

CHURCH CLERK

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2013

2013

Total membership, December 31, 2012	2022
New members by transfer of letter or statement, 2013	23
Baptisms, 2013	7
Deaths, 2013	19
Removed by transfer or personal request, 2013	20

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2013 2013

New members by transfer of letter or statement:

Blanchard, Andrew John	Johnson, Christopher
Blanchard, Hilary Prendergast	Johnson, Dana
Bridges, David Powell	Kellett, Christine Powell
Carter, J. Currie	Kellett, Michael Parris
Carter, Sandra Dressler	Kendall, Frank Homer, Jr.
Davis, Janet O.	Kendall, Patricia Howard
Frye, Carl Boice, Jr.	Melton, Kevin Paul
Frye, Karen Boshier	New, Barbara Crockett
Honaker, Hazel Virginia	Simms, Amber K.
Honaker, Paul Stephen	Sorrell, Janice P.
Jante, Vanessa Foley	Stuhlman Erin Lynne

New members by baptism:

Clark, Adam Christopher	Howe, Matthew William
Early, Kim Fowle	Pounders, Taylor Emma
Ezzelle, Alexander Carroll	Rooney, Matthew Carter
Howe, James Lee	

Deaths:

Congdon, John Rhodes	Pitchford, Joseph Samuel, Jr.
Cosby, Doris Ogelsby	Schumann, Sue Harper
Daniel, Wilbon Harrison	Staples, Carroll Welford
Dickerson, Lynn C, II	Thurston, Gordon W.
Gauldin, Clyde Neal	Wolford, Byron Glenn
Hamilton, Isabel Sanders	Wood, William Joseph
Kalbaugh, Gary Allen	Woodson, Bruce Fitzgerald
Langhorne, Norvell Maurice	Woodward, Jean Nelson
Miligan, Nancy Kight	Wyatt, Madge Harper
Palmore, Elise Stone	

Transfer or personal request:

Bauer, Eric Lee
Chappell, Ka'thy Gore
Clark, Dennis Terrell
Clark, Elizabeth Victoria
Cushman, Matthew Lee
Fales, Catherine Carmack
Harrell, John R.
Harrell, Patricia Almond
Hermann, Daniel A.
Honaker, Hazel Virginia

Kay, Kathleen
Krohn, Brian
Mateer, Mary Alice
Ooghe, Donna
Price, Daniel Allen
Price, Rohn Kirk
Price, Sandra Lee
Younger, W. Carter
Zimmer, Kimberly White

In gratitude, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of church staff members Sandi Bassett, Steve Harmon and Susan Young. As I have corresponded with other churches to maintain the church membership roll, recorded minutes from the six business meetings in 2013, and notified congregants who were elected to serve as officers or on boards, committees and councils for 2014, taking advantage of the skills offered by the above staff has been priceless.

Emily D. King, Clerk of the Church

Review of the History of River Road Church, Baptist – 2013
Compiled by Fred Anderson, Church Historian

The subject of church growth – spiritual and numerical – was a subject of discussion by some members during the year. It reflected in part a concern from the larger dimension of mainline Protestant Christianity in which there have been numerical declines in the Western world and an observation that even local congregations, such as that of River Road Church, Baptist, were not what they once were in terms of membership statistics.

The discussion was carried mainly by the Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth which was appointed in 2012 and which proposed in 2013 that time be devoted over the coming year-and-a-half to “achieving a consensus about God’s purposes for River Road Church from now to 2025.” Suggestions which the committee presented to the Board of Deacons included a “review and update” of deacon job responsibilities, the creation of a “visitation team” to contact members who were not participating, and “a comprehensive ‘inreach’ and ‘outreach’ system for contacts and follow-up.”

At the regular business meeting held in November, John Heisler expressed concern regarding membership and the enlistment of potential new members. He offered a recommendation that a membership committee be formed “to identify and recruit new members, to encourage less active and inactive members,” and to work with staff and existing boards and committees “to increase membership and participation of inactive members.”

In December the pastor’s column in *Explorer* acknowledged the “rising interest in church growth” among some of the members. He noted growth from different sources which he identified as including “biological” or having children who are then nurtured in the church, “transfer” or receiving new members from those who visit the church usually from another church, “conversion” in which the unchurched are reached and make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, and “organic” in which there is growth within the congregation in ministries, relationships and church activities. “There is even more to church growth than this,” wrote the pastor. “For example, when we speak of numerical growth are we talking about attendance numbers, or do we develop a participation index that measures participation in leadership roles and financial gifts as well as attendance? The latter may be a clearer picture of church health than raw numbers. May the conversation continue.”

In another *Explorer* article, the pastor summarized the church’s character and mission: “River Road Church, Baptist is trying to keep fresh and viable for a new generation of Christians. We retain our intention to be a place of high quality worship, thoughtful faith and engaging mission. We make no apology for an open, ecumenical form of worship, but we are working to add new ministries and events.”

There was an array of those “new ministries and events” across the year. The River Road Reads program continued with the selection of Tolkien’s classic *The Hobbit*. Not only did members read the book but also they viewed the film on an evening billed as “Dinner and a Movie.” Eric Johnson offered a program on theological themes from the book and so River Road members were introduced to Bilbo Baggins, a gang of Dwarves and a dragon named Smaug.

Vacation Bible School attracted some 111 children who came to an “Everywhere Fun Fair,” learning about people around the world through a world’s fair atmosphere. In the school the children were exposed to their world-wide neighbors and discovered “that God’s

love can be found everywhere.” The VBS was coordinated by Lisa Cipolletti and Kristina Barbier.

The popular Catacombs Lectures sponsored by the Shepherd Bible Study Class featured theologians including Karl Barth, Henry Nouwen, John Calvin and Reinhold Niebuhr as well as presentations on “Women’s Voices in the Church” and religious freedom. Among the many Wednesday evening programs was “A Look at the Medical Practice of Jesus” led by two church members, Dan Bagby who considered theological and pastoral care interpretations and Henry Holland who covered the medical aspect. On the lighter side but just as informative, Clint Hubbard presented a humorous look at “How River Road Church, Baptist Works,” explaining the many and varied positions filled by the Nominating Committee. He publicized his presentation as “spell-binding, spine-tingling, hair-raising and rib-tickling” and it was all those and much more. It was uproarious.

There were many hands-on missions opportunities to engage church members. The church as a whole and many individuals continued to find deep satisfaction in helping others through the Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana, ministries of the Richmond Baptist Association. They sent items to the Christmas stores and helped prepare the camp for its summer season. Judy Collins and Joe Teefey participated in a medical missions trip to Panama and the church helped with costs of medical supplies. The church once again participated in the missions work at Standing Rock Reservation in the Dakotas. Members of the Tool Box ministry helped provide a wheelchair ramp and once again church members participated in a missions project at the Bland Ministry Center where they helped provide a house for a needy individual. Members also joined others from churches along the River Road corridor who met at Second Baptist Church to pack some 50,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now, a hunger relief agency. The church also continued to host CARITAS for which members prepared and served meals, spent the night as good hosts and some even made pillowcases.

The church continues to be welcoming. For about a year a congregation of Chinese Christians met in the Chapel and in 2012 built their own worship facility in Goochland County. On Saturday evenings a congregation of Ethiopian Christians met at the church for worship and fellowship.

The church offered educational opportunities to learn more about other faith groups within the Abrahamic religions. In March before Holy Week a local rabbi, Royi Shaffin, presided at a Jewish Passover Seder. In April several Sunday school classes came together for a series of lessons on Muslims as led by Nathan Elmore, Baptist Collegiate Minister at VCU.

The church sponsored a winter retreat at Richmond Hill, an ecumenical prayer and retreat center on Church Hill. Twelve members participated in a time of contemplation, prayer and spiritual discernment.

Individual members of the church contributed thought-provoking writings both for an Advent Devotion booklet and for Glimpses of Faith in which believers share from their own spiritual experiences and insights. The pastor offered a Bible study on Galatians. There also was a Taize worship service offered for the congregation.

The music program of River Road included numerous special presentations and events including an organ recital by Isabelle Demers, professor of organ at Baylor University; a Choral Evensong with the Chancel Choir and guest organist David Briggs; an organ recital by William Wisnom; harpsichord recitals by Jory Vinikour as well as by Stefan Palm of Cologne, Germany; a piano recital by Dmitri Shteinberg; a program of music from the War of 1812 by David and Ginger Hildebrand; a vocal recital by Kara Harman; and the annual Christmas concert which featured John Rutter’s *Magnificat* performed by the Chancel Choir with orchestra. The church also hosted the Richmond Symphony Chorus for a program entitled “Music Around the World” including Durefle’s *Requiem*.

At year’s end during the Advent season, Seth Roberts, a church and choir member, presented a program on African American spirituals.

Inspection of the church’s organ revealed a number of concerns. Mechanical issues include collapsing pipes, aging leather, pipe fatigue, old technology and unreliable pistons. An Organ Renovation Committee recommended a thorough restoration of pipework and windchests and their report was referred to the Board of Administration for review with expectations of a recommendation no later than April 2014.

In the area of staffing, in June, Michael Parris Kellett, Jr. was called as Minister to Children and Youth and joined the staff in September. A graduate of Furman University, Michael Kellett also earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Lander University in South Carolina and a Master of Divinity from BTSR. He came to River Road from a similar position at Park Road Baptist Church, Charlotte. The church soon came to know his family: wife Christine and three children, West, Mattie Caroline and Marian Lyre. With the new minister’s arrival, Chester L. Phelps, Jr. ceased his interim. He graciously and effectively had filled the interim, drawing upon his long experience with the church’s youth. And Ann Ashcraft completed her service as interim minister to children.

Over the last eight years, River Road has ordained three seminarians who served their internship at the church. An Ordination Council was formed to examine W. Blake Traynham as a candidate for ordination to the Gospel ministry and the Council and congregation affirmed the candidate. He was ordained at the church in April. He had served as a pastoral intern through his studies at BTSR. By

the fall he was employed as Baptist Collegiate Minister at the University of Richmond. The church recognized staff anniversaries: Chuck Ursiny, sexton, who observed his 20th anniversary; and LeAnne Lane, financial secretary, and Susan Young, administrative assistant, who both marked their 5th anniversaries.

In regard to physical facilities, the church provided a handicap access ramp for the chapel.

At year's end, W. Harrison Daniel died. A long-time member of the church, he wrote the opening chapter of the church's history book and, engrossed with his subject and devoted to his church, he continued researching, writing and self-published in 1996 an unauthorized church history book. And so River Road Church, Baptist is likely the only Baptist church that had two history books published almost simultaneously. Dr. Daniel was a retired professor in the history department at the University of Richmond and an intrepid historian.

Fred Anderson, Church Historian

Board of Administration

It was my honor to serve as your chair for the Board of Administration during 2013 at River Road Church, Baptist. Rest assured our Board of Administration committee chairs and their respective committee members did and are doing a wonderful task in maintaining the stewardship of the brick and mortar at our church on the corner of N. Ridge Rd. and River Rd.

Please join me in recognition and a special Thank you to the committee chairs that have built and worked on a priority list of issues for the current year, next year, and two years out focusing on the stewardship needs of our church.

The 2013 committee chairs were:

Vice Chair -	Scott Rooney	
Secretary -	Emily Sumner	Assistant Secretary - Peggy Stevens
Finance -	Robert Gray	Personnel - Frank Schwall
House & Grounds -	Russ Collins	Insurance - Laura Thorne
Kitchen -	Wendy Graves	Facilities - Ralph Nelson
Stewardship -	Keith Evans and Patrick Barbier	

Each Committee Chair has a report attached to the Annual Report for your review and consideration. Please take time to review and update yourself on opportunities that each committee has worked on during 2013.

A special call out and thank you to Emily Sumner, the Secretary of the Board of Administration, for her time and dedication in maintaining and reporting the Board of Administration minutes and keeping our meetings running smoothly.

A big debt of gratitude to Clint Hubbard, Scott Rooney, Cathy Whitty, and the Nominating Committee for their hard work to secure the 2014 roster of leadership for our church.

Rich Jante, Chair, Board of Administration

Personnel Committee

The Committee included: Frank Schwall, Chair; Carl Collier, Tom Graves, Martha Lou Green; Lloyd Jackson, Rich Jante, Tom Kirkup, Jim Paxton, Susan Rucker, Connie Showalter, Bill Smith, Emily Sumner, Ellis West, John West, and Cathy Whitty.

The Committee held seven regular meetings and one called meeting. The following Sub-Committees served through 2013:

Pastor's Annual Review
Cathy Whitty, Chair
Ellis West
Thomas Graves

Staff Compensation
Tom Kirkup, Chair
Martha Lou Green

Personnel Manual – Benefits Administration
Susan Rucker, Chair

Key actions in 2013 included:

1. A training session re: our new Personnel Manual was conducted for all personnel in January.
2. In April the Committee affirmed the recommendation of the Search Committee re: the call of Michael Kellett as our Minister with Children and Youth.
3. Martha Lou Green, Lloyd Jackson, and Jim Paxton represented the Committee on the Board of Administration Ad Hoc Committee re: the Church and the Childhood Development Center Personnel Manuals.

Frank Schwall, Chair, Personnel Committee

Board of Deacons

2013 was a busy year for the board of deacons. The theme for this year was hospitality and establishing a welcoming environment. Much is asked from the deacons of River Road Church. During 2013, a diverse Board of 64 deacons fulfilled their traditional duties to the Church of serving communion, taking offering, greeting those arriving for services, hosting coffees and watching over the members of their care groups. When scheduling conflicts inevitably arose for a given deacon, others readily volunteered to swap assignments. With few exceptions, the appropriate number of deacons appeared to cover the necessary bases. The deacons supported each other and stepped in to help even at the very last minute.

Deacons also attended regular monthly meetings during 2013, four of which were dinner meetings. The dinner meetings provided an opportunity to bring in outside speakers and help to welcome new deacons to the board in December:

- 1) In February, Dr. Dan Bagby spoke on the topic of issues in the care of people. He provided practical information to help deacons with interacting with members of their care groups and ways to address issues that may arise within a care group.
- 2) In April, Dr. Beth Newman professor of theology and ethics at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond spoke about hospitality based on her book entitled *Untamed Hospitality: Welcoming God and Other Strangers*.
- 3) In October, Dennis Green Executive pastor at Iron Bridge Baptist church spoke on the topic of being welcoming and provided practical suggestions for greeting visitors and establishing a hospitable environment. Also, George Davis spoke on behalf of the Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth to ask for the blessing of the board of deacons for the committee's proposed spiritual discernment process.
- 4) In December, the deacons extended an invitation to the newly elected deacons who would be beginning their 3-year term in 2014.

The deacons continued to quietly collect donations for the Fellowship fund each month. Our secretary/treasurer Janet DeShazo worked with the church office to distribute checks to members of the community in need of assistance.

Further exercising their ministry of hospitality, the deacons organized and hosted two church-wide dinner gatherings. In May, the deacons joined with the church's Endowment Board to host a potluck BBQ on the church plaza, catered by Buzz and Ned's BBQ and supplemented by side dishes provided by the congregation. The May event drew a large crowd of over 220 church members from across multiple generations. The deacons lead a "mingling" activity to encourage members to get to know each other better. This activity was followed by a presentation by members of the endowment board. In August, the deacons also assisted with hosting "Dinner and a Movie". This was a covered dish supper in the fellowship hall (with optional seating outside for those not viewing the movie). The deacons grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and a crowd of approximately 120 church members brought a variety of side dishes. Lawn games and children's activities provided fun for many. Some attendees stayed for dinner only; however, many stayed for a showing of the film The Hobbit. Both of these dinner gatherings were supported financially by the church's Endowment Board, so that cost would not be a deterrent for any River Road family.

The Deacon Chair continued to serve as the chair of the Coordinating Council, which was established in 2012 and consists of the

pastor and the chairs of the four major boards. The Council met quarterly to facilitate communication among the boards and across the congregation. The meetings helped to create a connection between boards which previously had operated independently and with insufficient coordination. The Council was responsible for addressing all suggestions submitted by church members (through suggestion boxes established by the Committee on Spiritual and Missional Growth) by delegating each suggestion to the appropriate individual, board, committee or staff member. The Council addressed 23 suggestions.

The 2013 Board of Deacons was a very dynamic and eager group. River Road has benefitted greatly from the dedication and many accomplishments of these deacons. Clint Hubbard as Vice Chair and Janet DeShazo as Secretary/Treasurer were valued colleagues who performed the duties of their offices with excellence. In the Church office, Susan Young worked tirelessly to support the deacons and help everything run smoothly. Susan was always attentive to the needs of the deacons, with Sandi Bassett also providing backup. Our ministers likewise responded to every call, and were always found ready with their counsel and assistance. Dan Bagby spent 5-10 minutes at each meeting addressing issues/concerns relating to care groups and Mike Clingenpeel provided updates on church members and reminders of important events in the life of the church. Michael Kellett assisted with setting up childcare for the December deacon dinner/meeting and Sheryl Johnson worked closely with the board to make the "Dinner and a Movie" event such a wonderful success.

In sum, it was a busy and successful year for the Board of Deacons of River Road Church, Baptist. It has been my honor to serve as the Chair of this wonderful board.

Melanie Gray, Chair, Board of Deacons

The River Road Church, Baptist Endowment Fund

The River Road Church, Baptist Endowment Fund (the Fund) was created in 1967 to support and benefit River Road Church. The fund is a corporation separate from the church managed by a 12-member Board of Directors. Our Endowment Fund has grown because of the foresight and dedication of church members who believed that practicing Christian stewardship included establishing and contributing to the Endowment Fund, primarily through planned giving (estate gifts).

The Fund began the year with total investments of approximately \$8.4 million and ended the year with investments of approximately \$9.3 million. The Fund received approximately \$120,000 in contributions this year, with the balance of the increase due to market appreciation, net of disbursements. The Fund's investments are managed by TIFF (The Investment Fund for Foundations). As of December 31st, these investments have had an annual return while under TIFF's management of approximately 8.5%.

We are grateful to and thank those who have remembered the church and the Fund in their estate plans, as well as those who have made donations to the Fund to further its goals. This year, we received planned gifts (estate gifts) from the Estate of Robert Culpeper, the Robert and Jean Woodward Trust, and the Carroll Staples Family Trust. We also received unrestricted gifts from two member families.

During 2013, the Endowment Fund paid out \$318,000 in grants. These payments included payments to the church for Communications (including the salary of the Communications Specialist), the E. Carl Freeman Concert Series, purchase of a new church bus, and payments for capital reserves and projects.

One item of particular note is that \$70,000 of the money paid to the church this year was a direct contribution to the church operating budget. The contributions for capital reserves and improvements were approximately \$145,000, and the purchase of the new bus was \$35,000. In total, the Endowment Fund provided over \$285,000 of support to the church for the calendar year 2013.

In addition to directly supporting the church and its programs, part of our mission is to support activities that the church would support if it had the funds. This year, the Fund provided funds for the Micah Project, and we continued our support of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond for its internship program and in support of the move to new facilities. Each of these organizations has programs that congregation members have supported and that extend the mission of River Road Church, Baptist.

During the period 2002 to 2013, the Endowment Fund contributed approximately \$1.8 million directly to the church and its programs. The majority of the grants made by the Endowment fund were for capital needs of River Road Church Baptist. The remaining grants supported general or specific programmatic initiatives.

Serving on the Board in 2013 were:

Ransone Hartz, President
Bill Gray, Secretary
Hilton Almond
George Davis
Andy McAllister
Linda Schreiner

Fred Bagwell, Vice President
Susan Rucker, Treasurer
Lou Moelchert, Investment Advisor/Asst. Treasurer
Eleanor Nurney
Seth Roberts
Dan Stevens

We are blessed to have this fund. We also recognize that both River Road's general needs and the scope of its ministry will continue to grow, and we hope our support can grow as well. We urge all members of River Road Church, regardless of their age and stage in life, to consider the Endowment Fund in their vision of Christian stewardship. We also hope that anyone with additional questions about the Fund will feel free to contact a Board member or a member of the pastoral staff.

Ransone Hartz, President, River Road Church Endowment Board

The Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation

The Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation began the year 2013 by sponsoring a winter retreat at Richmond Hill under the direction of staff person, Sheryl Johnson and guest, Suzanne Vinson. While the group in attendance was small in number, the time apart for spiritual direction was refreshing and renewing. The consensus of the participants was that the church needs to make more retreat opportunities for spiritual growth available to our members.

The spring season brought several new events in the life of our church. The Seder service under the direction of a local rabbi was a well received educational experience. In April Nathan Elmore was invited to make three presentations on "The Christian's Response to Islam". In May the board decided to make its own Educator of the Year Award by honoring one of our own church members for outstanding contributions in the field of Christian education. Diane Shoemake was the honoree. Tom Graves was the featured speaker for a joyful evening of celebration and motivation for Christian education.

The summer months brought another enthusiastic Vacation Bible School led by Kristina Barbier and Lisa Cipolletti. The youth of the church attended Passport, a summer program for young people held at Wingate College in NC.

During the year we said farewell to two part time, interim staff persons, Ann Ashcraft with children and Chester Phelps with youth. We are grateful for their leadership in a time of transition.

In late August we welcomed Michael Kellett as a full time staff person serving as minister with children and youth. In the short time he has been with us we are impressed with his dedication and commitment. He immediately began implementing ways to enhance children's participation in worship. Worship bags are prepared for each child with guidelines and instructions to assist them in their understanding of the service. The youth of the church receive organized emails each week lining out their activities. The youth report a strong sense of belonging and a desire to be a part of the youth community. By the same token Michael is implementing significant ways for the youth to be a part of the larger community of the church and welcomes adults to help in the youth activities..

Throughout the year the board continues to support and foster events that promote fellowship and build community within the congregation. Our "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" program continues to draw interest. We participate in the church wide picnics during the summer months and continue to initiate the River Road Reads series.

The Board has had considerable interfacing with the church's ad hoc Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth. We are continuing to work through a list of suggested guidelines put forth by that committee. A work session by our adult sub-group has begun the planning of new programs and projects that will take shape in 2014. Our work carries on. We continue with the sacred trust that this congregation has placed in us to lead in spiritual direction and the formation of faith.

Emily Tuck, Chair

Board of Missions

Our theme for 2013, which appears on the cover of our workbooks, and as the heading on all our monthly meeting agendas, is "**Mission 2013 = deeds of love + words of love + gifts of time**". This really captures what the Board of Missions is all about. Being involved with missions at RRCB has had a rather large positive impact on me. It is about making connections, but the connections don't always come after some set amount of time, and they don't always come after spending some set amount of money. It's somewhat unpredictable, which makes it all the more delightful when it happens. Our Board of Missions does a great job of setting

things up so that you, too, can have the opportunity to make those connections, through deeds of love, and words of love, and gifts of time.

The Board of Missions, comprised of thirty members of the church, has led the overall congregation to awareness and service in mission endeavors locally, nationally, and internationally. Individuals and small groups, including Sunday School classes, women's groups and the entire board, have been responsible for a wide variety of mission services. Some of those include monetary support of like-minded groups such as . . .

- * Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond
- * Baptist General Association of Virginia
- * Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- * Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia
- * Richmond Baptist Association (RBA)
- * Baptist World Alliance
- * Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia

The Board of Missions is divided into four committees that function to sponsor and support the mission causes of RRCB. These are the Finance Committee, Community Outreach Committee, Communications Committee, and Missions On-the-Road Committee (adult missions). Each committee functions separately on a monthly basis and then joins with the entire board at its monthly meetings to coordinate ventures planned for the participation of the entire congregation. Some, but not all, of the opportunities for mission service in 2013, were . . .

- * CARITAS (Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter) – two times during 2013 when our church sponsored homeless individuals for one week with both food and shelter
- * ISH (Interfaith Services of Henrico) – provided varied material and support on a regular basis
- * Camp Alkulana, for inner-city youth sponsored by the Richmond Baptist Association
- * Richmond Baptist Centers of the RBA – Oregon Hill Center, Church Hill Wellness Center, Southside Center
- * Toolbox and Construction Ministry
- * ESL – English as a Second Language classes taught by church members
- * Daily Planet – serving homeless and underprivileged in Richmond
- * CrossOver Clinic Ministry – a health care ministry
- * CROP Walk (Communities Reaching Out to People)
- * Prison Ministry – various outreach opportunities
- * Meals on Wheels
- * Support of various needs for the African Christian Community Church
- * MICAH Initiative Tutoring Ministry
- * Stop Hunger Now – international hunger relief meal packaging event
- * Many, many more mission outreach endeavors supported by individuals and small groups from our congregation

Both adult groups and youth groups planned and executed specific mission trips (Mission On-the-Road) to support those in need. Adult mission trips included . . .

- * Renew Crew – constructing wheelchair ramps in the Richmond area
- * Bland Ministry Center in Bland County, Virginia
- * Camp Alkulana, Virginia
- * Trip to Sioux Indian Reservation, North and South Dakota
- * Trip to Panama – Medical mission in cooperation with Virginia Baptist Mission Board

We will continue to look for ways to engage the congregation and empower them to follow the Biblical mandate in Matthew 25, "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me."

Bill Rusher, Chair

Mission Footprint 5K

In 2013, River Road Church, Baptist, was approached by Trinity United Methodist Church to participate in their annual Mission Footprint 5K. The 5K would raise money for local organizations that both churches support.

Proceeds from the 5K went to CARITAS and CrossOver Ministry, and we also accepted donations for Feedmore's Central Virginia Food Bank. We received a number of donations including corporate sponsorships, individual contributions, and specified donations to cover costs. In the end, CARITAS and CrossOver Ministry received \$3,000 each.

The staff liaison was Cassandra Ducca, the church's Communication Specialist. Bill Rusher, Marge Rusher, and Sarah Wilkinson joined the 5K committee and played important roles in making the event successful. They made the RRCB participation in the 5K possible by making connections with our members and inviting them to join our neighbors to support a missions project

To create a little bit of fun, the 5K Committee came up with the idea of a competition – the pastor of the church with the most participants would be presented with the “Flying Foot Trophy” and it will passed each year to the winning church. Unfortunately we did not win the competition: TUMC – 179, RRCB – 71, Unattached – 24, for a total of 274 participants (including volunteers).

We plan on participating again in 2014.

Arts Committee

The mission of the Arts Committee is to educate our congregation in the importance of the Arts in forming and expressing our Christian faith.

In 2013, we had five meetings at the church and many communications electronically. At these times we discussed: improving the bulletin covers, Spring and Fall exhibits, and “Arts Outreach” account.

The Spring exhibit featured watercolor paintings by members of River Road Church, Baptist. The following members shared their talents: C. Page Highfill, Judy Dixon, Julia Bouck, Michelle Gulick and Jan Taylor. These exhibits were advertised in “The Explorer” and “E-Spire”. Many positive comments were generated concerning the talent of our members and the great support of Cassandra Ducca in our printed material.

The Fall exhibit featured Louise Gallagher's oil paintings. She was advertised in all publications and she enjoyed many positive comments as well.

We were allowed \$500.00 in the budget but only used a small portion for supplies. Screens, lights etc. were already paid for the previous year.

The Arts Committee focuses on visual arts as opposed to writing and music which are handled by separate committees. Therefore, we plan more visual exhibits in the future to feature church member art.

DeAnne Shelton, Arts Committee Chair

Committee members: Judy Dixon, Margaret Almond, Caroline Brown, Gladys Fleming, Julia Bouck, Ann Hays, Sue Hodder, DeAnne Shelton, Ann Sledge, Bev Evans and Bob Harper

Chancel Committee

The Chancel Committee is made up of the following subcommittees: Flower Teams and Special Events Committee, Wedding Committee, Funeral Committee, Parament Committee, and Flower Distribution Committee. Betsy Lowery and Julia Tyler co-chair the Chancel Committee. The ladies who serve on all committees are dedicated women who act promptly to make sure their jobs are completed in a thorough manner.

Margaret Almond chairs the Flower Teams and Special Events Committee. Margaret diligently makes sure flowers are ordered and delivered to the church each Thursday. The flowers are always ready for a flower team to arrange on Friday for Sunday service. There are seven teams of ladies who work together to prepare altar flowers. These teams are chaired by Margaret Almond, Betsy Robinson, Jane Terry, Betty Rose Sexton, Carol Cruickshanks, Virginia Smith, and Bonnie Way. The Memorial Flower Calendar is organized by Betsy Lowery with the assistance of Sandi Bassett.

The Wedding Committee is led by Margaret Almond, Betsy Lowery, and Bonnie Way. These women are responsible for making sure a wedding ceremony at River Road Church, Baptist is a joyful and reverent worship service. Four weddings took place this past year.

Ann Bagwell, Virginia Smith, and Kitty Davis chair the funeral committee. These ladies along with other volunteers do an outstanding job making sure our church family is taken care of when going through the loss of a loved one. They provide comfort and assistance to the bereaved families of River Road Church, Baptist. Prior to a funeral, this committee makes sure the sanctuary is set up correctly for a service.

Caroline Brown stepped down from chairing the Parament Committee midway through this past year. Caroline took great care in making sure the linens were properly cleaned, stored, and displayed on the altar for worship. She also made sure the altar candles were the correct height for worship. Caroline changed the parament colors to correspond with the liturgical year. Karen West is the new Parament Committee chair. We are thankful to have Karen fill this position and appreciate her continued care for this committee.

Betsy Lowery chairs the Flower Distribution Committee. With the help of seventeen other women serving as flower distributors on Sunday mornings, deacons are given the opportunity to take flowers to members in need of attention for special situations. Stephen Ministers are invited to come and pick up arrangements as needed. Dan Bagby is very diligent in taking flowers during the week to those in need of care.

Approximately thirty men and women participated in decorating the outside and inside of our church for Christmas. Lunch was served in the parlor and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Close to 180 Easter lilies were given in memory or honor of loved ones.

The Chancel Committee is blessed to have these dedicated women offer their time and gifts at River Road.

Betsy Lowery, Chancel Chair

Columbarium Memorial Garden Committee

The Columbarium Memorial Garden Committee had a relatively inactive year. The committee met on December 11, 2013. There were no niche purchases in 2013. There were four niche inurnments in niches previously purchased and three interments in the common ground in 2013.

The Columbarium is composed of 368 niches of which 48 are large (holding up to four urns maximum) and 320 small niches (holding up to two urns maximum).

The committee and the church appreciate the work that George Davis has done in improving the grass area and in cleaning the columbarium with power washing.

Henry D. Holland, Chair of the Columbarium Memorial Garden Committee

Communications Committee

Publications:

Cassandra Ducca, the church's Communication Specialist, is responsible for maintaining the church's printed and digital publications. Staff members and laity generate the content of the publications. The Communications Committee regularly reviews and evaluates the publications to make sure we are communicating to the congregation and our community in the best and most effective ways.

Our publications include:

- *Connections* – printed on Wednesdays & Sundays
- *e-Spire* – emailed on Thursdays
- *Monthly Explorer* – mailed home once a month
- *Quarterly Explorer* – mailed home (with the *Monthly Explorer*) every quarter (March, June, September, and December)

Website:

The website continues to be main source of outreach to the congregation and the community. The purpose of the website is to provide information about the church and her services and programs. It is maintained by Cassandra Ducca, as well as other staff and lay members.

In addition to the regular communications efforts lead by the Communications Specialist, the Communications Committee takes on special initiatives and projects to add to the church's communication ministry. Below are the initiatives the committee endorsed in 2013.

Devotions:

This was the first year did Lenten Devotions after a positive response from the Advent Devotions. The devotions ran from Ash Wednesday to Easter. At the end of the year, the Advent Devotions ran from the First Sunday of Advent to Epiphany. We are planning for Lenten Devotions in 2014.

Facebook Contest:

Over the summer we invited members to send us photos for our "Seeing God Everyday" Facebook contest. We had 18 photos submitted and the winner won a copy of "The Pulpit Ministries of River Road Church, Baptist."

Facebook Ads:

In October, we tried a new initiative with the guidance of Mark Cipolletti. We used Facebook Ads to invite people from the community to join us for Trunk or Treat. There was a large turnout of guests to our church.

Direct Mail Postcard:

In late November we mailed a postcard out to the community within a three-mile radius of the church (excluding church members). Karen Collier was the key person behind this effort by organizing all of the pieces and making this a successful initiative. The mailing invited people to not only come to our Sunday worship services, but also to read the devotions, and attend the Advent/Christmas Concert, Christmas Eve services, Service of Remembrance, Labyrinth Walk, and New Year's Eve service.

Susan Rucker, Chair
Cassandra Ducca, Communications Specialist

History Committee

The History Committee of RRCB became somewhat inactive as a result of the sudden and untimely death of Barbara Jackson on September 9, 2012. Certain activities of the history committee continued into 2013 despite the lack of formal meetings. We did formally meet on September 8 and October 6, 2013. We discussed our loss of Barbara Jackson and renewed our interest and motivation to attempt to continue many of the projects that we had done in the past. We tentatively named six areas to continue our efforts. They were identified as the following:

1. The continued maintenance of the church archives to be done on Tuesday mornings between 10 AM to 12 noon.
2. Photography of church events
3. The ongoing book project
4. The display cabinet in the lower commons
5. The audio visual project and taping project
6. The conversion of many of Chester Phelps' slides from youth projects to computer files.

Throughout the year there were displays in the cabinet in the lower commons including focus on The Pulpit Ministry of the Pastors of River Road Church, Baptist, a welcome to Michael Kellett and his family from the children and youth, and the display of the Franklin Mint nativity which was given to RRCB by Joyce Gibson's aunt several years ago. Work continued on an indexing system for the CD's collected in the Archives Room. These include sermons, lectures, music and Wednesday night programs. When the indexing is complete, members will be able to have copies of CD's made. All originals will remain in the Archives Room.

At the meeting on September 8, Henry Holland was named chair of this committee.

Henry D. Holland, Chair of the History Committee

House and Grounds Committee

The House and Grounds Committee continued working on maintaining the church and helping the Building and Property Council to make improvements to the church. We worked closely with Mike Price who is doing an excellent job maintaining the church.

Some of the items we worked on were as follows: tree and shrub trimming, heating and A/C controls, replacement of fan coil units, grounds maintenance, water catch basins, peeling paint and seeding of the yard. We identified two problems that will soon be repaired. One of the gutters on the back of the church is insufficient for the water flow and another downspout needs to be installed. We (Bill Rusher) identified the problem with the sump pumps and that will repaired soon. All of the fan coil units on the second floor

have been replaced and now we can replace the fan coil units on the first floor as needed.

The House and Grounds Committee started working on improving the appearance of the reception room and the main kitchen. It soon became evident that the kitchen needs a complete renovation and this project been taken by the Building and Property Council.

The House and Grounds Committee organized two work days. The turnout for the work days was relatively small, but these dedicated helpers did a lot to improve the appearance of the church. This committee and the church would like to express appreciation to all of the volunteers who help to maintain our facilities. These dedicated workers make all the difference in the way items are repaired and maintained. Equally important are the members of the church who provide the funds for the Church to use for maintenance. I hope that you are as proud of the appearance of our buildings as I am. I especially want to express appreciation to Bill Rusher for the endless hours he spends helping the church with electrical issues.

I believe the church is in excellent condition and we need to work diligently to keep the buildings and grounds in excellent condition.

Russ Collins, Chair, House and Grounds Committee

Music Committee

The Music Committee has had the responsibility of supporting the Minister of Music and organist, Dr. Robert Gallagher, to fulfill the goals of the music program at River Road Church, Baptist.

This has been an excellent year for music programs for children and youth at RRC. Ashley Larson directed the Cherub Choir (ages 3-K) the first half of the year with Anita McAllister and Amy Hubbard assisting. In the fall Christine Kellett became director of this youngest group and led them in singing several blessings following one of the Wed. evening dinners. The Carol Choir (grades 1 and 2) continues to be directed by Kara Harman with Cynthia Lantz assisting. Bob Gallagher directs both Crusader (grades 3-5) and Youth (grades 6-12) Choirs. In the fall a Youth Bell Choir was started with eight ringers under the direction of Paul Honaker.

Appreciation is extended to these music directors for their outstanding leadership with these groups and also the choir parents and others for their help and assistance. The three older groups sang for many of the worship services during the year including the Christmas Eve Family Service. On occasion the Youth Choir participated with the Chancel Choir. The Youth Choir led the worship music on Youth Sunday and sang for the baptismal service in March.

On May 22, the Children's Music Ministry presented *Malice in the Palace: The Story of Esther*, a musical by Allen Pote and Tom S. Long. Musical Preparation was by Bob Gallagher and Kara Harman with stage direction by Michelle Harman-Gulick and Marguerite Bostic. The annual Christmas pageant was presented by the Cherub, Carol, Crusader and Youth Choirs on December 18 with Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus being portrayed by Sarah, Rob, and Libby Collier.

The Youth Bell Choir made its debut at worship preceding Christmas. They also rang for the Christmas Eve Family Service including "the chiming of the hour" at the beginning of the service.

The Chancel Choir sang at all Sunday morning worship services including two services on Easter Sunday accompanied by a brass quintet and timpani. On All Saints' Sunday (November 3) the Chancel Choir sang *Missa Brevis* by Zoltan Kodaly in remembrance of those departed during the past year. Stefan Palm from Cologne, Germany was our guest organist.

During the summer months, the "Summer Choir", consisting of regular Chancel Choir members and other volunteers who wished to sing as part of the group and participate in worship, sang for all worship services through the month of August.

The Chancel Bell Choir, directed by Charles Todd, rang for several worship services including the 11:00 Christmas Eve service. They participated in the Choral Evensong service in June, accompanied the children and youth choirs, and rang from the balcony for a wedding in July. A summer hand bell choir was also formed again for those who had an interest in ringing. After practicing in June and July they were prepared to play for a worship service in August.

Several other RRC musicians and choristers were featured during the course of the year in roles as soloists for Vespers or accompanists for choirs. In particular were Janet Deshazo (flute) and Anne James (piano).

On April 7, The Youth Choir from Wayne Presbyterian Church, Wayne, PA, joined our Chancel and Youth Choirs in worship as part of their spring tour. Also on this morning Joseph Gribb, a University of Richmond senior and student of Bruce Stevens, played the opening voluntary on the organ.

On September 29, the Washington and Lee University Chamber Singers under the direction of Shane Lynch, participated in our worship service.

The second half of the 2012-2013 season of the E. Carl Freeman Concert Series at River Road Church included the following concerts:

- Sunday January 27, 2013, 7:30 p.m. – Organ recital by William Wisnom, recipient of the E. Carl Freeman, Jr. organ scholarship at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University
- Sunday, February 3, 2013 – Harpsichord recital by Jory Vinikour, 2012 Grammy nominee for Best Classical Instrument Solo
- Sunday, May 19, 2013, 7:30 p.m. - Vocal recital by Kara Harman
- Sunday, June 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – Choral Evensong with the Chancel Choir under the direction of Robert Gallagher and guest organist David Briggs, Organist Emeritus, Gloucester Cathedral. Mr. Briggs was commissioned to write an anthem for organ, chorus, and bells which was played as part of the service. An organ recital by David Briggs followed Evensong.

The 43rd season, 2013-2014 start with the following programs:

- Sunday, October 20, 2013, 3:00 p.m.- Piano recital by Dmitri Shteinberg
- Sunday, November 3, 2013, 3:00 p.m.- Harpsichord recital by Stefan Palm (Cologne, Germany)
- Sunday, November 24, 2013, 3:00 p.m. – “Music of the War of 1812 in America” by David and Ginger Hildebrand
- Sunday, December 15, 2013, 7:30 p.m. – Advent/Christmas Concert with the Chancel Choir and orchestra: Rutter’s *Magnificat* and Rutter’s arrangements of favorite Christmas Carols.

Other musical events included were:

- An organ recital by Isabelle Demers on Friday, April 12, 2013, sponsored by the AGO, Richmond Chapter
- Two concerts by the James River Singers
- The Richmond Symphony Chorus performing Durufle *Requiem* on April 25, 2013
- The Greater Richmond Children’s Choir Spring Concert on June 2, 2013

Members of the Music Committee hosted “Meet the Artist” receptions following the concerts that were part of the regular concert series. They assisted the Social Committee with the reception in recognition of the Chancel Choir and David Briggs following the Evensong.

The E. Carl Freeman Concert Series continues to be self-sustaining through supplemental support from the Endowment Fund of RRC and individual contributions.

Two other highlights of the year include the invitation for our choir(s) to sing at Canterbury Cathedral in England during the week of July 21-27, 2014. Several members of our Chancel Choir plus others from RRCB are preparing to represent our church by singing for five Evensong services and also Sunday Eucharist.

Also the committee established to work with the Minister of Music to determine necessary and desirable renovations to the sanctuary organ, its console and components presented a proposal to be studied and reviewed by members of the congregation for implementation. Members of this committee which began working in the spring of 2012 are: Seth Roberts, Tuckie Paxton, David Gulick, Tim Sexton, Steve Newsome, Mike Rucker, Carolyn Hartz, and Charles Todd.

In addition to regular face-to-face meetings, other business was conducted through email.

River Road Church continues to experience the tradition of a music program of the highest caliber. Thank you to all the musicians and members of this congregation who have provided leadership and support for our worship experience.

Tucker S. Paxton, Chair

Committee members: Jerry Carr, Betty Damon, Beth Hooker, Anne James, Eric Johnson, Anita McAllister, Cindy Mistretta, Tuckie Paxton, Carole Royall, Jane Terry, Stuart Williams, and Richard Wood.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee at River Road Church, Baptist, had a rather uneventful year in 2013. We are currently providing transportation for a very small group of regulars who are residents of Lakewood Manor as well as other individuals as requested in the West End. We do provide transport as requested to special events at the church, for example the Spring and Christmas choir concerts.

The average Sunday ridership in 2013 has usually been around 4-6 persons.

Early in the year we were, because of a generous allocation from the Endowment Fund, able to purchase a refurbished 14 passenger bus in the Spring of 2013. After a frustrating experience on our first major outing to Camp Alkulana in May, we have had a better

record of mechanical issues than with the older bus.

The 1979, 28 passenger bus was sold to a Richmond area church. We elected to keep the older small bus as a backup, and to provide extra passenger load when needed.

In addition to the reduced maintenance cost we had hoped to get new driver volunteers since a CDL is no longer required for our bus fleet. After several attempts at advertising this need to the general church population, we have not had anyone to step up and willingly take this on.

Brian Ezzelle (co-chair) Warren Johnson (co-chair)
Gary Burnett and Ron Geisler

Ushers Committee

The 2013 River Road Church, Baptist Ushers served for all regular Sunday services, special Easter and Christmas services, and Concert Series services.

Average attendance figures for Regular 11:00 Sunday services are:

Monthly per service

Jan	317	May	300	Sept	306
Feb	315	June	299	Oct	290
March	323	July	298	Nov	333
April	308	Aug	248	Dec	327

Average attendance for regular 11:00 Sunday services 305

Special Services:

Maundy Thursday	204
8:30 a.m. Easter	244
11:00 a.m. Easter	602
5:00 p.m. Christmas	601
11:00 p.m. Christmas	330

Average attendance – All Services 314

Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth

One year ago at the November, 2012, business meeting the church unanimously passed the following motion:

An ad hoc Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth shall be formed. The purpose of the committee shall be to develop specific strategies, measurable objectives, and assigned responsibilities to grow the church, not only numerically but also in the fulfillment of our spiritual mission and fellowship. The committee shall include the pastor and up to nine at-large members of the congregation. Both the at-large members and the chair of the committee shall be chosen by the Coordinating Council. The ad hoc Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth shall report back to the church within one year of its formation.

What follows is the report from the Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth, or Growth Committee for short.

Early on the committee decided to concentrate on three general areas - engagement, outward focus, and spiritual formation. Engagement entails providing more opportunities for fellowship, encouraging active members to more effectively use their time and talents to grow the church, reaching out to inactive members to try to draw them back into the life of the church, and attracting other residents in the community to join this special congregation.

The Growth Committee brainstormed and came up with nearly one hundred ways to better engage the congregation and the community. The ideas ranged from the very practical to the non-traditional. We prioritized the list and incorporated the ones that we felt offered the most bang for the buck in our discussions with the leadership of the Board of Deacons and the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. In May we gave the Board of Deacons ten suggestions that they could begin to address right away. The board is looking at some of the recommendations now, but others it has decided to defer to a later time.

The Growth Committee met with the leadership of the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation and in June developed a list of over twenty proposals for that board to consider working on. That board has started working on several of the recommendations and is currently evaluating the others for feasibility and priority. After completing our visits with several other churches that have a strong missional/community focus, we shall have recommendations for the Board of Missions. We also plan to meet with the Communications Committee and some of the other standing committees of the church and develop suggestions for those groups also.

In June the Growth Committee created a formal suggestion system that is operated by the church staff and the Coordinating Council. You might have seen the boxes in the Lower and Upper Commons areas labeled “What Thinketh Thee About RRCB?” So far twenty-three suggestions have been submitted and have been passed along to the appropriate church group or staff person. Keep those cards and letters coming.

Spiritual formation involves becoming better disciples through reflection, study, conversation, and prayer. Through spiritual formation we try to discern the answer to the personal question, “What is God calling me to be and do, here and now?” The Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth is convinced that we all need to try to answer that question individually, but at the same time we as a congregation need to answer the collective question, “What is God calling River Road Church to be and do, here and now?” How is River Road unique and how can God use our uniqueness? We believe the only honest way that we can try to address the question is to enter into a meaningful spiritual discernment process – a process that involves a significant portion of the congregation, over an extended period of time with emphasis on reflection, conversation, and prayer.

We took this recommendation to the four major boards. The Board of Missions and the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation affirmed the proposal. The Board of Deacons and the Board of Administration raised concerns. The Growth Committee had planned to bring a motion to this business meeting to enter into the spiritual discernment process, but because of the reservations raised by the deacons and members of the Board of Administration, the committee has decided not to do so. Our committee will continue to meet with groups of the church, have a Wednesday night program, and possibly have a retreat, all to answer questions and address concerns regarding the proposal. The committee sincerely hopes that at some point next year the church will enthusiastically embrace moving forward with a congregational spiritual discernment process.

Including our organizing meeting last December, over the past eleven months your Growth Committee has met seventeen times in full committee and numerous other times in sub-committees. We have attended workshops in Richmond and Eagle Eyrie. We have met with other churches. We have read numerous articles and books about churches that are growing and are spiritually vibrant. We have made recommendations to the Board of Deacons and the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. Bottom line – we have been busy.

But we realize that we still have much to do. We need to visit additional growing, outward focused churches and determine how their best practices might be applicable to our community of faith. We need to continue to meet with the church’s boards and committees and to provide them with specific recommendations that will help energize our congregation. We need to assist putting in place programs and procedures that will ensure that agreed upon plans of action are tracked and followed through on. And we need to continue educating our congregation about the need for and the significance of our church entering into a spiritual discernment process.

The Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth realizes the enormity of its assignment - to propose ways to grow River Road, not only numerically but also in the fulfillment of our spiritual mission and fellowship. We continue to seek both your suggestions and your thoughts and prayers for this task.

Respectfully submitted,

Harper Alexander

Kristina Barbier

Lisa Cipolletti

Mike Clingenpeel

George Davis

Eric Johnson

Tim Sexton

Padgett Shoemake

Leslie Straw