbRGYN6jK4fH9Cdx6>**

**RVBA Financial Statement - March 31, 2026**

Checking Account.....	\$59,936.05
Designated Funds.....	\$105,166.10
Endowment RVBA Office & Ward Haven .....	\$892,143.20
Endowment RVBA .....	\$341,570.22
Total Assets .....	\$1,398,815.57

**BUDGET SUPPORT BY CHURCHES**

**January - March 2026**

Arcadia	0.00	Journey	426.00
Belmont	75.00	Lithia	300.00
Bethel	0.00	Longdale	0.00
Big Spring	0.00	Lynn Haven	2,966.54
Bonsack	12,892.23	Mayflower Hills	0.00
Buchanan	746.67	Melrose	7,211.49
Catawba Valley	0.00	Midland	573.65
Cave Rock	1,115.56	Mill Creek	7,500.00
Cave Spring	0.00	Mineral Springs	0.00
Cedar Bluff	404.00	Mount Pleasant	920.05
Central	0.00	Mountain Pass	319.26
Conn. Memorial	75.84	New Century	0.00
Cooper's Cove	533.00	North Roanoke	0.00
Craig Valley	0.00	Oakland	0.00
Crystal Spring	450.00	Pleasant Hill	250.00
Daleville	0.00	Red Hill	0.00
Eagle Rock	0.00	Redemption	225.00
Enon	0.00	Ridgewood	200.00
Faith	368.86	Riverdale	0.00
Fellowship	0.00	Riverland Road	0.00
Fincastle	0.00	Roanoke, First	0.00
Forest Grove	1,500.00	Rosalind Hills	0.00
Garden City	207.83	17 <sup>th</sup> Street/Access	0.00
Grandin Court	0.00	Springwood	400.00
Gravel Hill	0.00	Troutville	1,011.18
Green Ridge	0.00	Villa Heights	300.00
Haitian Mission	0.00	Vinton	1,250.01
Haran	1,250.00	West Salem	0.00
Heights Comm.	0.00	Windsor Hills	0.00
Hollins Road	750.00	Zion Hill	0.00
		TOTAL	\$44,222.17

**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 2025 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 behind the scenes 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 4<sup>th</sup>. Maybe God will call you to be a part of the 2027 SW VA Mission Team!

Dear Roanoke Valley Baptist Association,

Thank you so much for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come to Southwest Virginia every March and bringing all the wonderful books, Bibles and hygiene bags to our students! We look forward to your visit each year and we are so thankful for all the love and support you give our children! Book Net is a wonderful ministry and we are blessed to be the recipients of it!

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus! May God pour out His blessings on you and your church families!

Sincerely,

*Gayle Ervin*

Gayle Ervin

Librarian, Hylton Elem. and Yuma Elem.

## RVBA Interim AMS Report – Spring Meeting 2026

This past year has been both a challenge and a blessing for the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association. While we have navigated seasons of transition and uncertainty, we have also witnessed God's faithfulness in bringing churches and ministries together for the advancement of the Gospel.

As we reflect, our strength continues to be rooted in cooperation. The call before us remains the same—to build meaningful relationships between our churches and ministry partners so that together we can effectively reach the Roanoke Valley with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### Key Accomplishments and Goals

**1. Nickelsville Mission Team** – We are grateful for the partnership and impact of the Nickelsville Mission Team. There were 43 volunteers and 12 churches this year. Their willingness to serve has strengthened our regional connections as they handed out Bibles and books and replaced floors for two families. They made a real impact.

**2. Supporting ImPACT Virginia Mission Teams** – Our association worked together to help feed and support ImPACT Virginia Mission Teams. This effort not only met practical needs but also created opportunities for encouragement, fellowship, and shared mission among volunteers serving across our region.

### 3. Focus Moving Forward:

**Revitalization and Replanting** – We have continued to prioritize church revitalization and replanting efforts. Many of our congregations are seeking renewed vision and health, and this focus is helping churches rediscover their mission, strengthen leadership, and re-engage their communities.

**Planting New Groups** – God is opening doors for new groups to be formed. These groups represent fresh opportunities to reach people who may not be connected to traditional church settings, allowing us to expand our Gospel footprint in the Roanoke Valley.

**Ongoing Mission Engagement** – Our churches remain committed to working together for local, domestic, and global mission efforts. Whether serving within our neighborhoods or across the world, this shared commitment reflects the heart of the Great Commission and strengthens our unity as an association.

### Looking Ahead

As we move forward, our priority is clear:

- Strengthen relationships among churches and leaders
- Encourage collaboration in ministry efforts
- Equip and support churches for effective Gospel engagement
- Continue fostering a culture of mission-minded cooperation

The opportunities before us are significant. By God's grace, and through continued partnership, we believe the Roanoke Valley can be reached more effectively than ever before. We cannot do this without continued cooperation among churches and staff.

### Closing Encouragement

Though the past year has presented challenges, it has also revealed the resilience and faithfulness of our churches. Let us continue to press forward together – united in purpose, committed to the Gospel, and expectant of what God will do next.

## COOPERS COVE BAPTIST CHURCH MISSION HOUSE

Coopers Cove Baptist Church owns a house that has been used for ministry (church staff housing, families who have suffered lost of their house by fire, etc.). Last year the church felt led by the Holy Spirit to make the house a “mission house.” The primary purpose is providing housing for missionaries serving on the foreign field while they are on “state assignment” or in the US for other reasons. Although the mission house is available for missionaries serving with several mission organizations, the church entered into an agreement with the National WMU to have the mission house placed on a secure website that IMB missionaries could access.

The mission house was unfurnished and needed to be updated for this purpose. As members of Coopers Cove Baptist Church began providing furniture and funds to do this, other churches and ministry organizations heard about the project and wanted to help. The RVBA provided a grant as well, for which we are thankful. A new refrigerator, washing machine, two toilets and one bathroom sink were purchased and installed.



The mission house is now ready for our first missionaries, who will arrive May 2, 2026, for a short stay. Two other missionary families are currently considering using the house during this summer for short stays.

WMU mission groups from two RVBA churches, have visited the mission house. To learn more about the mission house, help, and/or connect on behalf of a missionary family, contact Bob Hetherington (540-520-7273) [hoge1946@gmail.com](mailto:hoge1946@gmail.com).

**SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH CONFERENCE**  
Saturday, September 19, 2026, 8:30 am-3:00 pm  
at Coopers Cove Baptist Church  
1929 Coopers Cove Rd, Hardy, VA 24101

PURPOSE

The purpose of this conference is to help members/leaders of small membership churches better understand the characteristics of the small membership church, encourage them and provide guidance related to effective service in such a church.

FORMAT

The format of the conference includes five sessions (Effective Leadership, Corporate Worship Service, Fellowship and Member Care, Mission and Ministry, and Teaching and Discipleship). Each session will be facilitated by a presenter who has had experience serving in a small membership church and understands how to serve effectively in that setting. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attendees for the conference or lunch; however, registration is required so that adequate resources can be prepared for each attendee. To register, send name, phone number and e-mail address of each attendee to Bob Hetherington ([hoge1946@gmail.com](mailto:hoge1946@gmail.com)). Put “Small Membership Church Conference” in the subject line.

MEMBERSHIP SIZE AND EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

Probably, you have noticed that this is not called the “Small Church Conference.” There is a reason for that! Some may assume that church size determines the quality, importance and impact of church ministry. That may be true in some cases; however, that does not have to be nor is it true as an overall characteristic.

Aaron Earls (a Lifeway researcher) reports that 50% of U.S. churches have approximately 65 or fewer weekly worship attendees. By experience, you are aware of some of the characteristics, challenges, factors, disadvantages, advantages and opportunities related to a small membership church. By design, this conference is being held at Coopers Cove Baptist Church, a small membership church.

A small membership church may think that they are in some way underpowered, unequipped and lacking in resources because of their size and/or situation; however, the Holy Spirit is the One who empowers, equips and resources the local church, no matter what size.

To learn more about this conference contact Bob Hetherington (540-520-7273 or [hoge1946@gmail.com](mailto:hoge1946@gmail.com)).

## **Update from the Associational Mission Strategist Search Team**

The Search Team continues to meet and pray for God's wisdom and discernment concerning the person whom He would have to fill this position. We felt we had met, and were in conversations with a perspective candidate when that person passed away unexpectedly.

We have most recently begun having conversations with Skip Wallace who is the Field Strategist for our area. Skip works closely with several associations and is sharing some of the strategies that other associations are utilizing.

Please ask for your continued prayers for our Search Team.

## **RVBA Nominating Committee**

We have open spots to fill on various committees. If you know of someone who would be willing to serve, please send their name and contact info to Sandy at [sanny610@aol.com](mailto:sanny610@aol.com).

**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."**





**KEYSTONE  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

Mailing- PO Box, 13042, Roanoke VA 24030  
Physical- 101 17<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Roanoke VA 24030  
Office- 540-342-8452 fax 904-5315 website: [keystonecommunitycenter.org](http://keystonecommunitycenter.org)  
Email- [m spatatbcc@gmail.com](mailto:m spatatbcc@gmail.com)

Spring, the first season of the year. God has given the earth a fresh start to new life just as accepting Jesus will give a person a new start. Spring is my favorite time of year and if you know me you know why. Yes, it is the start of garden season. God's blessings have been many this past year and I pray that each church will be blessed with a revival of new people and the need to have Jesus in their lives. Just like a garden, churches need to till the earth and reap the harvest of new lives. Everyone is invited to visit the Keystone Community Center to see how you can serve in a ministry, 100% bible based and teaches the love of Christ through all the programs offered since 1939. We are currently looking to hire a mature Christian, as a children's program Director to take over the After School, Summer Camp and possible Pre-k. More info can be given by calling 540-342-8452.

--Adult Bible Study has been shrinking as many of our participants have passed away and no longer driving. We have 3 to 4 attending every Thursday with a hot meal served and delivering 2 homebound meals weekly. We give out a bag of groceries the last Thursday of each month with 40 bags being distributed throughout the year. Thanks to AOM group at First Roanoke for bringing lunch the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month and different groups other Thursdays and the Roanoke Valley WMU for sending teachers each week. We will not have ABS during the summer.

--Special seasonal food boxes, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter fed 151 families impacting 222 people. Food list for 2026 will be posted on website.

--Little Lamb Learners have 5 children for the year and were very active in learning beginner bible stories and basic skills needed to start school. They are active with the garden and going to the vegetable auction to learn what so many vegetables look like.

--After school has 15 students on roll. The children learn so much about the bible, the life of Christ and His followers and life skills they can use forever and they get a nice meal before they go home.

--Summer camp 2025 had 25 children signed up but numbers varied every day. We attended 4 VBS's that offered transportation, Bonsack Baptist, First Roanoke, Clearbrook Baptist and Vinton Baptist, Child Evangelism came to us for a week and we had our Read, Write & Sign Language camp with 13 children. We had 5 children sponsored for WMU Children's camp.

The kid gardening program had 6 children, grade 3-7. These children attended 2 to 3 meetings a week working in Keystone's 900 square foot training garden, visiting the vegetable auction, making a monthly menu, going to a grocery store to get prices to see how much money they save by growing their own, learning about the health benefits, canning, biblical references and held 2 vegetable sales which raised \$1,000 for after school. We plan on expanding to 2 times a month this year 2026. Watch face book or website for 2026 on site vegetable sales.

--Backpack program will be offered again in 2026. School items will be collected June and July and given out 1<sup>st</sup> week in August as school starts August 11 in 2026. Call for a list or check our website; [keystonecommunitycenter.org](http://keystonecommunitycenter.org).

--Backyard Gardens helped feed 67 people plus what some of the gardeners gave away and what was used in kcc programs. We had 8 households signed up for 2025.

--Food preservation for 2025 had 5 families that canned over 300 jars and froze 30 gallons of fruit and vegetables.

--Bible playground is open and giving our children a great space for learning more about God. This is the only safe and green space many children have to play realize God made this happen. Reserve a meeting space in 2026 or just come by and have a picnic with your family. Thank you to all who gave to provide this space.

Speaking engagements can be made by calling 540-342-8452 leave a message

Please pray for positions to be filled as we are hiring hopefully to have persons in place by May 30.

Spring has sprung! 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 the local church throughout the Roanoke Valley. These past 6+ years as a non-profit have shown us plenty signs of grace!



**FRIENDSHIP  
HOUSE  
ROANOKE**

See below for some more...

635 Elm Avenue, SW Roanoke, VA 24016

540-343-5437 \ [friends@friendshiphouzeroanoke.org](mailto:friends@friendshiphouzeroanoke.org)

[www.friendshiphouzeroanoke.org](http://www.friendshiphouzeroanoke.org)

## ...Signs of Grace

- Our Good Neighbor Refugee Program provides safe & secure housing for families fleeing war or persecution. In March we assisted one of our families as they transitioned from our temporary housing into permanent housing of their own. Additionally, this spring we operated 4 women's ESL classes and 1 men's class.
- Two years ago we released the first-in-the-nation web platform called Link2Hope Roanoke. Through Link2Hope we provide an opportunity for churches to connect with those in the Roanoke community who are in need and isolated from the church. You can check it out at [www.link2hoperoanoke.org](http://www.link2hoperoanoke.org)
- 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, Brazil and Haiti. This year we have been teaching the kids the story of the Bible from start to finish. Many of these children are unchurched, so this is their first exposure to Jesus.
- 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 3 Liberty University interns and 1 Roanoke College intern! They have been a huge help to us. We are accepting applications for summer & fall internships. For more info, check out our website.



## Opportunities to Partner with us

- **Maintenance help:** Our refugee housing and vehicles are in need of some attention. We are looking for volunteers who can do some light maintenance on our vehicles (such as changing bulbs and wipers), and on our housing (such as replacing a dishwasher or painting). If anyone is interested, please let Aaron know!  
[aaron@friendshiphouzeroanoke.org](mailto:aaron@friendshiphouzeroanoke.org)
- **Help with refugees:** We are looking for volunteers who are able to pick up and bring families to our ESL class.
- **After-School Helpers:** We need volunteers Tuesday-Fridays—2:30-4:30—who can help our kids with homework, play with them on the playground, & help put together snacks for the afternoon.



*Top left: Students and mentors practice interviewing during a recent Jobs for Life class.*

*Top right: Our kids in the After-School Program sit down together for a Bible lesson.*