



Working together until Metro Richmond is...

TRANSFORMED

Moving with God, Part 2

How do you decide what to take when you move? In our case, we called on people who have known and loved Richmond Baptist Association and River City Faith Network.

I called Fred Anderson first. Who better to help us know what has historic significance for RCFN than one who had served as the historian for Virginia Baptists and us? When I called Fred, he promptly agreed to review decades of records housed at RCFN offices.

Fred, other volunteers, and our staff have touched many pieces of our past. He has guided us regarding what to keep. We have filled shred bins and trash bins with duplicate records and outdated files. Past resources and publications that served our predecessors well no longer work, so we have also disposed of what were once cutting-edge teaching materials.

Electronic records have replaced many of the paper files we used to keep. Our furniture needs have changed too. We still need some familiar pieces, but we need fewer pieces.



We listed the mural of our missions history first. Ruth Guill told me the banners should go with us, and they did. Mary Palmer and other WMU members offered their ideas. Our staff missionaries gave their ideas and claimed some pieces they could use that we no longer needed. Executive Assistant Jo Ellen Schneider has brought personal

experience and researched information to organize what we decided to move.

The process of preparing for the move consumed much time and energy from us all. On May 10 the movers joined our team for a day. We have a new home for our offices in the Virginia Baptist Resource Center. Of course, we still have a few things to complete, more boxes to unpack, and things to put on the walls.

Some of you may want to know why our directors agreed to take this action now. Before I arrived the buyer had made an offer on the property. The directors agreed to sell only the land that faces Montrose Avenue. Later the buyer learned of a special use permit on the property. Instead of spending the time and money to try to get the restriction removed, the buyer made another offer for the entire property. When the directors weighed the higher offer and considered our current needs and the costs of maintaining our old building and its grounds, they agreed to the sale.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTE

RCFN Board Meeting
 May 25, 3:30 p.m.
 Skipwith Baptist Church

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK

June 2021

6/6-- Gayton Baptist
 6/13-- Ginter Park Baptist
 6/20-- Grace Baptist
 6/27-- Gravel Hill Baptist

Dr. Victor L. Davis, Sr., who served as Senior Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church for more than 30 years, died on May 10. Please remember the Davis family and the Bethlehem Baptist Church family in your prayers.

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

—Revelation 14:13 NIV

Priceless

I have seen ads for a credit card that compare a list of things one can buy using the card (and paying the bill later). Like the ad says, there are things or experiences money can buy.

One of the commercials shows what appears to be a father taking his son to a ballgame. What did the father pay for? He paid for tickets, food, and a souvenir. The ad says that the time they spent together was something money cannot buy. Money cannot buy the memory of time shared. It cannot buy the relationship between a parent and child. Memories, relationships, and other things like that—things



that money cannot buy—are priceless.

Last year the onset of COVID-19 caused the world to come to a screeching halt. At the same time it generated lots of time for me just to stop and reflect upon my life span of 66 years.

I thought about the good times in my life.

I thought about some bad times too. Taken altogether, the good times in my life outweigh the bad times. I have many blessings to count.

Maybe God brought the “priceless” commercials to mind. I had a thought. What if I made my own “priceless” commercial, but with a twist.

Most of us will agree that the love of family is among those things we hold dear. Would you say the love of family is priceless? I would. If I made my own “priceless” ad, it might have a list of things I value. My commercial would begin something like this: “A comfortable house, a good education, a reliable car—costly.”

Then my commercial would take a twist. It would list other things I value more, things I count more precious: “A loving home, three children—two from another mother but who came to me at the right time, a husband of over forty years, four awesome grandchildren. These are truly priceless.”

My ad would go longer than sixty seconds because I have more priceless blessings. I have other relationships I think are important. Do you have some friends who stick with you? I do.

I have another family to love and that loves me—my church family. Do you have a church family?

My ad has something not everyone knows I have. I serve as a mentor to another person who looks to me as an example to follow. Somehow she is just as much a mentor to me as she says I am to her. My “spiritual daughter” can make my day. Do you have a spiritual daughter? Maybe you have a spiritual mother. Anyone who has a spiritual daughter or son, or a spiritual mother or father, has a precious treasure. That relationship, that bond that makes us like a family in Jesus, is precious and priceless.

My ad would keep on going. I have had the privilege of serving Christ as the director of the Church Hill Christian Wellness Center (aka “The Well”) for fifteen years and counting. Maybe my ad would say something like: “Having a job to make ends meet—necessary. Being paid to walk

in my calling and loving every minute of it—priceless.” Or my ad might say: “Volunteers willing to give of self and time—commendable. Relationships that have been developed between my volunteers and me—priceless.”

Those relationships are priceless. The volunteers who serve with me at The Well are like my right and left hands. Some would describe themselves as “SK” (my sidekick). “TIMS” uses a little self-deprecating humor (she calls herself the “thorn in my side”). Then there is my “Bestie,” my one and only parishioner who calls me Pastor. My ad could say “Volunteers—commendable. SK, TIMS, my Bestie—priceless.”

Each of my relationships with our volunteers has a story of how it developed. All of them are priceless.

Instead of time I have a limit of how many words will fit here, so I will share just one story about our volunteers. My “right hand and left hand” are a couple.

They wanted to take my husband and me on an outing, and they wanted to drive us and provide our lunch on the trip. They picked us up on a Saturday morning. We were not sure what to expect. We rode in the back seat, but we felt like Miss Daisy and her husband were driving us. The drive was lovely. We reached our destination were they had arranged a little tour.

After our tour, “My Left Hand” opened a picnic basket and handed us pimento cheese sandwiches. My tall, husky husband had never eaten a pimento cheese sandwich. Let me put it this way: “The adventure of being driven by Miss Daisy and her husband—memorable. The look on my husband’s face when ‘My Left Hand’ gave him a pimento cheese sandwich for lunch—priceless!”

I have the privilege (and the challenge) of serving as the Community Missionary at the Church Hill Christian Wellness Center. I have relationships with our volunteers and Bible Study participants who attend “the best Bible Study in the state.”

I recall my interview for this position in 2005. Pete duPlessis, our Executive Director then, told me, “God molded and shaped you for this position, then He dropped you into our laps.” I say, “Those words—unforgettable. That message and what it means to me—priceless.”

-Glinda Ford

Church Hill Christian Wellness Center

Our Clothes Closet is open! We need men’s clothes!

- Men’s pants, sizes 36 to 40 (especially jeans and khakis)
- Men’s long-sleeved shirts (no dress shirts or tees at this time)
- Men’s shoes, sizes 9 to 11
- Work boots

Call Glinda Ford for details- 804-780-0053

Moving with God, Part 2 *(continued from Page 1)*

Why move to the Virginia Baptist Resource Center? Richard Martin had served as our treasurer and also served as a director for HopeTree. He told us that HopeTree had consolidated its offices and vacated the space it had occupied at the VBRC. Their former space offers us adequate offices, conference rooms, and even storage spaces. (That was especially important for our mission centers and camp.) It met our immediate needs and makes financial sense for RCFN. Our move also helps our landlord and long-time mission partner, the Baptist General Association of Virginia. One RCFN pastor described our move as “a win-win” decision.

Like our old home, our new home has offices for me, Jo Ellen, Beth Wright, and SaraAnne Burgess. It has about the same amount of storage space the centers and camp used at the Richmond Baptist Building. It has a nice space for greeting our guests. We have a space for private conferences and a small library. We also have a multipurpose conference room and a workroom. We will not have our own kitchen or large conference room, but, at the VBRC, the Baptist General Association of Virginia provides those for us.

When can we hold the dedication and host an open house? COVID-19 restrictions and precautions control that. We hope to welcome you for a visit in the late summer or fall.

Richmond Baptist Association had several office homes before we built on Moss Side Avenue. Now God has called us to move from the home that served us well for nearly five decades to our new home for this time. Our mission and ministries have not changed. At Camp Alkulana, Church Hill Christian Wellness Center, Oregon Hill Baptist Center, and South Richmond Baptist Center our missionaries are at work as before. Jo Ellen and I are working for you too.

Your prayers, your financial gifts, and the time you share with us make this work possible. We are truly grateful!

—Steve Allsbrook



Worship in Person

Some churches have or plan to have in-person services. The following RCFN churches now offer in-person services:

Carlisle Avenue Baptist
Derbyshire Baptist
First Baptist
Gayton Baptist
Hatcher Memorial Baptist
Pine Street Baptist
River Road (Baptist)
Second Baptist
Skipwith Baptist
Stockton Memorial Baptist
Swift Creek Baptist
The Light Community
Westover Baptist
Woodland Heights Baptist

See church websites for specific information about attending



COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The Virginia Department of Health has posted a link to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information go to:

<https://vaccinate.virginia.gov>

Oregon Hill Baptist Center

Opportunities to help!

We are currently collecting the following items:

- Men's athletic shoes (especially size 10-10½)
- Rain ponchos
- Pocket-sized bottles of hand sanitizer
- Quarters for our Laundry Ministry
- Ink for our office printer -contact for information
- Packed snack bags for the homeless
- People like you to volunteer

Please call Jennifer Turner, 804-648-1353, for details

Above Left: Steve signed the lease for our office at our staff meeting.

Above Right : The camp office all packed up!

Page 1: Boxes and more in the large conference room, ready for the movers!

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Electronic Service Requested

*Working together until
Metro Richmond is...*

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June 2021



THE
River
City FAITH
NETWORK
Richmond Baptist Association

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

RICHMOND, VA.

Permit No. 3022

Camp Alkulana

Safely preparing for campers!

We need several specialty items to run camp with safe COVID practices, and some regular camp items too!

See our full wishlist on Amazon
(https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lr/1L96ZFZBBE0SZ?ref=wl_share)

or search online for Camp Alkulana's wishlist.

Some wishlist items include:

- Laundry detergent
- Hand sanitizer (all sizes from 2 ounces to 1 gallon)
- Hand soap (8 oz. pumps or refills)
- Disinfectant wipes
- Disposable face masks · Face shields
- Citronella candles
- Bug spray · Sunscreen

South Richmond Baptist Center

Pray for the SRBC ministry: Cutters have fallen and need to be re-installed. The weather has caused mud build up almost as much as when we first received the property. Some type of draining needs to be installed. We are also still looking for someone to help with some light installation needs.

Please contact Wesley Garrett, 804-232-0174, for details.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministries! Now that we are settled, our centers are ready to accept donations at their sites, or through our new office location.

If you need to deliver items to RCFN, please call 804-329-1701 to arrange a convenient time. Thank you!