



## **New Faces on the RCFN Leadership Team for the New Year!!**

Interim  
Executive Director



**Steve Allsbrook**

Financial  
Coordinator



**Griendora McDowell**

Administrative



**Jo Ellen Schneider**

As the River City Faith Network begins a new year of ministry to the under-served in the Richmond area it is exciting to begin the year with some new faces at the helm. Griendora joined us in September, Jo Ellen and Steve in December! At this writing Jo Ellen and Steve are just days in but all three of these talented persons are already making their mark and will enhance the work that we do in the Name of Christ. On page three of this edition of the "Transformed!" you will glean information that will assist you both in better knowing each of them and that will aid you in your prayers for them as they lead and serve! Thank you for warmly welcoming Steve, Griendora, and Jo Ellen into their roles with our beloved network! Since all of them work on a part-time basis and sometimes remotely, please call 329-1701 to schedule a time if coming to the Richmond Baptist Building.

# **New Faces for a New Beginning in a New Year!**

## **Griendora McDowell**

Griendora McDowell serves as our part-time Financial Coordinator as a contract worker. She has been engaged in studies at John Tyler Community College pursuing a degree in Business Management. She is a licensed and ordained minister who lives in North Chesterfield. She is a tax preparer for individual and small business returns as well as a consultant for setting up and maintaining bookkeeping systems in ACS, Quickbooks, and Excel. Griendora is also a Values Coach for Youth and Young Adults in Workforce Development and Financial Literacy.

Since February of 2012 she has served Second Baptist Church on River Road as their Finance Administrator and Human Resources Coordinator which involved, among other things, the counting of donations and preparing deposits, preparing income statements and balance sheets for the Church and their Learning Center, reconciling bank accounts and credit card statements, preparing and entering General Ledger entries and processing payroll for the Church and Learning Center, managing cash flow operations for a budget in excess of 1.7 million dollars, and coordinating employee benefits, recruiting and participating in interviewing new hires.

From June of 2009 to 2011 she served as the Accounts Payable Specialist for Healthcare Corporation of America (HCA) in Richmond, Virginia where she processed invoices for payment manually and through automated systems, solving payment delay problems and reviewing various management payable reports to keep payables at a minimum outstanding percentage.

Griendora came to us highly recommended by Monument Heights Baptist Church where she has served since February of 2020 in a part-time capacity.

## **Jo Ellen Schneider**

Jo Ellen Schneider who is our new Administrative Assistant comes to us through the temp agency Cor-tech. She is the mother of two, a son fifteen and a daughter twelve. Her husband, David, works for Bank of America in their forestry investments division.

Jo Ellen earned her Bachelor of Arts at Clemson University, majoring in Political Science, minoring in Health Science. She served on the Clemson Young Alumni Council, the Clemson University Senate, was Chair of the University Relations Committee, and as a Clemson Alumni Phonathon Captain. She is a big Clemson Tiger football fan!

Most recently she was Executive Director of Family Promise of Florence, South Carolina. She was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the non-profit. She coordinated and executed Volunteer Training, oversaw resource development activities and statewide reporting, provided case management for participants, provided critical networking in community and grant writing, and managed activities and communication for over 800 volunteers and 2 staff.

Jo Ellen also worked for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina. There she was involved in claims processing and contract administration for TRICARE South Region, providing prompt and courteous support for Professional, Institutional, and Home Health Divisions along with appeals review and team training.

She previously operated her own small business, which provided marketing and sales support for other small businesses. Called Helping Hand Marketing, it did just that for the clients— provided a helping hand where they needed it.

Jo Ellen enjoys volunteering, gardening, reading and most of all, spending time with her family.

## **Steve Allsbrook**

Steve Allsbrook has just come onboard at RCFN as her Interim Executive Director. Steve and his wife Kathy reside in Midlothian, Virginia. They have two grown children and six grandchildren. Steve grew up in Scotland Neck, North Carolina, where his parents took him to First Baptist Church. There he professed faith in Christ during Vacation Bible School in June, 1963. Kathy grew up in Mocksville, North Carolina. Where she professed Christ at First Baptist Church.

Steve attended North Carolina State University. Kathy went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They met during a Baptist Student Union retreat. After they received their degrees in 1974, Steve and Kathy moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina. There Steve earned the Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1977. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree in Missions Administration from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in May, 1998.

First Baptist Church of Scotland Neck licensed Steve to preach in 1976 and ordained him as a minister in 1977. Following seminary Steve served as pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church near South Hill, Virginia. In 1983 he and Kathy moved to Farmville, Virginia where he served as pastor of Heritage Baptist Church.

Steve's ministry role changed in 1987 when he accepted the call to serve Virginia Baptists as director of associational development and church extension.

From January 1, 1997 until he retired on June 30, 2017 Steve served as Executive Director of Missions for Dover Baptist Association, a fellowship of more than 60 congregations in Virginia's capital region. Steve and Kathy are members of Huguenot Road Baptist Church in North Chesterfield, VA.

## Musings from Mike:

When I began in ministry in the mid 1970's everything one did involved pen and ink, a pencil, or a typewriter! Now, someone might ask upon reading my last sentence, "What is a typewriter?" Googling you will find one of the following definitions:

1. a machine with keys for producing alphabetical characters, numerals, and typographical symbols one at a time on paper inserted around a roller

2. a mechanical or electromechanical machine for typing characters similar to those produced by a printer's moveable type

The first of these machines was patented on June 23, 1868, by printer and journalist Christopher Latham Sholes of Wisconsin.

While there are diehards who to this day still use and prefer their Selectric Typewriter, typewriters have largely been replaced and their tasks taken over by the keyboard as the preferred and most used typing device. Some maintain that they challenge the user to be more efficient and see their errors on paper, and so they continue to use the typewriter.

The point is, for most of us, the typewriter is a device that has lived beyond its time and usefulness.

While I have enjoyed immensely the privilege of my time in the Richmond Baptist Association as a pastor and church staff member for thirty-five years and finally as the Executive Director of the River City Faith Network of the RBA for the last ten years, I do not want to hang around until I have outlived my usefulness!

During these last ten years we have engaged in a major overhaul of the Richmond Baptist Association that allows us to productively affiliate with churches of many kinds who choose to substantively participate in the ministries of our three Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana by 1.) contributing financially and 2.) through genuine hands-on investment. In so doing, these churches place themselves in a position to be trusted with a stake in the governance of RCFN. They earn roles of leadership!

CORE affiliated churches are eligible to participate on the RCFN Board of Directors with two (2) members. They can provide chairpersons for the five (5) Standing Committees of the network:

- 1) Endowment Committee
- 2) Facilities Committee
- 3) Ministry Placement Committee
- 4) Personnel Committee
- 5) Stewardship Committee

And of course, CORE affiliated churches can staff the Standing Committees. They, along with CHAMPION affiliates can staff our Support Teams:

- A) CAST (Camp Alkulana Support Team)

- B) CHST (Church Hill Support Team)
- C) OHST (Oregon Hill Support Team)
- D) SRST (South Richmond Support Team)

CHAMPION affiliated churches are eligible to participate on the RCFN Board of Directors with one (1) member. While they cannot chair Standing Committees, the privilege of CORE affiliates, they can staff the committees. They may chair and staff Support Teams.

Both CORE and CHAMPION affiliates must be Baptist. They have at least 5 messengers to annual meetings.

CONNECTOR affiliates do not have to be Baptist but they also are not eligible for membership on the RCFN Board. They cannot serve on RCFN Standing Committees but can serve on Support Teams. They have at least 3 messengers at RCFN annual meetings.

COMMUNITY affiliates are much more loosely connected to our work and can attend our meetings as guests. For more information regarding our Levels of Affiliation visit our website [www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org).

During the last ten years our endowments have grown. RCFN is in a very good place financially. The Camp Alkulana Endowment Fund now stands at \$418,303 at this writing. The Richmond Baptist Endowment Fund has grown from \$494,977 in 2011 to its present value of \$1,048,822. Our investment accounts, which include our endowments, now total \$2,032,444.

May RCFN investments continue to be managed in such a way that the RBA Endowment Fund will grow sufficiently to supply, as intended, annual investment income adequate to underwrite River City's Ministry Support portion of its budget so that every other dollar contributed to RCFN can be devoted entirely to RCFN's ministry endeavors in Richmond and abroad.

This year represents the 70th year of ministry for the Richmond Baptist Association which had its first organizational meeting on February 16, 1951. While we operate under the name River City Faith Network, we remain incorporated as the Richmond Baptist Association. It is an appropriate time to celebrate! I pray that RCFN will do so and offer praise to our God for His graciousness to our network and her churches.

You will be in my prayers as you move forward under the leadership of our fine Board of Directors, her Standing Committees, and RCFN's very capable Interim Executive Director, Dr. Steve Allsbrook. He will assist you with day-to-day operations as well as offer consultation for all of RCFN's staff, the upcoming visioning process, and the search for a new, permanent Executive Director. It is an exciting time! Move forward with courage, characteristic dedication, and solid stewardship!

Excitedly,

*Mike*



**The Oregon Hill Baptist Center  
&  
The South Richmond Baptist Center  
Christmas Store**

**OHBC—62 children served**

**SRBC—130 children served**

**Thank you to all who made the Christmas Store a wonderful success!**



The Church Hill Christian Wellness Center

# Christmas Store

CHCWC—63 children served

Many thanks to all who helped serve our children and families for Christmas, 2020!



CAMP ALKULANA

# SUMMER CAMP '20

a summer of innovation

When it became clear that the COVID-19 crisis would affect our ability to host camp as usual, one thing kept us focused: our campers. With a fierce commitment to our camper community, we carved out new ways to engage with and support each other. When we couldn't be together on our camp grounds, we mobilized and brought camp to Richmond. When we found out that in-person activities would need to be limited, we moved some content online. We found God at work alongside us each step of the way from the planning process, to staff engagement, to the joy we met on campers' faces in our new camp spaces.

We teach our campers that our camp community is like a family. In these unprecedented times we have felt our camp family's compassion and strength more than ever. No matter the limitations we face, we will continue partnering with you to support our campers and our city.

**We will be the  
Alkulana family.**



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR ANNUAL REPORTS WERE MAILED LAST WEEK.  
IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ONE AND WOULD  
LIKE A HARD COPY, PLEASE CONTACT US.



**HOW TO ASSIST THE MINISTRY  
OF THE  
OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTER**

**Winter Months Needs:**

Clean Blankets & Sleeping Bags

Gloves: Waterproof & Knit Gloves (for men & women)

Hats: Solid Color (Black & Navy Blue) winter hats for men

Scarves: Solid Color Scarves for men

Sweat Shirts with hoods (for men and women)

Long John Pants & Shirts (for men and women)

"Hot Hands" Hand & Foot Warmers (Walmart, Target, Dicks, Bass Pro Shop, etc.)

Rain Ponchos

Receiving any of the above items would be of great help. Call Jennifer to let her know what you can do and to make arrangements for transferring items to the center.

Thank you,

*Jennifer Turner,*

Community Missionary



**HOW TO ASSIST THE MINISTRY  
OF THE  
CHURCH HILL CHRISTIAN WELLNESS CENTER**

- I am looking for a car for a single mother of two who needs transportation to get to work. This mother's job location was moved farther out and the bus doesn't go that far.
- I also have a family that I want a church to sponsor. They are having a hard time. The mother was given two months to find a new place to live because the owner decided to put her rental up for sale. The mother's food stamps were cut and she only gets disability. She also has some health issues. It would be most helpful if a church could give her some support for six months to a year depending upon how much help she can receive. The coronavirus, the holidays season, and trying to find an available place that accepts HUD are some of the obstacles she is facing. Hopefully one or more churches will take an interest in them.

Thanks for considering these long-term sponsorships!

*Glinda Ford,*

Community Missionary



While the campus is closed to in-person visits, The Resource Center is still fulfilling its purpose to re-

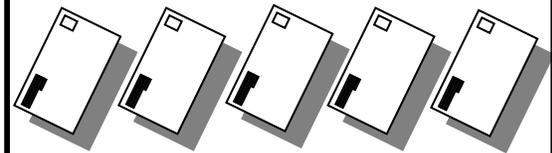
source churches and individually via phone request 804.358.8306 or the website: [resourcingchurches.com](http://resourcingchurches.com).

The **2021 Vacation Bible School Curriculum Fair** and other curriculum options information will be forthcoming, most likely in a virtual format

For current resource needs, contact staff: Phone: 804-358-8306; Email: [info@resourcingchurches.com](mailto:info@resourcingchurches.com).

Search collection on the website – [www.resourcingchurches.com](http://www.resourcingchurches.com)

*We are sad to report that due to the Presence of COVID-19 the 2021 PARTY FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS VALENTINE SOCIAL will NOT be held! We will plan to meet in 2022!*



***DEADLINE  
FOR 2020  
CONTRIBUTIONS***

Please note that all contributions to RCFN that are intended to be counted for the 2020 Giving Year must be **received** on or before Friday, **January 15, 2020**. Envelopes must be post-marked and checks dated on or before **December 31, 2020**. Thank you so much for tangibly expressing through RCFN your love for our city's people and for the Christ Who was born, lived, died, and was physically resurrected for us all. The ministries of our three Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana are deeply dependent upon your gifts!

RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK OF THE  
 RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
 3111 MOSS SIDE AVENUE  
 RICHMOND, VA 23222  
 Phone: 804-329-1701  
 E-mail: [office@rbaonline.org](mailto:office@rbaonline.org)  
 Website: [www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org)

DATED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U. S. POSTAGE  
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 RICHMOND, VA.  
 Permit No. 1555

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Contact:** Jo Ellen Schneider, Administrative Assistant, via phone (804) 329-1701 ext.101, email or USPS at the addresses listed above:  
 · **To submit an article:** it must be received by the 4th of each month.  
 · **To be added to or deleted from** the mailing list, or  
 · **To submit a change of address:** in a timely manner so that the Network will not incur postage due costs for undeliverable newsletters.

**Pray for the RCFN Churches  
 seeking a PASTOR**

**Bethlehem, Penick  
 Derbyshire Cambodian  
 Ginter Park  
 Monument Heights**

**Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week**

- JAN. 3.....Westover
- JAN. 10.....Woodland Heights
- JAN. 17.....RCFN of the RBA
- JAN. 24.....Camp Alkulana
- JAN. 31..... Church Hill Center

**Making a Delivery to the RCFN/RBA Office?**  
 Please call before you plan to arrive to make sure that someone will be at the office. There are times during the day when everyone may be away, so it will save time and gas to call ahead. The RCFN Office is open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.

**THANK YOU for your continued support of RCFN**

**2020 NOVEMBER RCFN Budget Report**  
**Camp Alkulana Offering \$128,000**

Camp Alkulana YTD Receipts:	\$ 116,975
Camp Alkulana YTD Expenses:	\$ 111,433
Camp Alkulana Budget Receipts:	\$ 17,414
Camp Alkulana Budget Expenses:	\$ 10,394
Centers Budget Receipts:	\$ 978
Centers Budget Expenses:	\$ 11,827
Ministry Support Budget Receipts:	\$ 9,456
Ministry Support Budget Expenses:	\$ 12,147
RCFN Monthly Total Budget Amount:	\$ 50,062
RCFN YTD Budget Total Amount:	\$ 550,682
RCFN YTD Budget Total Receipts:	\$ 340,694
RCFN YTD Budget Total Expenses:	\$ 427,877



**RCFN Board of Directors' Meeting**  
 Tuesday Afternoon  
 January 26, 2020  
 3:30 PM

**LOCATION TBD-More information to come on this**  
 Provision will be made for all Board members to maintain social distancing. Please wear a face covering. We will attempt to limit the meeting to more than 90 minutes. Plan to meet our new RCFN Interim Executive Director, Dr. Steve Allsbrook.