# Roanoke Valley Baptist Association Fall Meeting October 24, 2023



**Mill Creek Baptist Church** 

#### **ROANOKE VALLEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING**

# Mill Creek Baptist Church October 24, 2023 7:00 pm

# Kathryn Sowers, Moderator Dr. Jeff Ritchey, Vice Moderator Marcia Neighbors, Pianist

Prelude Praise Mill Creek Praise Band
Call to Order
Welcome, Scripture & Prayer
Congregational Praise Cindie Hayden/Shirley Holdren "Joy in the House of the Lord"
Interim AMS Presentation Scott Hamilton
Missions Video
Mission Speaker
Congregational Praise Cindie Hayden/Shirley Holdren "Great is Thy Faithfulness"
Business Session:  Living Water Baptist Church Vote – Susan Bandy Budget Vote – Kathryn Sowers Revitalization Team Vote – Scott Hamilton AMS Search Team Report – Danny Quirin Nominating Committee Report – Fleta Dillon  Special Music
"Victory in Jesus"
Shirley Holdren, Morgan Thorne, Denise Swortzel
Testimony Jeff Ritchey
Closing Prayer Roy Kanode

#### HopeTree Family Services - Lisa Clause, MBA, Chief Advancement Officer - U-3

- 1. Overview of the services that HopeTree offers including foster care, group homes, family centered treatment, developmental disabilities ministry, and HopeTree Academy.
- 2. Specific needs and opportunities to partner with the programs.
- 3. Question and Answer time.

#### Friendship House – Aaron Dowdy, Executive Director, Friendship House Roanoke, Inc. – M-1

#### **Moving from Stranger to Friend**

In this session, you'll hear an overview of Friendship House's Good Neighbor Refugee Program as it works to provide ministries of mercy and empowerment to our new neighbors. You will also hear stories and examples of how Friendship House has partnered with local churches to welcome refugees.

#### Keystone Center – Pat Carter, Ministry Director, Keystone Community Center – M-2

We can't do God's work without YOU!!! Keystone needs volunteers desperately to help with After School, food pantry, recruiting volunteers, Little Lamb PreK (not in session now for lack of volunteers), maintenance, cleaning crews and so much more. Come to this session to get the details on the above ways to serve. Galatians 6:10

#### Rescue Mission – Sam Grant – U-5

#### **Volunteering at the Rescue Mission**

Volunteers are vital to the Mission's daily operations.

There are many opportunities to serve at the Rescue Mission – from serving food, to helping distribute grocery boxes, assisting with merchandising in our stores, and more! We invite you to engage, encourage, and share your talents with the Mission.

#### Ward Haven – Rodger Hogan/John Leftwich, Ad-Hoc Properties Study Committee - M-3

After 2 years of heartfelt work and difficult decisions, the RVBA is currently under contract for the sale of the Ward Haven Retreat Center by the end of November. We look forward to answering any questions you may have concerning this sale.

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

#### **Program Personalities:**

Marcia Neighbors, Jacob Holdren, Alan and Kaeli Berry, Ted McAllister, Scott Swortzel, Praise Band (Mill Creek)

Shirley Holdren, Morgan Thorne, Denise Swortzel, Special Music (Mill Creek)

Susan Bandy, RVBA Clerk (Ridgewood)

Fleta Dillon, RVBA Nominating Committee (Connelly Memorial)

Scott Hamilton, RVBA Interim AMS (Oakland)

Cindie Hayden, Minister of Music (Mill Creek)

Roy Kanode, Pastor (Ridgewood)

Danny Quirin, Pastor (Mill Creek)

Jeff Ritchey, RVBA Vice Moderator (Troutville)

Teresa Rothwell, Solomon's Mission

Kathryn Sowers, RVBA Moderator (Vinton)

**Solomon's Mission**, located on Lowe Street in Buchanan, seeks to help people in need by sharing help, hope and opportunity in the name of Jesus. Through community outreach projects, it strives to empower people to rebuild their lives with Jesus as the cornerstone. While Solomon's wants to equip people with basic physical needs such as clothing and household items, the main mission is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone.



https://www.facebook.com/RVBAunited

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

#### **RVBA Nominating Committee**

RVBA Moderator – Jeff Ritchey (Troutville)

#### **Looking Ahead – Dates:**

**RVBA Annie Mae Broyles Offering 2023** 

WMU Women's Getaway, Eagle Eyrie – November 3-4 or 4-5, 2023 - Annual Meeting Nov. 4, 2023, 1:00 p.m., EE

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Month

<u>Baptist World Day of Prayer</u> - Contact Beth Hetherington for information, email: graybranyon@yahoo.com or phone: 540-597-0027

International Missions Emphasis – December 3-10, 2023

WMU SWVA Mission Trip to Nickelsville Planning Meeting – Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6:30 pm, Connelly Memorial Baptist Church

WMU FOCUS Training - 10 am - 12 noon, Saturday, February 10, 2024, location TBD

WMU FOCUS Sunday - Sunday, February 18, 2024

WMU SWVA Mission Trip to Nickelsville, VA – March 3-7, 2024

WMU Spring Celebration - Monday, March 25, 2024, Oakland Baptist Church

RVBA Spring Meeting – Tuesday, April 23, 2024

RVBA Fall Meeting – Tuesday, October 22, 2024

#### RVBA Financial Statement – September 30, 2023

Checking Account	\$28,906.46
Designated Funds	\$106,179.94
Endowment (Sale of RVBA Office)	\$222,259.11
Endowment (EverBless)	\$272,360.91
Total Assets	\$629.706.42

#### **BUDGET SUPPORT BY CHURCHES**

#### January – September 2023

Arcadia	0.00	Journey	4,463.16		
Belmont	450.00	Longdale	0.00		
Bethel	0.00	Lynn Haven	6,401.59		
Big Spring	0.00	Mayflower Hills	0.00		
Bonsack	18,054.81	Melrose	15,028.16		
Buchanan	3,485.67	Midland	1,631.84		
Calvary	1,935.54	Mill Creek	5,000.00		
Catawba Valley	0.00	Mineral Spring	0.00		
Cave Rock	1,582.60	Mount Pleasant	5.106.33		
Cave Spring	5.514.18	Mountain Pass	851.36		
Cedar Bluff	711.00	Mountain View	0.00		
Central	0.00	New Century	0.00		
Colonial Avenue	0.00	North Roanoke	2,440.41		
Connection Com.	0.00	Oakland	1,837.18		
Conn. Memorial	239.60	Pleasant Hill	1,500.00		
Cooper's Cove	1,541.00	Preston Oaks	0.00		
Craig Valley	0.00	Red Hill	500.00		
Crystal Spring	490.95	Redemption	675.00		
Daleville	1,200.00	Ridgewood	3,000.00		
Eagle Rock	0.00	Riverdale	0.00		
Enon	0.00	Riverland Road	480.00		
Faith	1,250.90	Roanoke, First	0.00		
Fellowship	0.00	Rosalind Hills	200.00		
Fincastle	0.00	17 <sup>th</sup> Street/Access	0.00		
Forest Grove	4,500.00	Springwood	2.572.75		
Garden City	702.70	Troutville	2,334.78		
Grandin Court	95.00	Villa Heights	3,466.64		
Gravel Hill	0.00	Vinton	5,252.15		
Green Ridge	100.00	West Salem	0.00		
Haitian Mission	0.00	Windsor Hills	0.00		
Haran	2,955.03	Zion Hill	500.00		
Heights Comm.	0.00				
Hollins Road	2,000.00	TOTAL	\$110,350.33		

Roanoke Valley Baptist Association Budget	2024	
Women's Missionary Union	4,900.00	
Missions Development Team	4,500.00	
Church Revitalization Team	500.00	
Minister Support Team	500.00	
Youth	500.00	
Program Committee	1,000.00	
TOTAL Committees/Teams	11,900.00	
Staff Salaries & Benefits		
Interim Associational Mission Strategist - Salary	32,760.00	
Office Manager/Treasurer - Salary	40,670.24	
Office Manager/Treasurer - Retirement	4,067.00	
Office Manager/Treasurer - Insurance	6,774.00	
Employees' FICA & Med.	5,000.00	
TOTAL Staff Salaries & Benefits	89,271.24	
Staff Ministry Expenses		
Car Reimbursement	1,000.00	
Conference/Convention (AMS)	1,000.00	
Books/Materials (AMS)	250.00	
Christmas Gifts	1,000.00	
Hospitality	2,500.00	
TOTAL Staff Ministry Expenses	5,750.00	
Office		
Office Supplies	2,000.00	
Postage	1,500.00	
Printing	4,000.00	
Technology	3,000.00	
Incorporation Fee	25.00	
Internet & Phone	900.00	
Storage Space Unit #1121	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous	500.00	
TOTAL RVBA Office	14,925.00	
Ward Haven	-	
Supervisor - Salary	5,512.50	
TOTAL Ward Haven	5,512.50	
Insurance (Prop, WC, Auto)	9,000.00	
TOTAL BUDGET	136,358.74	

#### **Associational Mission Strategist:**

The Roanoke Valley Baptist Association continues to make changes as we move forward into fulfilling our mission of "Building Partnerships for the Great Commission." We have added two new churches in the last year to our association, we are working together to try to strengthen churches, and we are looking at new opportunities to share ministry with ministry organizations. Our continued goal is to help churches reach their community by being a resource to churches. Our ministry will look the same as it has in the past, but the changes in our association can make us stronger for years to come. Please continue to pray for the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association as we move forward into the future.

In addition to our spring and fall meeting, we have begun associational prayer meetings where churches will come together and pray for the Roanoke Valley, for our community, for our pastors and staff, and for people in our area to receive Jesus as Savior. We need to continue to pray individually and corporately to see God change our valley and our world. We continue to have pastor and staff prayer meetings every Tuesday morning, pastor, and staff lunches once a month, and we want to encourage church leaders by continuing to offer opportunities for training. On Saturday February 24, 2024, we will be offering training for implementing and strengthening your current discipleship ministry at your church. This training will take place from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Preston Oaks Baptist Church.

#### **Mission Development Team:**

The Mission Development Team continues to work on providing opportunities for churches in our association to reach out to their communities. We had 9 teams located all around the area and 14 churches working together to deliver lunch to them each day. These teams will be helping homeowners with projects and sharing the Gospel and the love of Jesus with their community. **Thanks again to the following churches:** Bonsack, Calvary, Colonial Avenue, Coopers Cove, Enon, Green Ridge, Haran, Hollins Road, Lynn Haven, Melrose, Mill Creek, Mount Pleasant, Oakland, and Ridgewood, Riverland Road, and Vinton were ready to help, but one of the locations was cancelled. The churches were flexible by getting food to their group during a very rainy week. Thanks again for making the students feel special and loved during their stay.

The RVBA Missions Development Team is working on developing a ministry called, "Serving Together" where one or two churches can 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 possibly Solomons Mission.** We have made videos for most of these ministries and have posted them on our website and Facebook pages for churches that would like to volunteer.

#### **Board of Directors**

This has been a busy year in the life of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association and your Board of Directors continues to conduct the business of the association with the capable leadership of our Associational Missions Strategist, Office Manager/Treasurer, and the other committees elected by you. Our goal has and is to work towards the RVBA vision and healthy pastors, leaders, churches, and ministry.

We have worked hard to become financially sound so we can move forward with assisting our churches, developing plans for the future, and hiring a full-time AMS (The decision was made at our Spring 2023 meeting.) Please give of your time if ask to serve on the Search Committee.

I'm trying Lord! I'm really trying!" Have you ever prayed that prayer? I sure have. The Lord empowers us to change by His unending grace and love. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

I would like to take a personal minute to thank you for allowing me to serve the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association this past year. It has been a joy meeting each of you, working together as we serve our Lord and moving the Association forward. We look forward to the Lord guiding us into the next chapter of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association.

Kathryn Sowers, Moderator
Jeff Ritchey, Vice Moderator
Susan Bandy, Clerk
Mark Mofield
Danny Quirin
Scott Hamilton, Interim AMS
Sandy Sloane, Office Manager/Treasurer

#### Dear RVBA Friends,

As I come to end of my one-year term (yes you have heard me say it over and over again), we must continue to work together and may we always remember we are in this together for the glory of our Lord, not for ourselves. God will always be with us on this road we are traveling. He is our support and will deliver us to be the change and grow.

There are so many opportunities for you to be a part of making the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association a help and a light to our churches, members, and communities.

We will begin the search for our full-time Associational Leader, and we need you to agree to serve on this committee. I have heard folks say they want change, or they might serve if they knew the direction the RVBA was going. This is a place to start, but that will not happen if YOU do not volunteer. Please pray and say YES. Be a part of the solution, not a stumbling block or waiting for someone else to do it.

Please give Rev. Jeff Ritchey, 2023-24 Moderator the same support and encouragement you have given me this past year.

May God bless each of you and your church, **Kathryn Sowers**RVBA Moderator 2022-23



#### 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

Email- mspatatbcc@gmail.com

Another year has passed, and God's blessings have been many. Prayers have been answered and souls saved. Keystone Community Center continues to be a building block in many families' lives and to people who just happen to pass by. If you are new to the area or a church belonging to the RVBA I am inviting, you to Keystone Community Center to see how you can serve in a ministry that has been in the Roanoke Valley since 1939. Below is an overview of how Keystone has shared Christ with the help of many churches and followers of Christ.

- --Adult Bible Study has an average of 5 attending every Thursday with a hot meal served. We give out a bag of groceries the last Thursday of each month with 108 bags delivered.
- --Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter food boxes fed 150 families
- --Little Lamb Learners had 3 for the year and were very active in learning beginner bible stories and the basic skills needed to start school. We had a summer session this past summer with 4 participating to prepare first time students for school.
- --After school had 13 students in the last school year and 10 for the current year. Numbers are down on purpose due to lack of volunteers. 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 had 22 children signed up, but numbers varied every day. We attended 4 VBS's that offered transportation, Vinton Baptist, Melrose Baptist, Bonsack Baptist, and Troutville Baptist. We had a new program introduced for children, Garden to Table, with 10 children signed up. These children attended 2 to 3 meetings a week working in Keystone's 900 square foot training garden, 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 much more. We plan on expanding it next summer.
- --Backpack program helped 92 students from pre k to college start school with each bag packed according to their school's list.
- --Backyard Gardens helped feed 86 people plus what some of the gardeners gave away. There were 8 gardens signed up this year and over 3000 pounds of food grown.
- --Food preservation has grown to 4 families now canning and freezing produce grown in their gardens. So far over 400 jars of food have been canned and over 30 gallons frozen.

If you have any questions or would like to be a part of any programs at Keystone, please call Pat Carter at 540-342-8452 or 540-330-6263.



This fall marks 4 years that Friendship House has been operating as a non-profit. As we come to the end of another year, you'll see below that we have much reason to celebrate the faithfulness of God. Here are some updates:

#### **MercyWorks Program**

Our Blessing Shop recently held a community day with the help of Bonsack Baptist and served 80 families from the community with clothing, furniture, and hygiene items. Our Food Pantry continues to provide canned goods and fresh produce to well over 100 families each and every week.

Additionally, we are now collecting food for our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes. Each year we provide the fixings for a holiday meal to around 150 families for each holiday! We will be collecting canned veggies, gravy, stuffing, brownie mix, Mac-n-cheese, evaporated milk, instant mashed potatoes, crackers, soup, Jello, cereal, and hygiene items. We are also collecting money to purchase perishable items, such as milk, eggs, and meat. The deadline for Thanksgiving food boxes is November 14, while the deadline for Christmas food boxes is December 18.

#### **Talitha Koum After-School Program**

Our After-School Program has grown to 20 children each day, with a blend of local kids and children from places such as Haiti, Afghanistan, and Africa. We are gearing up to operate our annual Christmas store for program families so that they can shop with dignity for their children. In order to encourage healthy habits, we will be calling this year's store the "Go Outdoors Store" and encouraging toys that can be used outdoors, such as bicycles, scooters, skateboards, yard toys, and balls.



# Good Neighbor Refugee Program October marks one year since we complete



October marks one year since we completed the work on our two refugee houses and moved families into each unit. Over the past year, we've provided safe and secure housing to 8 families from countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Haiti. On top of housing, we continue to connect refugee families with Good Neighbor Teams from churches who walk alongside families to guide and befriend them as they arrive.

This summer marked our one-year anniversary of English Club. In that time, we've grown from 1 class to 4 classes and also introduced co-ed classes. What started as a small class of 15 Afghan women has grown to over 100 men and women from 7 different countries! Our ESL ministry has grown so much that we are seeking funding to be able to hire an ESL Coordinator.

#### **Restoring Hope Program**

This year we welcomed Restoring Hope into our Friendship House family and are excited about the partnership! We have been able to hold empowerment classes such as Jobs for Life and Faith & Finances, which has served dozens of families. We've offered two training sessions for over 30 volunteers wanting to join our ESL ministry or start one at their own church. And we also held two workshops called Helping Without Hurting, which educates the local church on the biblical view on poverty. We are currently scheduling dates for our 2024 classes, so if your church is interested in helping to host and lead a class, let us know!



If you are interested in contributing to any of the ministries above, please reach out to us at 540-343-5437 or aaron@friendshiphouseroanoke.org. You can also find out more info about partnering with us on our Facebook page and on our website (<a href="www.friendshiphouseroanoke.org">www.friendshiphouseroanoke.org</a>).

#### Finally, one last exciting piece of news....we're hiring!

Join our team! We have two job openings! We are currently hiring for our Children's Program Coordinator and our MercyWorks Program Coordinator. Please reach out to Aaron at Friendship House for more info.

#### "SERVING TOGETHER 2023"



# ROANOKE VALLEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PRAYER EMPHASIS AND ANNIE MAE BROYLES OFFERING FOR ASSOCIATONAL MISSIONS

**Day One:** *PRAY TODAY for 2023 SERVE TOGETHER concerning* **Ward Haven** that men, women, youth, and children will be strengthened in their faith as they attend retreats and camps at the facility. Pray for Giles Gilley as he seeks to maintain the buildings and grounds.

**Day Two:** *PRAY TODAY for 2023 SERVE TOGETHER concerning* **Friendship House Roanoke** as they minister to children and families in Southwest Roanoke. Through after school programs, food distribution, summer programs and housing for refugees they seek to love people and share the Gospel of Jesus. <a href="https://friendshiphouseroanoke.org/">https://friendshiphouseroanoke.org/</a>

**Day Three:** *PRAY TODAY for 2023 SERVE TOGETHER concerning* **Children's Missions Camp** held July 31 – August 3, 2023 at Ward Haven. Be in prayer for the leaders as they seek ways to involve more children in the camp and for opportunities to visit churches to share about camp.

**Day Four:** PRAY TODAY for 2023 SERVE TOGETHER concerning **Valley Impact** to be held during the month of September. This is an opportunity for the churches of RVBA during September to engage our communities through ministry, missions, and evangelism projects.

**Day Five:** *PRAY TODAY for 2023 SERVE TOGETHER concerning* **Lampstand Ministry** as they work to help young ladies who have been trafficked and on the streets. Please pray that these young ladies will experience the love of Jesus and surrender their life to Him. Pray that these ladies will learn to trust again and will be able to adjust to living in the community again.

**Day Six:** *PRAY TODAY for 2023 SERVE TOGETHER concerning* **Christian Soldiers Food Ministry** so they may be able to have the resources to serve those who visit the ministry each week. Pray that the ministry will be able to find another facility where they can have enough room to have Bible study and food storage. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ChristianSoldiersFP/">https://www.facebook.com/ChristianSoldiersFP/</a>

**Day Seven:** *PRAY TODAY for 2023 ReFOCUS concerning* **Keystone Community Center** that ministers in Southeast Roanoke. Pray for director Pat Carter as she leads this ministry to reach out to children and their families through children's programs, camps, and backyard gardens. <a href="https://keystoneroanoke.wixsite.com/kccroa">https://keystoneroanoke.wixsite.com/kccroa</a>

#### ANNIE MAE BROYLES

The first Baptist Mission Center of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association was opened in 1939 and began operation on Salem Avenue and *Miss* Annie Mae Broyles was its first Missionary Director.

#### **Annie Mae Broyles Offering**

Friendship House	\$5,000.00
Keystone	\$5,000.00
<b>RVBA Mission Projects</b>	\$2,000.00
Lampstand	\$1,500.00
Christians Soldiers Food Pantry	\$4,000.00
Ward Haven	\$2,500.00
	\$20,000.00

# Truck Stop Christian Ministry

# 2023 Report

Our mission at the truck stop in Daleville, VA is to hand out Bibles and witness for Christ to those visiting the truck stop.

We pray with those that ask and at times have purchased a meal for travelers. We are NOT allowed to display or leave any materials at the truck stop. We must hand the Bibles to people inside the truck stop.

We depend on financial gifts to purchase Bibles and supplies.

Some drivers and travelers have donated to our mission. We also accept new or clean used Bibles.

We need your prayers that the current and future Truck Stop management will allow us to continue our ministry at the truck stop.

### Bibles given out at the Daleville Truck Stop

2022	Month	Year	2023	Month	Year
January	32		January	44	
February	38	70	February	40	84
March	46	116	March	44	128
April	42	158	April	40	168
May	44	202	May	44	212
June	44	246	June	42	254
July	40	286	July	40	294
August	46	332	August	44	338
September	44	376	September	38	376
October	49	435	October		
November	40	475	November		
December	35	510	December		

## Dallas Norris

Director Truck Stop Ministry 161 Bogey Lane Salem, VA 24153 540-520-4832

#### **RVBA WMU Annual Report for 2022-2023**

The RVBA WMU Leadership Team met quarterly to plan training and events for our local churches. Our Focus was on mission's education and mission's involvement. We provided opportunities for missionaries who served through the IMB to connect with local churches and share their experiences.

**The WMUV Women's Get-Away** was held at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center November 4-5, 2022. The annual meeting was held November 5. Worship and breakout sessions were provided.

**BWA Women's World Day of Prayer** was held November 7, 2022 at Red Hill Baptist Church. Our theme was "Victorious Life" and our guest speaker was Mariah Garza from The Lampstand. She shared her struggles in life before Jesus Christ saved her through his unconditional love.

**Mission opportunities** that we were involved in during October, November and December were Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions, Operation Christmas Child Campaign, and IMB Emphasis with Lottie Moon offering. We also provided food and monies for the Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas baskets for the two mission centers, Keystone Community Center, and Friendship House Roanoke.

**WMU groups** donated 75 bags of toiletries and 6 boxes of stationery and stamps for the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Mill Creek delivered these in mid-November.

**WMU Focus Training** was held on February 4, 2023 at Connelly Memorial Baptist Church. Guest speaker was Laura Davis, WMUV. Breakout sessions: Refugees – How can we be involved? led by Faith Dowdy, Friendship House; What's happening!!!??? - led by a panel of Mission Youth Workers, and Crafts.

**RVBA WMU SW Virginia Missions Trip to Nickelsville, VA** was March 5-9, 2023. 31 volunteers from 11 churches visited 9 schools. Others did construction or worked in at the Scott County Food Pantry.

**WMU Children's Missions Fair** was held March 11, 2023 at Connelly Memorial Baptist Church. Children visited booths to learn about different countries. Guest speakers were Phil and Jeanne Wakefield, retired IMB missionaries to Indonesia.

**RVBA WMU Spring Missions Celebration** was held March 27, 2023 at Melrose Baptist Church. Scott Hamilton, Interim Missions Director of RVBA installed our 2023-2024 officers. Our guest speakers were Jim and Marcia Richardson, retired IMB missionaries in Africa.

**WMU Children's Camp**, July 31 – August 6, 2023 at Ward Haven. Theme: Mission Heart. Enjoyed Bible Study, Puppets, Drama, Crafts, Camp Fire, Special Projects, and Missionaries.

**RVBA WMU Fall Missions Celebration** was held September 25, 2023 at Vinton Baptist Church. We celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We honored our pastors and missionaries in attendance. Our guest speaker was Pamela D. Smith MIN, Mission Enthusiast and Education. Other special guests included Valerie Carter, Executive Director and Treasurer, WMUV and Lucianne Warren, WMUV President. Approximately 100 were in attendance for this special occasion.

**WMU sponsored Children's Event** October 14, 2023 at Rosalind Hills Baptist Church. "Falling for Jesus" with air apple bobbing, pumpkin painting, games. Guest Speaker was Pat Carter, KCC Director.