

CHURCH CLERK

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2012

2022

Total membership, December 31, 2011	2034
New members by transfer of letter or statement, 2012	8
Baptisms, 2012	20
Deaths, 2012	16
Removed by transfer or personal request, 2012	24

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2011 2022

New members by transfer of letter or statement:

Camden, Carolyn Turpin	Hare, James Keith
Dumas, Mark N., Jr.	Hellmuth, Kelly L.
Dumas, Martha J.	Palmer, Glenda Underwood
Early, Charles D.	Worley, Gaynelle Ray

New members by baptism:

Butterworth, Kaylee Morgan	Mistretta, Joseph Michael
Butterworth, Tyler Jordan	Phelps, Harry Robinson
Early, Dana Claire	Powell, Chloe Grace
Early, Erin Virginia	Scholz, Braxton Tyler
Evans, Emily Bricken	Stevens, Lindsey St. Clair
Ezzelle, Meredith Katherine	Thorne, Jessica Ann
Hare, Emily Jones	Thornton, Lucy Oliver
Hubbard, Robert Clinton, III	Trott, Colleen
Macturk, Spencer Harrison	Vaughan, Georgia Rose
McAllister, Abigail Grace	West, Mary Katherine

Deaths:

Brooks, Raymond L.	Pentecost, Julian Howell
Burke, Jewell Kendall	Rowan, Nina Cunningham
Clark, Janet Sutton	Shepherd, Mildred Deans
Culpepper, Robert Harrell	Staples, Mary W.
Hart, Philip R.	Tolbert, James D.
Jackson, Barbara Dunn	Waller, Swanson
Langford, Henry Victor	Whipple, Mary Chambliss
Near, Barbara Bristow	Wood, Frances Revere

Transfer or personal request:

Bennett, Joan Putney
Bennett, John Mark
Bischoff, Brian Douglas
Boppe, Shirley Anne
Burger, Amanda Mahle
Harrison, Gloria Riner
Harrison, Richard Allan
Jones, Catherine C.
Lindbloom, Christopher W.
Martin, B. Hal
Martin, Brandon Neal
Martin, Preston Bradley

Martin, Taylor Howell
Mumper, James David
Mumper, Pamela Miller
Ooghe, Donna
Powell, Nancy Glinn
Short, Herbert Reynolds, Jr.
Smith, Robert James, III
Strauss, David Scott
Van Ausdall, Kathryn L.
Walaskay, Paul W.
Way, Lawton Buchanan
Wilson, Jeannie P.

Sandi Basset, Steve Harmon and Susan Young of the church's staff once again have earned my gratitude. Their technical skills make my responsibilities as Clerk of the Church so much easier. Maintaining the church membership roll, recording minutes of the four business meetings in 2012, and notifying congregants who have been elected to serve on boards, committees and councils for 2013 have been greatly simplified by their know-how.

Emily D. King, Clerk of the Church

Review of the History of River Road Church, Baptist – 2012
Compiled by Fred Anderson, Church Historian

In his first "Pastor's Blog" for 2012 in the *Explorer*, Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel referred to the filling of several staff positions: "Who God will lead to us, and us to them, is one of those many discoveries all of us make as we move into a future we cannot know or predict in advance." Now that another January has rolled around, we do know how 2012 evolved.

It was a time of transition in staffing. The year began with Dr. Bob Gallagher serving as minister of music, a position which he had held since the summer of 2011. The congregation appreciated his unique musical and organizational gifts. Other positions were filled on an interim basis including the ministry of pastoral care filled by Dr. Dan Bagby, who in November 2012 was affirmed by the membership to continue on a permanent basis; Christian education and spiritual formation filled by the Rev. Sheryl A.M. Johnson; ministry to students filled by the Rev. Chester L. Phelps, Jr.; and children's ministry which had been filled by Ann Ashcraft since the fall of 2011. It is a testimony to the church's wealth of capable members that three of the interims – Bagby, Johnson and Phelps – came from within the congregation. By year's end in 2012, two search committees were underway, one for a pastor for children and youth and the other for a pastor of congregational life. The latter position need and description was presented by the pastor to the Personnel Committee; and in August, the pastor shared with the congregation that the position would "cover our missions, educational and fellowship ministries."

At River Road Church, "interim" did not mean inactive. Each area of ministry under the respective ministers was engaged in a variety of effective activities such as a series for youth on learning about various faith traditions; a youth retreat as well as a women's retreat which featured portrayals of women of the Bible; a fun-filled "Trunk or Treat" for children which incidentally provided fellowship for parents and grandparents of the costumed kids; a four-part series entitled "Learning to Pray Again" led by Dr. Peter James Flamming, the highly-respected former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Richmond; a focus on race relations which engaged many members into the reading of the best-selling book, *The Help*, viewing of the film and participating in a discussion with several local African-Americans who were in the class of '72 and experienced integration of the schools following mandated school busing in Richmond; the creation of a new spiritual formation group for adults; the opportunity for the un or under-employed to network; the offering of a "night in" and a "night out" for married couples for relaxation and the deepening of friendships with in the church; and the annual Vacation Bible School – directed by Lisa Cipolletti and Kristina Barbier -which carried the theme of "Adventures on Promise Island."

In the fall 48 church members, divided into several small groups, enjoyed a soup and salad supper and fellowship in homes across the community. It was a way of meeting others within the congregation on a personal basis, forging new friendships and

strengthening older ones.

A highlight of the year was the hosting of the Baylor University A Cappella Choir – one of several events of the E. Carl Freeman Concert Series - which presented a concert at the church and participated in a morning worship service. River Road members opened their homes and provided hospitality for the choir. The church members also continued their display of hospitality by continuing to sponsor CARITAS.

In January 2012, Page Highfill presented an idea for stirring up the spiritual gifts among church members by inviting and documenting “recent stories from church members and staff of actual River Road Church Christian experiences.” The purpose was to gather spiritual stories which could “encourage, empower, unify and nurture church members, families, staff and prospective members.” The result was “Glimpses of Faith” and the stories were placed on the church’s website. Also, a Spiritual and Missional Growth Committee was formed with George Davis as chair.

In September, the River Road Church, Baptist Preschool celebrated its 40th anniversary. It is recognized as a superior program for children. Also in 2012, the Friendship Class celebrated its 50th anniversary in grand style with a dinner and the announcement that a tree would be planted to mark the anniversary. The class was taught for some 45 years by Connie Showalter.

The artistic and creative endeavors of several church members were displayed across the year. Bob Harper presented “Expressions of a Changing World” utilizing his photography and paintings; Julia Nixon displayed some of her intricately created quilts; and several artists were featured in a show which included various media.

The church commissioned several members to participate in another mission trip to the Standing Rock Reservation where on previous visits relationships had been made with the Sioux Indians. The River Road members joined with participants from six other churches to work together on projects. Laura Lee Chandler reported that “the days were long, the work fulfilling and the friendships among [the volunteers] and with the Native Americans renewed our spirits.”

In September, Barbara Jackson died. The church lost a tireless worker whose leadership of the History Committee was responsible for the church’s impressive and well-organized archives. Among her last projects was to reassemble the archives in its new area which has a fire suppression system.

At the close of the year, a book on the pulpit ministry of River Road Church, Baptist was published. Edited by Dr. Bill Tuck, the collection of sermons included six messages from each of the five pastors who have served the church since its founding in 1945. The book included photographs by Warren Johnson.

At the Christmas season, the members of River Road remembered victims of Hurricane Sandy through individual contributions as well as a \$5,000 contribution from the River Road Church’s Endowment Board which also pledged up to \$5,000 more in matching gifts.

It was a year of undaunted ministries performed by and through the church and its people. It was a good year.

Board of Administration

The Board of Administration of River Road Church Baptist meeting in January 2012 received the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Jean Cauble, charged by the Church with a “comprehensive review and analysis of the policies, procedures and practices utilized by the Personnel Committee in the execution of its duties”. This led to the presentation of views by the Personnel Committee in response to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. In accordance with the current By-Laws of the Board of Administration, the entire report was referred to the Personnel Committee, which was charged with considering the opinion of the Ad Hoc Committee and to bring back a final version of the Personnel Manual for presentation to the Board of Administration at a subsequent date. The Personnel Committee reviewed the Personnel Manual in conjunction with legal advice and presented to The Board of Administration their final recommendations at the November 18, 2012, Board of Administration meeting. Adoption of the Personnel Manual was unanimous and without dissent. Copies of such Manual are available upon request for any member of the Congregation. Concerns were expressed by the Personnel Committee that the Personnel Manual of River Road Church and the Preschool Developmental Center of River Road Church were not entirely consistent and that the policies of the two organizations need to be reconciled. A special Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of members of the Personnel

Committee and the Preschool Development Center, will be appointed to address these issues. Members have not yet been appointed.

The Second major project of 2012 was review of the By-Laws of the Board of Administration to bring them into agreement with the recent revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of River Road Church. This Ad Hoc Committee was chaired by Emily Sumner and included the following members: Dan Stevens, Carl Collier, Mary Murphy, Lloyd Jackson and Laura Thorne. The Ad Hoc Committee presented their recommendations at the September meeting of the Board and were subsequently adopted by the Board of Administration at the October, 2012, meeting.

Acting upon recommendations of the Stewardship Committee, a motion was approved to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to study the Spiritual and Missional Growth of the Church. Those members, to be appointed by the Coordinating Committee of River Road Church, consists of the following members: George Davis, Chair; Harper Alexander, Kristina Barbier, Lisa Cippolletti, Robert Gray, Eric Johnson, Tim Sexton, Padgett Shoemake, and Leslie Straw. The Committee is to bring a report by November 2013.

Upon advice of Dr. Clingenpeel and the Personnel Committee, The Board of Administration recommended to the Church the employment of Dr. Dan Bagby as Minister of Pastoral Care, on a part time basis.

Upon recommendation of the Building and Property Council and with funding by the Endowment Board, construction of a handicap ramp for the Chapel was approved.

The incoming officers for 2013 are as follows:

Rich Jante, Chair
Scott Rooney, Vice-Chair
Emily Sumner, Secretary
Peggy Stevens, Assistant Secretary
Robert Gray, Chair, Finance
Frank Schwall, Chair, Personnel
Patrick Barbier, Keith Evans, Co-Chair, Stewardship
Russ Collins, Chair, House and Grounds
Wendy Graves, Chair, Kitchens
Laura Thorne, Chair, Insurance
Ralph Nelson, Chair, Facilities Use.

Hilton R. Almond, Chair, Board of Administration, 2012

Board of Deacons

Much is asked from the deacons of River Road Church. During 2012, a diverse Board of 65 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.

Deacons also attended regular monthly meetings during 2012, four of which were dinner meetings. The dinner meetings provided an opportunity to bring in outside speakers:

- 1) In February, Karen Moore visited from Richmond Hill. Then serving as Richmond Hill's Spiritual Director, Karen shared her own spiritual journey, which she aptly described as a marathon and not a sprint.
- 2) In April, Professor Emeritus David L. Holmes from the College of William & Mary spoke on his newly published book, The Faiths of the Postwar Presidents: From Truman to Obama. After providing an overview of his book, Professor Holmes focused his entertaining remarks on Baptist Presidents Truman, Carter and Clinton.

- 3) In October, the Rev. Andrew Terry, then ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church, spoke on what it means to be a deacon. Contrary to societal norms, we were told that deacons should ascribe to “downward mobility.”
- 4) In December, the deacons extended an invitation to the members of the Endowment Board to join us for our holiday dinner, in appreciation to the Endowment Board’s many contributions to the deacons and to the Church. In preparation for our upcoming Christmas Concert, Dr. William Roberts (father of deacon Seth Roberts) provided a most enjoyable preconcert lecture on Handel’s *Messiah*. At the end of Dr. Roberts’ remarks, William Dameron of the Chancel Choir performed the tenor solos *Comfort Ye* and *Every Valley Shall Be Exalted* from Messiah, accompanied by Dr. Robert Gallagher on piano.

Spurred by the continuing recession, deacons resolved to place renewed emphasis on their Fellowship Fund. Secretary/Treasurer Karen Collier wrote a piece on the Fellowship Fund for the Explorer, and Rev. Mike Clingenpeel also addressed the Fellowship Fund from the pulpit. The result was an increase in contributions to the Fund, which served to benefit many in our community who otherwise would have faced eviction or the loss of utilities.

Further exercising their ministry of hospitality, the deacons organized and hosted two church-wide dinner gatherings. In April, the deacons hosted a Pig Pickin’ on the Church plaza, catered by Turner’s Barbecue of Powhatan. Deacon Vice Chair Melanie Gray formed a committee to organize lawn games which entertained all ages. The April event drew a crowd of approximately 250 River Roaders, and was notable both for good food and cross-generational fellowship. In August, the deacons also hosted a covered dish supper on the plaza. Grills were assembled to cook hamburgers, hotdogs and chicken, and a crowd of 200 brought an amazing array of side dishes. Lawn games again provided fun for many. Following dinner, a number of attendees stayed for a showing of the film The Help. A group of members had also been reading the book version of this story over the summer. 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 August cookout also benefitted from a deacon’s quiet donation of a commercial-sized gas grill.

Amendments to the Church’s Constitution and Bylaws created a new Coordinating Council, consisting of the pastor and the chairs of River Road’s four major boards. The Deacon Chair is designated to also chair this new council. The Council is to meet quarterly to facilitate communication among the boards and across the congregation. The initial three meetings of the Coordinating Council during 2012 have already served their intended purpose, helping to build bridges between boards which previously had operated independently and with insufficient coordination. The Council was also requested by the Board of Administration to appoint a Committee for Spiritual and Missional Growth. The Council did so, and the Committee is now up and running.

The 2012 Board of Deacons was splendid. River Road has benefitted greatly from the dedication and many accomplishments of these deacons. Melanie Gray as Vice Chair and Karen Collier as Secretary/Treasurer were valued colleagues who performed the duties of their offices with excellence. In the Church office, Susan Young was an administrative angel providing indispensable support. 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.

In sum, it was a busy and successful year for the Board of Deacons of River Road Church. It has been my joy and privilege to serve as Deacon Chair.

Roy Terry, 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). In 2003, the Board decided to initiate an Annual Report to the church membership. This tenth Annual Report summarizes the Fund’s activities during 2012.

The Fund began the year with total investments of approximately \$7.5 million and ended the year with investments of approximately \$8.4 million. The Fund received approximately \$34,000 in contributions this year, with the balance of the increase due to market appreciation. 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 8.2%.

We are grateful to and thank those that have remembered the church and the Fund in their estate plans, as well as those that have made donations to the Fund to further its goals.

During 2012, the Endowment Fund paid out in excess of \$150,000 in grants. These grants included payments to the church for Communications (including the salary of the Communications Specialist), the E. Carl Freeman Concert Series, additional hand bells and hand bell repair and supplies, funding of the church audit, funding for the salary of the pastoral intern from BTSR, and the publication of the book of sermons by pastors of RRCB.

One item of particular note is that \$50,000 of the money paid to the church this year was for the Facilities Upgrade Reserve and/or the Painting Reserve. This follows contributions to the capital reserves of \$50,000 in 2011 and \$85,000 in 2010.

The Fund has committed \$185,000 for capital contributions to be paid in 2013, including \$100,000 for projects outlined by the Building and Property Council, \$40,000 for a passenger bus, and \$45,000 for projects outlined by the House and Grounds Committee.

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 Virginia Baptist Mission Board – Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund, and we continued our support of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond for its internship program. Each of these organizations has programs that congregation members have supported and that extend the mission of River Road Church, Baptist.

In its early years, the Endowment Fund mainly provided protection against the cost of major repairs or other unanticipated expenses not covered by the annual church budget. More recently, the board has been able to authorize meaningful gifts to support expanded church programs and activities in addition to capital projects while still preserving substantial investments to generate income for future needs. Endowment Fund grants funded 18%, 13% and 12% of total church operating expenses in 2010, 2011, and 2012, respectively.

During the period 2002 to 2012, the Endowment Fund contributed approximately \$1.5 million directly to the church and its programs. Just under two-thirds 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 2012 were:

Ransone Hartz, President
Bill Gray, Secretary
Hilton Almond
George Davis
Skee Goode
Anne Kirkup

Fred Bagwell, Vice President
Susan Rucker, Treasurer
Lou Moelchert, Investment Advisor/Asst. Treasurer
Andy McAllister
Linda Schreiner
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

**Finance Committee
of the Board of Administration**

A copy of the Financial Statement for River Road Church, Baptist for the calendar year 2012 is attached.

Robert Gray, Chair

Stewardship Committee

A special thank you to our Stewardship Committee at RRCB for 2012:

Patrick Barbier Co-Chair

Rich Jante Co-Chair

Keith Evans, Jay Howe, Dave Leshner, Tom Ligon, Pat Dickinson, and Mark Pounders.

Thanks to staff members, Mike Price and Cassandra Ducca for their able assistance.

After multiple meetings (3/11, 4/18, 5/16, 6/13, 7/29, 8/26, 9/23, 11/14, 12/9) during 2012, the committee focused on our church's statement of Christian Stewardship:

Christian Stewardship is my trusting response to a loving God by offering my time, talent and resources in acts of gratitude.

The stewardship committee decided to emphasize **Time and Talent** through August with the emphasis turning to resources with the kick off of the pledge campaign on Sunday, October 31.

The committee updated the Stewardship web site to be an aggregate of results from the numerous church events that took place during the year with emphasis of members' **Time and Talents**. Please remember to visit the site for updates and results.

During September the committee created a banner reflecting the bookmark of our church's Stewardship statement with selected pictures to reflect our church's **Time and Talents**.

Articles appeared in the e-Spire and quarterly newsletter with three letters sent to the membership challenging and raising awareness to our next stage of stewardship, **Resources**, with our pledge drive starting Sunday, October 31

As of January 15, 2013, our total pledging is at 312 pledges = \$1,175,275.00 vs. last year of 336 pledges at \$1,156,540.00, an increase of **\$17,735.00** over last year.

Our church has received:

- 106 pledges that raised their pledge by \$43,245.00
- 28 NEW pledges for \$28,685.00
- 12 Youth pledge for \$492.00

Your Stewardship Committee thanks each family and individual who supports River Road Church with their **Time, Talents** and financial **Resources** to the Glory of God at River Road Church, Baptist.

Rich Jante, Chair

The Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation

The Board of Christian Education has faced many changes in 2012 even including a name change. When we started the new year, we did not have a full slate of officers and two of the church's staff positions that work closely with our board were vacant. In light of these needs, our pastor, Mike Clingenpeel, along with Dan Bagby, the minister of Pastoral Care, met with the board early in January for a work session to chart some direction. At this time we clarified our thinking on using the words *spiritual formation* in our title since much of our work involves the development and process of spiritual growth. Hence, we now call ourselves the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation.

At this meeting we learned that the church was in the process of calling Sheryl Johnson to be the interim minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. Shortly thereafter Chester Phelps became the interim Youth minister. Along with Ann Ashcraft, the interim Children's Minister, who was already in place, we were now working with a full staff. By mid-summer Emily Tuck voluntarily agreed to be the chairperson of the board.

Each member of the board serves on an age specific sub-group and works with the corresponding staff person who relates to that age. Much of the planning and work gets done within these sub-groups. Each sub-group has as one of its primary concerns the Sunday morning Sunday School classes. However, we are trying to implement other opportunities for spiritual growth outside the usual Sunday/Wednesday format.

The Children's Sub-Group also has the job of recruiting a sizable number of people for worship care during the morning worship service for the entire year and the volunteers to assist with Children's Church. Two luncheons are held at the beginning of the Advent and Lenten seasons for parents and their children to learn ways to engage in spiritual exercises in their homes during the seasons. In October, "Trunk or Treat", held in the church's parking lot, provided a fun and safe way for the children to enjoy the candy and costumes of Halloween. For two consecutive years Lisa Cipoletti and Kristina Barbier have been co-directors of Vacation Bible School held one week in July. The second year grew and built on the first year with an increase in the number of children enrolled, the number of teachers and volunteers and the number of children from the surrounding neighborhoods. 2013 promises to be equally successful. This group also participated in the church wide celebration of the fortieth anniversary of our Preschool Child Development Center.

The Youth Sub-group with Chester Phelps' direction began to plan their activities for the spring and summer. Youth Sunday was held on May 20. Twice during the year Chester Phelps taught the Inquirer's Class for those youth desiring church membership. Baptismal services were held on Palm Sunday and the first Sunday in Advent. The entire board joins in hosting a reception following the baptismal. During the summer the youth helped with Vacation Bible School. Their "mission tour" consisted of project work for their own church—extensive painting cleaning, sorting and organizing. The youth enjoyed a fall retreat. On Sunday evenings they travelled to other churches to learn about church traditions different from their own.

The Adult Sub-group has the responsibility of selecting programs for the adults on Wednesday evenings. They continued to follow the theme Journeys of Faith using church members to tell their faith journeys through their vocations, their study of literature of personal experiences. In the fall semester the church enjoyed an old-fashioned hymn sing. A special evening was dedicated to honoring our veterans. A month long study on prayer was conducted by an outside guest, James Flamming. The Adult Sub-group met during the summer for a brain storming session. It was the group's intention to develop new "points of entry" for people to engage or join in the church's fellowship from a new vantage point. Two highly successful places were introduced. "River Road Reads" involved the entire congregation in reading a book, viewing the movie version, and then discussing related themes over several Wednesday evenings. The other new idea was a fellowship opportunity called "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Members signed up to enjoy a simple supper with other families and were surprised where they were assigned. It proved to be highly successful intergenerational event. It will return by popular demand in 2013. A weekday Bible study for women, *Joyful Hearts*, continues to be successful.

In spite of the problems the board faced at the beginning of the year we are now at a much better place. We enter 2013 with a full slate of officers ready to serve and we are working co-operatively and creatively with the interim staff. We realize that staff changes will occur during the next year and new challenges will undoubtedly arise. But we acknowledge the sacred trust placed in us to assist in the spiritual formation of this congregation.

Emily C. Tuck, Chair

Board of Missions

Mission Statement

The Board of Missions of River Road Church, Baptist seeks to inspire and promote outward expressions of faith through service by the church, its organizations, and individual members. It shall develop and implement programs and projects of gift, service, and Christian outreach in cooperation with mission fellowships in the church and in local, state, national, and world affiliations, including community service organizations.

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
- * 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 2012, were . . .

- * CARITAS (Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter) – twice during 2012 our church sponsored homeless individuals for one week with both food and shelter
- * Freedom House – first Friday evening of every month a group provided food for those at this facility
- * 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 Richmond Baptist Association – 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
- * YWCA – Women's Advocacy Program
- * Mission on the Move "Familia" – RRCB hosted this CBF-VA event
- * 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

Summer YOUTH mission trip . . .

- * "Thank You" Tour – right here at River Road Church, Baptist

"Mission Outreach . . . Making it Personal" is an ongoing theme for the Board of Missions, which gratefully acknowledges the support and participation of the church. 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

Building and Property Council

In 2012 the Building and Property Council, once again, was involved in accomplishing small projects with the help from the Endowment Fund.

In the Chapel House a toilet that served the original Pastor's Study was converted into a handicapped accessible toilet with a small hallway reducing the size of the financial office.

Security upgrades were made for the entrances and cameras were added for the play grounds. Also the HVAC system in the Reception Room was modified in order to enhance the control and comfort of that room.

Upcoming projects, which were initiated in 2012 and will commence in 2013, are the installation of a handicap ramp at the Chapel, lighting of the stained glass window, upgrade of the master landscape plan and investigation of lighting upgrades throughout the property.

John A. Heisler, IV, Chairman

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 2012 we had three meetings at the church and many communications electronically. At these times we discussed: improving the bulletin covers, continuing the Nativity Festival, church wide exhibits, "Arts Outreach" account, and request from the History committee.

We decided our focus would be two exhibits. One of our members, Bob Harper, exhibited his Asian Characters and photography in June. In October and November we had a church wide exhibition. This was in two parts: Fiber Art and paintings each running two weeks. We sought to promote congregational participation and community awareness. The following members shared their talents: Barbara Holdren, Peggy Stevens, Margaret Daniel, Sallie Sparks, Carol Decker, Julia Bouck, Emily King, Carol Moelchert, Steve Larson, Bonnie Way, Caroline Brown, Gladys Fleming, Susan Vaughan, and Nancy Cox. These exhibits were advertised in "The Explorer" and "E-Spire" plus many personal calls were made to make the exhibit compliment our congregation. Many positive comments were generated concerning the talent of our members and the great support of Cassandra Ducca in our printed material.

We were allowed \$500.00 in the budget but did not need to use this as our 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.

Beverly Evans, Chm. Arts Committee

Committee members: Judy Dixon, Margaret Almond, Caroline Brown, Gladys Fleming, Julia Bouck, Ann Hays, Sue Hodder, DeAnne Shelton, Ann Sledge, 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 that 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. During this year, Sarah Drummond stepped down from co-chairing this position and moved from Richmond to be closer to her daughter. We are all grateful for the dedicated service and gifts Sarah has shared with us over the years. Margaret continues to make sure flowers are ordered and delivered to church each Thursday. The flowers are always ready for a flower team to arrange on Friday for Sunday service. Presently, 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. Five weddings took place the past year.

Anne Bagwell and Virginia Smith chair and Kitty Davis co-chairs the funeral committee. They do an outstanding job making sure our church family is taken care of when going through the loss of a loved one. They provide dignified assistance to the bereaved families of River Road Church, Baptist.

Caroline Brown chairs the Parament Committee. Caroline takes great care in making sure the linens are properly cleaned, stored, and displayed on the altar for worship. She also makes sure the alter candles are the correct height for worship. Caroline changes the parament colors to correspond with the liturgical year.

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. Sandi Bassett sends out a weekly care and concern list to all deacons on Friday of each week. The Seven Ministers are now invited to come to the sacristy and get an arrangement as needed. Also, several extra arrangements are left in the sacristy for Dan Bagby to use as needed when he makes visits to members during the week.

This year, thirty men and women participated in decorating the church for Christmas. Lunch was served in the parlor and good fellowship was enjoyed by all. There were 175 Easter lilies given in memory or honor of loved ones. These were used to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday services.

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 committee met once at the end of the year to update information and review policy. The rest of the year we conducted our business via e-mail.

The new Columbarium color brochure is now in use and can be found in many areas throughout the church. Information about the Columbarium can also be found on the church web site.

There were two (2) new niche purchases and one (1) common ground agreement made this year. There were (6) inurnments and (1) common ground interment in 2012.

The church professional staff continues to provide counseling assistance to persons considering the use of the Columbarium. The Church Administrator, Mike Price, sees to the purchase of niches and common ground agreements as well as the inurnments and interments that take place. Sandi Bassett, staff secretary, does the printing for the Memorial

Book of Remembrance. We are thankful for the dedicated work done by these staff members. Our thanks also to committee member George Davis who continues to oversee the maintenance and improvements to the Columbarium grounds.

Lovell Glasco will retire from the committee next year. Lovell has been a member from the earliest years of this committee and her strong commitment, time and work is much appreciated.

Henry Holland will serve as Chairman next year and Fred Bagwell will serve as secretary.

2012 Columbarium Committee members: Doug Anderson, Fred Bagwell, Caroline Brown, George Davis, Gladys Fleming, Lovell Glasco, Henry Holland, Tom Ligon, Sam Nixon, Merle Showalter, Gus Sledge

Thank you for your support,

Caroline Brown, Chair

Communications

With the review of the Church's Constitution and By Laws, the Publicity Committee became the Communication Committee.

Publications:

- At the beginning of the year, we began producing the Sunday *Connections*
- June 2012 was the first edition of the "new," black and white, monthly *Explorer*
- Fall (September) 2012 was the first edition of the new, glossy, quarterly *Explorer*
- The *e-Spire* has gradually become more simplified so brief information leads readers to our website.
- Two committee members and the Communications Specialist formed a Publications Review Subcommittee for the purpose of making sure all of our publications still hold the congregation's best interest as far as communicating to them.

Website:

- In September 2012, we moved the Church website from E-Zekiel to Wordpress to create a more user-friendly and interactive website on both ends of use – visitor and editor.
- A Website Subcommittee was formed with eight members: three from Communication, one from the Board of Deacons, one from the Board of Administration, one from the Board of Missions, one from the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation, and one from the Music Committee.
 - This subcommittee's role is to visit the website once a month and make note of any mistakes, outdated information, or missing information.
- We have an active blog with posts from the staff each week, missions, youth, and several other categories.
- Web development is an ongoing process to ensure that we are always doing the best that we can to have an active web presence that is welcoming and effective.

Devotions:

- Formed a Devotions Subcommittee (eight members)
- Planned and produced Advent Devotions
- Planned for Lenten Devotions 2013
- The Advent Devotions were produced on our website every day and each were accompanied by a piece of art produced by the children in our Sunday School classes and Children's Worship.
- A print version of the Advent Devotions was available in a book-style format without any art.

Cassandra Ducca, Communications Specialist

History Committee

History Cabinet

There were three major displays presented in the cabinet located in the Lower Commons. Displays included a collection of handmade quilts by Julia Nixon; a focus on the youth "Thank You Tour" and summer jobs performed at River Road Church; and the annual Nativity exhibit featuring the Franklin Mint set which was a gift to the church from Frances Still, aunt of Joyce Gibson.

Taping Project

An ongoing project, now complete, has been the conversion of cassette and reel-to-reel tape archived materials to CD format for long term preservation. These holdings include sermons from January 1979 – March 2008, before the digital recording of sermons began on Easter 2008. A set of these sermons will be donated to the Virginia Baptist Historical Society. A collection of sermons by Dr. Woodrow W. Hasty, second pastor of River Road Church, was donated to the archives by his daughter, Wendy Hasty. This collection includes sermons from Plymouth Congregational Church, Coconut Grove, FL, 1989-1990, and various other pulpits.

Additional examples of recordings include the service of Dedication of the Sanctuary; the installation of pastors; the funeral service for Dr. Vernon B. Richardson; programs from the River Road Concert Series; Catacomb Lectures; Lenten services; Wednesday Night programs; and speakers. A complete index will be available in the archives and church members may have copies of recordings made by contacting the church office. Appreciation is expressed to the Endowment Board for assisting the History Committee with the taping project.

Change of Room Location

In 2012, the archives room was relocated to Room 206 on the main office corridor. This area of the church was deemed to be a better protected location in case of fire and allowed for the installation of a fire suppression system.

Barbara D. Jackson

Nothing can be written about the History Committee and especially the development of the archives without giving tribute to Barbara Jackson, longtime chair of the History Committee, who "left our world quickly and unexpectedly" on Sunday, September 9, 2012. Barbara's commitment and vision for this work were evident as she served as facilitator, promoter, organizer, teacher, and seeker of ideas for projects. Her creativity led her to look for new ways to implement projects which she always approached with enthusiasm. She extended her professional expertise and personal involvement beyond regular meetings or working sessions. She diligently addressed creating order out of a mass of collected materials. She possessed a keen sense about how to honor and portray major events in the life of a church.

Barbara's expectations were high for herself as well as her committee members. Perhaps that was so because her dedication went beyond merely collecting and organizing historical records. At her service and later in an article in the *Religious Herald*, Fred Anderson, member of the History Committee, said of Barbara: "She was a keeper of the memories."

Carole Royall, History Committee Member

House and Grounds Committee

This was a busy and productive year for the house and grounds committee. In general, the committee pursued a course to solve the problems and repair things that need repairing. We are very fortunate to be working with Mike Price who is doing an excellent job repairing the church and designing systems that will keep the church in excellent condition. The House and Grounds Committee worked very closely with the Building and Property Council to do major repairs. In addition, our committee has taken a more active role in the planning of items that would be repaired with the building upgrade funds.

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.

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.

Our committee worked with the Building and Property Council to divide, complete and investigate the items on the long range list. As a result, the number of House and Grounds items was reduced from 21 to 9. Of the remaining 9 items, two were completed and one was added making a total of 8 projects to be completed next year.

Russ Collins, Chair

Insurance Committee

The insurance committee is charged with monitoring the property & casualty insurance needs of the church. Coverage includes property, liability, automobile, and workers compensation for River Road Church, Baptist, including the operations of the preschool.

Mike Price and our committee have worked with National Church Group Insurance Agency (NCG Insurance) to place coverage with insurance carriers they represent. In 2012 the church was covered by Brotherhood Mutual. Our only claim for 2012 was for items stolen from the trailer in February.

We requested that NCG Insurance provide quotes from several companies they represent. They presented quotes from four carriers and we chose to move the church's coverage to Selective Insurance, effective January 1, 2013. Our decision was based on a comparison of coverage and price as well as an expectation of adequate claim service in the event of a claim.

2012 Committee members: Jean Cauble, Jay Howe, Frank Schwall, Olen Stewart, Jarrett Zimmerman

Laura Thorne, Chair

Music Committee

The Music Committee has had the charge of offering support to Dr. Robert Gallagher, Minister of Music and organist, as he completed his first full year fulfilling the role of overseeing and directing the music ministry at River Road Church, Baptist.

2012 has been an excellent year for music programs for children and youth at RRC. Ashley Larson directs the Cherub Choir (ages 3 – K) with Anita McAllister and Amy Hubbard assisting. The Carol Choir (grades 1 and 2) is directed by Kara Harman with Cynthia Lantz assisting and Bob Gallagher directs both Crusader (grades 3 – 5) and Youth (grades 6 – 12) Choirs. 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. All of these groups sang for many of the worship services during the year including the Christmas Eve Family Service. On occasion the Crusader or Youth Choir participated with the Chancel Choir. The Youth Choir led the worship music on Youth Sunday and sang for two baptismal services.

On May 9 the Children's Music Ministry presented *The Tale of the Three Trees*, a musical by Allen Pote and Tom S. Long. This was directed by Michelle Harman-Gulick. "Summer Celebration" consisting of music and movement activities was held in conjunction with Vacation Bible School in July. The annual Christmas pageant was presented by the Cherub, Carol, Crusader and Youth Choirs on December 12 in the Sanctuary.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of RRC Preschool Development Center, the Cherub Choir joined the 4 and 5 year old children from the school to sing *This Little Light of Mine* as the Children's Anthem in worship.

The Chancel Choir sang at all Sunday morning worship services including two services on Easter Sunday accompanied by a brass ensemble. On All Saints' Day (November 4), the Chancel Choir sang *Missa Solemnis, K 337* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in remembrance of those departed in the past year.

During the summer months, a “Summer Choir” was formed consisting of regular Chancel Choir members and other volunteers who wished to sing as part of the group and participate in worship. This group participated in all worship services through the month of August.

The Chancel Bell Choir has been directed by Charles Todd. This group rang for several worship services including the 11:00 Christmas Eve service. In November, 12 new handbells arrived from the Whitechapel Foundry in London, increasing our set to 61 bells. This addition was made possible by the generous gift of 2 members of this choir and also with support from the Endowment Board. A summer handbell choir was also formed for those who had an interest in ringing. Under the direction of Chuck Todd, they were prepared to play at 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 anthems or accompanists for choirs or anthems.

The second half of the 2011-2012 season of the E. Carl Freeman Concert Series at River Road Church included the following concerts:

- Sunday, January 29, 2012, 3:00 p.m. – Organ recital by Dr. Robert Gallagher
- Sat., February 25, 2012, 7:30 p.m. – The Washington and Lee University Chamber Singers, Shane M. Lynch, conductor
- Sat., March 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m. – Baylor University A Capella Choir, Alan Raines, conductor (also participated in worship on Sunday, March 11)
- Sat., April 25, 2012, 7:30 p.m. – Julian Toha, Multimedia Piano Recital (Fellowship Hall)
- Sat., May 19, 2012, 7:30 p.m. – William A. Dameron, Tenor (Fellowship Hall)
- Sun., June 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m. – Spring Choral Concert by the RRC Chancel Choir with guest organist, David Briggs, Organist Emeritus, Gloucester Cathedral; Robert Gallagher, conductor

The 42nd season, 2012 – 2013 started with the following programs:

- Fri., October 26, 2012, 8:00 p.m. – *DUO MYDO*, Douglas Bruce, organ and Myriam Hidber Dickinson, flute
- Sun., November 18, 7:00 p.m. – James River Singers
- Sun., December 9, 7:30 p.m. – Advent/Christmas Choral Concert, *Messiah Part I*, by George Frederic Handel performed by the RRC Chancel Choir with orchestra, Robert Gallagher, conductor.
(*This concert was dedicated to the memory of Barbara Dunn Jackson (1934-2012) who had been a long time member of the River Road Church Chancel Choir.*)

Members of the Music Committee hosted “Meet the Artist” receptions following each concert except James River Singers and the Advent Choral Concert. They also helped prepare and serve dinner for our two visiting university choirs. They assisted with the reception in recognition of the Chancel Choir and David Briggs following the Spring Concert. Members of the congregation graciously hosted the students from the two university choirs for home stays during their visit.

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

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, Stuart Williams, and Richard Wood.

Preschool Development Center

River Road Church Preschool offers developmentally appropriate programs for children ages ten months through five years. Detailed information on the preschool programs can be found on our website: <http://www.riverroadpreschool.org>.

In the 2011-2012 school year, the preschool served over three hundred children in our church and the community. In total we contributed \$89,088 to the church budget.

In September of 2012, the preschool celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Photographs spanning the forty years were displayed in the upper commons, and members of the congregation shared stories of their experiences with the preschool. The anniversary celebration weekend included a dinner, which recognized former and current preschool staff for their years of service along with church members who serve and have served as members of the preschool development committee. During the evening, several speakers shared highlights of the preschool over the forty years. A slideshow of pictures was also included. On Sunday of the anniversary weekend, families of the preschool were invited to worship where the children in the older preschool classes along with children in the preschool choirs at River Road sang a song. Dr. Bob Gallagher and Leslie Crenshaw, the preschool music teacher, coordinated this celebration of music. Following worship, the congregation was served lunch and was invited to enjoy live music, animals, and activities such as bounce houses, face painting, and a magician to celebrate the preschool. It was a beautiful fall afternoon and an exciting culminating event. The anniversary celebration was possible with the support of Margaret Collins, our ministers and church staff along with members of the preschool committee.

Lisa B. Cipolletti, Chair

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee at River Road Church, Baptist, experienced several changes in 2012. Henry Langford, our only passenger for our North Side run, passed away in 2012. As a result at the present time we are only providing transportation for church members who are residents of Lakewood Manor as well as a few other individuals in the West End. Also in 2012 after several years of expensive repairs to our main bus, the Endowment Fund has graciously provided us \$40,000 towards the purchase a new 15-seat bus that will be more mechanically reliable as well as better meet our needs. We anticipate completing the purchase by spring of 2013. In addition to the reduced maintenance cost we hope to get new driver volunteers since a CDL will no longer be required. The current bus will be sold to offset the cost of the new bus while the church will retain ownership of the smaller bus.

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

Ushers Committee

The Ushers Committee of River Road Church served at all regular and special worship services during the year. We also provided ushers for the River Road Concert Series. Attendance figures for the year are as follows:

	<u>Monthly Total</u>	<u>Avg. per service</u>	<u>Total Avg. Attendance</u>
January	1560	312	317
February	1346	337	
March	1396	349	
April	2169	361	
May	1272	318	
June	1116	279	
July	1244	249	
August	1044	261	
September	1661	332	

October	1170	293
November	1307	327
December	2665	381
Special Services:	Easter 8:30 a.m. - 208	Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. - 467
	11:00 a.m. - 605	11:00 p.m. - 310

WMU Annual Report for RRCB for 2012

The Woman’s Missionary Union at River Road Church, Baptist was represented by the Women on Mission Day Group and the Women on Mission Evening Group, aka the “Connectors.” The groups met monthly for nine months of the year. The Day Group met on the second Tuesday of the month at the church; and the Evening Group usually met on the evening of the second Tuesday at members’ homes.

During their monthly programs, speakers were often invited so that the groups could learn about specific missions endeavors. Community Missionaries from the Richmond Baptist Association’s inner city ministry centers were popular guests. The groups donated to Meals on Wheels, Church Women United, Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, the Elizabeth Kates Foundation, Daughters of Zelophehad, and LAMB’S Basket. Monthly assignments from the Richmond Baptist Association to support the three inner city Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana, the Baptist Campus Ministries at the University of Richmond and VCU, the Seek and Find Gift Shop, and the Barnabas Project of the African Christian Community Church were carried out by the groups. Monthly mission involvement assignments from the RBA varied from providing table favors for the senior adult program of the Oregon Hill Baptist Center to donating heavy duty cookie sheets to Camp Alkulana.

The Day Group met regularly and enjoyed fellowship and missions studies. Highlights of the year for the Evening Group included visiting the *Free Indeed* exhibit at the Virginia Baptist Historical Society and serving at the first annual Camp Alkulana benefit dinner and the annual dinner meeting of the Richmond Baptist Association WMU. The Evening Group also provided dinner for residents of Freedom House’s Community Shelter and for the students in the BCM program at the University of Richmond; provided breakfast for homeless individuals at the Oregon Hill Baptist Center; provided snacks for the ESL program at Second Baptist Church; provided Christmas gifts to a Home Again family; and provided a Valentines Day party for the children in the after school program at the African Christian Community Church

River Road WMU groups are open to all women at River Road Church.

Glimpses of Faith Ad Hoc Committee of the Church

On January 25, 2012, the following motion was made by Page Highfill and approved by River Road Church, Baptist, under New Business during its normal 2012 January Business Meeting:

I move that a new Ad Hoc Committee of the church be formed. Members of the committee are to be appointed by the Church Moderator from member volunteers. The purpose of the committee is to invite and document recent stories from church members and staff of actual River Road Church Christian experiences which are judged by the committee and ministerial staff to be appropriate resources for use by the church in efforts to encourage, empower, unify and nurture church members, families, staff and prospective members.

In undertaking this study, the committee will request input from interested members and small groups as well as from those who have interests in raising the awareness of the church’s Christian influence experiences from all areas, including missions. The committee is requested to develop an appropriate digital storage system compatible with the church’s systems, including the website, and bring back to the congregation a report-slide presentation illustrating suggestions for use of this resource to help the church continue in its efforts to serve, thrive and grow.

Members of the committee were confirmed in February 2012 and are: Page Highfill, Chair, Dan Bagby, Janet Bagby, Gene Damon, Henry Holland, Eric Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, and Julia Nixon. Initial organizational meetings in February and March

of 2012 summarized its purpose through its name selection, “Glimpses of Faith,” which was suggested by Henry Holland and approved by all.

In March 2012 Dan Bagby wrote the committee’s official invitation to RRCB’s members to submit their Glimpses of Faith stories for the committee’s review and publication on the church website as follows,

“In every human journey, the sacred still surprises. What sacred moment crossed your path, and joined your story? Your story will be a gift to us all. Please take a moment and share it with us.” Story submittals may be made to GlimpsesofFaith@verizon.net

During March, April and since, much work has been done on the church website to accommodate Glimpses of Faith submittals. Sheryl Johnson and Cassandra Ducca led those intensive website development efforts; including introducing a new platform for the website that would also support and carry the Advent Devotionals and the Church Blog, each under separate categories. The website has been continually refined to now provide church members and visitors a very user friendly system to access, read and print RRCB Glimpses of Faith.

The first Glimpses of Faith story was published on March 27, 2012. The 21st story was just published on January 1st, 2013. No church funds were used in 2012 for the committee’s operation or service in this ministry. We gratefully acknowledge and thank all who submitted stories and otherwise contributed their time and support through this ministry’s work in 2012.

Page Highfill, Chair