

REPORT OF CHURCH CLERK

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2015	2000
Total membership, December 31, 2015	2000
New members by transfer of letter or statement, 2016	11
Baptisms, 2016	6
Deaths, 2016	28
Removal by transfer or personal request, 2016	16
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2016	1973

New member by transfer of letter or statement:

Booth, Terry Lee	Glaze, Ella Grace
Claycomb, Diane Renae	Horner, David B.
Gilsdorf, Susan Bishop	Horner, Rebecca C.
Gilsdorf, Thomas Lee	Oakey, Lauren Tweel
Glaze, Andrea Schmidt	Oakey, Stedman Davis
Glaze, Daniel Edgar	

New members by baptism:

Barbier, Madeleine Antionette	Smart, Georgia Lynn
Newcombe, Paige Elizabeth	Stevens, Zachary David
Roberts, Eleanor Anne	Sundberg, Elizabeth Stella

Deaths:

Bristow, Opal Tusing	Langhorne, Alice Sutton
Casler, Josephine Johnson	McAllister, Anita Delene
Corbin, Jane Howard	McLaughlin, Laura Thompson
Cowardin, Rosemary Enders	Oakes, Catherine Maxwell
Dickerson, Sylvia Grigorowitch	Pankey, Mary Rudasill
Edwards, Betsy Davis	Porter, Edley Mobley
Flourney, Grace Carney	Robertson, Robert A.
Garrett, Lewis Swift	Rusher, Helen Wallis
Goode, Aylett Woodson, Jr.	Seaton, Stuart Manly
Goode, Mildred Cox	Seaton, Virginia Whipple
Grizzard, Mary Elizabeth Wrenn	Showalter, Cornelia Herring
Gustafson, Betty Ann	Thorton, Evelyn Kay
Jackson, Gerald DeLane, Jr.	Welsh, John Dickinson
Jackson, Lloyd Franklin, Jr.	Werner, George H.

Transfer or personal requests:

Baldwin, Whit	Franck, Catherine Bates
Beach, Betsy	Franck, Elizabeth Marie
Beach, William Richard	Franck, Robert Hampton
Davis, Andrew B.	Franck, Thomas George
Davis, Raquel Logan	Kellett, Christina Powell
Evans, Ashley Lightfoot	Kellett, Michael Parris
Evans, Emily Bricken	Luper, Erin Leah
Evans, Keith Eubank	Marsh, Sheila Catherine

The kind assistance of the River Road Church office staff – Sandi Bassett (now retired), Terri McMahon, and Susan Young – has been wonderful. Using their computer skills for information gathering, my correspondence with other churches per membership changes, my organizing minutes from the four business meetings of the Church in 2016,

and the mailing to congregants which officially notified them of their election as officers or on boards, committees, and councils for 2017 – all this has been seamless.

Emily D. King, Clerk of the Church

REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST - 2016

It was a year of transition. It began with the Pastor Search Committee already intensely engaged and closed with the unanimous election of the church's sixth pastor, Daniel E. Glaze.

The twelve-member PSC, effectively led by Hilton Almond, retained the services of Bill Wilson of the Center for Healthy Churches and held congregational listening sessions to ascertain "the important DNA of River Road Church" including its considerable attributes. The sessions also were designed to receive feedback on what the congregation felt were important issues for the next decade.

It was stated, "tongue-in-cheek," that the committee already knew that the congregation wanted "a man or woman who is 35 years old, with 25 years experience, who, forcefully and intelligently, proclaims the Word, relates to young and old, visits the sick, gives good counsel in time of stress and emotional need, and is our friend." Looking back, it seems the committee delivered on the perceived need except the candidate was 38 years old and mature for his years despite not being old enough for 25 years of experience.

In April, Founder's Day marked the 70th anniversary of the church. It was an appropriate time for a congregational reading of the Church Covenant.

Engagements in missions included some continuing activities including opening the church for CARITAS guests, assisting Oak Grove Elementary School, participating in Stop Hunger Now, and gathering school supplies for children served by the Church Hill Baptist Center and CrossOver Ministry. Another trip to the Bland Ministry Center afforded hands-on missions work including building a wheelchair ramp and helping to renovate a building in Wytheville which will be used as a safe haven for women and children.

A new mission thrust was introduced as "Catch the Spirit" and offered a unique missions partnership between River Road and Westover churches. With the support of the church's Endowment Fund and the leadership of the Board of Missions, River Road members helped in various ways to lift and serve alongside the some 50 regular attendees of Westover. Westover's members shared their vision of serving the many younger families moving into the Westover neighborhood located on the southern end of the "Nickel Bridge." Hands-on activities included assisting in Westover's food pantry, cleaning and organizing their church nursery in anticipation of children, and assisting in Westover's Vacation Bible School. River Road members were energized themselves through making new relationships and seeing positive results of their labors.

A "hands and hearts" family missions trip to Nickelsville in Southwest Virginia in June offered another personalized missions experience. The family-composed group included the Barbier, Clark, Martin, Shoemake families, as well as Bill Rusher.

A new activities-oriented group for senior adults was launched under the catchy and appropriate name of The Comma Club. Organizers explained that comma, an integral part of the church's name, meant something that provides a pause and so the new organization provides a pause for refreshment in the lives of the older adults.

Monthly programs for the initial year of The Comma Club included E. Bruce Heilman, chancellor of the University of Richmond, who, at age 90, continues to tour the USA on his motorcycle, and he shared about the reasons for his daring solo drives as well as his experiences. John Gordon, a church member and historian, satisfied the Anglophiles with a program on stately homes of Britain. The club members provided a program of sharing stories about their own "treasures." The club toured the Virginia War Memorial, and visited the Christmas train exhibit in Blackstone. Chester Phelps even cooked a Christmas dinner for The Comma Club, continuing a tradition which he established with the Lydia Class.

The Endowment Fund underwrote a stewardship assessment conducted by Horizons Stewardship and guided by Tom Melzoni. It also responded with a cash gift and matching gift to assist flood victims in Louisiana.

The educational program of the church continued to offer outstanding opportunities. The Wednesday evening programs included a variety of speakers and emphases including a presentation by the new president of the University of Richmond, Ronald Crutcher. The summertime Catacombs Lectures featured presentations from the various adult classes. Some focused upon generational studies; one re-examined former pastor Vernon Richardson's landmark sermon from 1965 entitled "My Dream for this Church"; another presented an open dialogue about Generation X and younger in the 21st century church; and Tom Graves offered an intriguing and intimate analysis of his father, Allen Graves, who was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Charlottesville.

Craig Martin, a highly gifted communications specialist, completed his own film entitled "The Insanity of God" which was screened in hundreds of theaters across the United States.

Vacation Bible School advanced the theme "Have U Herd?: God is Speaking to You." Through a variety of activities including Bible studies, missions work, and singing the children learned "how they can make a difference and how to hear God's calling over a lifetime."

Musical offerings in 2016 included the varied programs of the *E. Carl Freeman Concert Series*: the Pitt Men's Glee Club; the choir of the College of William & Mary; Seraph Brass; "An die Musik" (In Honor of Music) featuring our own celebrated soprano, Michelle Harman-Gulick, accompanied by E. Carl Freeman; the choir of boys and girls from the Washington National Cathedral; the One Voice Chorus; and a delightful chamber music concert featuring a pianist, violinist, and cellist. The chamber concert also provided a celebration for the completion of the refurbishment of the church's Steinway piano. The Chancel Choir accompanied by an orchestra performed Beethoven's "Mass in C Major" and works by Doppler and Hayden. The advent and Christmas choral concert offered Handel's "Messiah."

Near the close of the year, Bob Gallagher began to introduce the refurbished organ to the congregation in advance of formal concerts scheduled for the new year. Across the year, he had kept the congregation informed on the progress on the organ and its pipes and presented an interesting introduction to the enhancements of the instrument. Likewise, across the year a tireless committee continued to work on improvements to the sound system for the Sanctuary.

Staff changes included the resignation in July of Michael Kellett who had served as minister with children and youth, and the retirements of Sandi Bassett, secretary, and Raymond Street, long-time custodian. Margaret Collins retired as director of the preschool, an important arm of the church, which had won accolades. Lyndsay McGreevy was selected as the new director.

Throughout the interim period, the congregation valued the thoughtful and well-crafted messages of the interim preacher, Herbert O. Browning. Everyone appreciated the devoted pastoral care performed by Dan Bagby. Surely it was the witty Dan Bagby who jested that River Road Church had qualified for the Guinness Book of World Records for the most interims at one time: interim preacher, minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation, minister to children, minister of Youth and Visitation, and Church Administrator. The Personnel Committee offered special appreciation for the dedication of the staff during the year of transition between pastorates. A reception and time of recognition afforded an opportunity for the congregation to express their appreciation to the staff.

The Pastor Search Committee completed its assignment in approximately one year after the retirement of Michael J. Clingenpeel. The committee went about its work in a deliberate and organized fashion. They reviewed some 65 resumes, which were evaluated by every member of the committee. The narrowing of candidates went from 65 to 12 to six and to three finalists. In the fullness of time, the committee announced their unanimous recommendation of Daniel E. Glaze, pastor of the historic First Baptist Church, Ahoskie, North Carolina.

It was a "coming home" of sorts for Daniel Glaze who had been reared in Richmond, had observed city missions while growing up, attended BTSR, and engaged in his pastoral intern at nearby Grace Baptist Church. In mid-October, the candidate was introduced to the congregation and elected by the congregation without opposition on

Sunday, October 16, becoming the sixth pastor in the church's seventy years. The congregation quickly embraced Daniel, his wife Andrea and their daughters, Ella and Ashley.

Daniel Glaze came into his pastorate at one of the most hectic, critical and joyful seasons of the Christian calendar - Advent. His first Sunday in the pulpit was the very first Sunday of Advent, November 27, appropriately the Sunday focused upon Hope.

The historical review of 2016 concludes with a line from Henry Holland's "Poor Henry's Almanac" of December 29: "Prayers of concern and blessing and encouragement for this Body of Christ known as River Road Church, Baptist and for our pastor Daniel Glaze and the RRCB clergy staff and the support staff."

Compiled by Fred Anderson, Church Historian

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Let me start by saying that it has been an honor to chair the Board of Administration this past year and to serve with such a talented and dedicated group of individuals. Not having a full time Pastor made our work a bit more challenging, but with God's help everyone rose to the challenge beautifully. Some of the accomplishments of 2016 include:

- the hiring of a new Preschool Director.
- the almost completion of the restoration project relating to our Sanctuary organ.
- the installation of a new lighting system in our Sanctuary.
- the installation of a new sound system in our Sanctuary which is proving to be challenging.
- the implementation of a new method of conducting our Stewardship Campaign, thanks to the financial support of our Endowment Board.
- the approval of having the St. Olaf Choir perform in our Sanctuary in February.

Our Committee Chairs and Heads of Boards will relate more of the specifics.

I would like to personally recognize and thank the Chairs of our Standing Committees for all their hard work. They are as follows:

- Finance – Bill Stanton
- Stewardship – Bill Rusher
- House and Grounds – Ken Lantz
- Kitchens – Wyatt Heisler
- Personnel – Susan Rucker
- Insurance – Steve Lessels
- Facilities Use – Harper Alford

Special thanks to Laura Thorne for all the time she spent not only taking the minutes at our meetings, but also formatting them so they could be presented to our Congregation after approval from the Board. Thanks to Elizabeth Holland who served as our Assistant Secretary. In addition, special thanks to Currie Carter and Bill Rusher for the extra time spent organizing our new Stewardship Campaign approach; John Heisler, R. C. Moore, Bill Rusher, and others on the Building and Property Council who spent endless hours on our Sanctuary projects; and Dan Bagby whose presence at our meetings kept us spiritually focused on God's work for River Road Church Baptist.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank Russ Collins, our Vice Chair this past year. I thank him for his support and for the running of the meeting in my absence. He will be a great Chair for 2017. I thank the Nominating Committee, headed by Russ, and assisted by Margaret Almond, Kate Knerr, Currie Carter, and Ken Lantz for slating a great group of Chairs to lead us in 2017.

Martha Day Dumas, Chair, Board of Administration

Audit Committee of River Road Church, Baptist, 2016

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the audit of the church's books and records as appropriate each year. In 2015 the church hired Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP to audit the church's financial statements which are prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting for the year ended December 31, 2014. his audit was completed in calendar 2016.

The audit report was unqualified, and is on file with the church office. There were some observations related to the audit that were discussed with the management, the Audit Committee and the Finance Committee. Management is determining the course of action related to these observations.

Susan Rucker, chair

Insurance Committee

The Committee is responsible for reviewing the property and casualty needs of the church and coordinating changes in the amounts of and types of insurance coverage.

Key actions for 2016 included:

- Reviewed certain policy coverage and coordinated with the Church's insurance broker.
- With church staff worked with a representative of the Church's insurance broker during the Fall to remarket (rebid) the insurance for 2017. Met in December with the insurance broker to review the proposals, discuss the insurance policy and premium details, and select the insurance company with which to contract for 2017.

Steve Lessels, Chair

Committee members: Jean Cauble, Ron Tamagni, Neil Groseclose, Mike Price, Laura Thorne, Martha Day Dumas, ex officio

Kitchen Committee Annual Report 2016

Attendance at the Wednesday night dinner increased in the fall of 2016. Skilled and personable brothers, Moe and Seldon Plumley, provided appetizing meals for church members primarily using fresh ingredients. Since the high sodium and sugar content of prepared foods has been a frequent objection of church members to the Wednesday night dinner, the Plumleys' use of fresh foods has been welcomed. The Kitchen Committee has continued to work to enhance the dining experience through the use of place settings, cloth tablecloths, and table decorations.

Volunteers continued to play important parts in kitchen maintenance and operation. Volunteers assisted in the setup, the serving, and the cleanup of Wednesday night dinners and other food service events. They cleaned and organized areas on the monthly workday, not only in the main kitchen but also in the Upper and Lower Commons kitchenettes, the Social Hall kitchen, and related storage areas.

Kitchen maintenance issues and storage issues continued to be challenging. A "Kitchen Handbook," available in the main kitchen, helps users to operate kitchen equipment. The handbook also includes guidelines for the use of the kitchen for improved maintenance and sanitation.

The new gas stove became fully operational in the late summer after a protracted waiting period for the installation of a larger gas meter. The kitchen storage area on the lower level of the Fellowship Hall was remodeled. Old cabinetry was removed and replaced with new shelving, adding significantly to the storage space in the room. The yellow cabinets in the kitchen galley were resurfaced to match the grey wall color.

Wyatt Heisler, Chair

Report of the Personnel Committee to the Board of Administration
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

The Personnel Committee had a busy year in this time of transition between pastors. Our efforts focused on supporting Dan Bagby in his role as the interim pastor for personnel matters, the Pastor Search Committee in their process of searching for and on-boarding a new pastor, and supporting the on-boarding of Dr. Daniel Glaze as our new pastor. These activities have included:

- Providing support in the hiring of both full-time and interim employees during the year;
- Providing support during the departure of employees during the year;
- Working with the Preschool Committee to support the search for and compensation and benefits offer to the new Preschool Director;
- Working with the Pastor Search Committee on coordinating the compensation and benefits offer to the new pastor;
- Overseeing the compensation and benefits payments and policies for all staff in coordination with church staff; and,
- Developing a budget for both 2017 and 2018 for personnel.

In developing the budgets, the Personnel Committee benchmarked ministerial salaries and benefits for multiple types of positions, and looked at the number of positions that may be required in the future. The new pastor should have significant input into the job descriptions and types of personnel that should be hired in 2017 and beyond so we cannot know what those exact positions will be. However, based on discussions with Dr. Bagby and others that have significant experience in pastoral transitions, we presented the following to the Finance and Stewardship Committees for their consideration for the 2017 and 2018 budgets:

- The church should have up to five FTEs in the ministerial staff, and a full complement of staff in the administrative areas of the church;
- The Personnel Committee has not designated specific positions that should be hired, but feels strongly that there needs to be investment in the staff that would support young families, children and youth in the future; and,
- The budget that has been put forward would allow the church to hire positions that would “fully staff” the church for the near future, and accommodate some level of moving, transition, and search expenses for new personnel.

The recommended personnel budget has been incorporated into the stewardship campaign and budget for 2017 and into the planning for 2018.

The Personnel Committee also worked with Dan Bagby and others in the planning and execution of receptions/service awards for a number of staff members, and on a special reception honoring the efforts of the ministers and staff during our transition period.

We look forward to continuing our work in 2018.
Susan Rucker, chair

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The elected Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation (BCESF) met as an entire board every other month beginning in January 2016, with the exception of June-August. They planned and oversaw the programs and emphases of the church related to personal and spiritual growth for members of the church and other interested individuals. In the intervening months, the three subcommittees met to pursue the three to five goals they each had set for the year.

The Board faced a pastor liaison change and we worked cooperatively with the interim pastoral liaison changes. The forming of faith within our community is a process. We are always growing and learning. Our board prays for guidance, insight, and direction as we continue to lead the congregation of River Road Church, Baptist into becoming

a spiritual community where faith is formed. We continue with the sacred trust that this congregation has placed in us to lead in spiritual direction and the formation of faith.

Children Subcommittee:

After Michael Kellett's tenure, we welcomed Kim Crowley as the pastoral liaison.

Some accomplishments

- Modified worship bags
- Kept the same Sunday School curriculum taught by the same exceptional teachers from the past year doing the great spiritual formation with children that they have consistently delivered.
- Trip to PASSPORT*kids!* Camp
- Vacation Bible School led by lay leaders Kate Knerr and Betsy Lowery plus many volunteers
- Halloween Truck or Treat was very successful and was moved to earlier in the afternoon. The intent was to involve community families with children.
- Third graders received their Bibles during a church service
- Christmas pageant and Christmas Eve services were combined at the earlier hour of 4:00 pm. There were approximately 650 people in attendance.
- The church had two baptismal services during the year. The board sponsored a reception after each service for the baptismal candidates, their guests, and the church family. This continues to be well received and appreciated. Each candidate prepares his or her own statement of faith and it is read to the congregation by a parent, friend, or spiritual mentor. The members of the congregation have responded that this offers a personal and spiritual depth to the meaning of baptism.

Youth Subcommittee:

After Michael Kellett's tenure, we welcomed back Chester Phelps as the pastoral liaison.

Some of the accomplishments

- PASSPORT Camp
- University Camp
- Helped establish a relationship between youth of Westover Baptist Church and those at RRCB
- Summer recreational activities
- Snack suppers and youth activities on Sunday evenings, which include youth bringing their musical instruments and learning some basic "camp" songs. This is a fluid, ever-changing group. It has been well received by youth and adults
- Several meetings with parents and pastors
- Helped update records (names, addresses, grade in school, etc) for the youth and families in the church

Adult Subcommittee:

Some accomplishments

- Hosted, with the Social Committee, after church reception for Michael Kellett
- The fall season began with Celebration Sunday on September 11, 2016. The Board of Deacons and BCESF hosted a picnic of hot dogs, hamburgers, and potluck food from the congregation.
- Full Wednesday night programming for spring and fall with Sam Balentine leading our Bible study in the fall
- Curriculum resource fair and the establishment of the Resource Room
- Intergenerational activities included game night with children and adults, and a hike in Pocahontas State Park.

Martha Lou Green, chair

BOARD OF DEACONS

The 2016 Board of Deacons faithfully executed the responsibilities of deacons as described by the RRCB Constitution and By-Laws.

Elected officers: Charlie Early, Chair, Jean Cauble, Vice-Chair, and Hilary Blanchard, Secretary/Treasurer.

A total of 59 deacons supported the general oversight and ministering of the church membership during a transitional year, concluding with the arrival of a new minister. Additionally, during the absence of the minister, the Deacon Chair called on the Executive Committee to meet more frequently to facilitate communications amongst church boards and committees.

To help add to the already vast experience of repeat deacons and to help further educate new deacons, a theme for the quarterly deacon dinners was proposed - "how to be a better deacon." Guest speakers provided their perspective as to how the deacons could better serve the congregation of the church. Drs. William Tuck, Robert Browning, and recently, Daniel Glaze, all shared their expansive knowledge and experience with the RRCB deacons. Whether discussing personal commitment, the listing and explanation of good deacon characteristics, or real life examples of diverse deacon approaches, our speakers provided numerous attributes of a good deacon to reinforce the already solid group.

The Endowment Board, with endorsement of the Finance Committee, generously provided a grant to the 2016 Board of Deacons Fellowship Fund. The Fund is managed by the Board of Deacons to discreetly provide assistance to persons in need, whether within the church or local community.

As 2016 was a transitional year for the church, by the Personnel Committee asked the deacons to consider alternate ways to support the management and distribution of the Fellowship Fund. Historically, administrative responsibilities of the Fellowship Fund fall heavily on the church administrative staff, specifically, the fielding of phone calls of those in need, area organizations, and verifying financial requests. In order to alleviate this additional load, the deacons voted and approved, with concurrence of the Endowment Board, to join other area churches in ACTS – Area Churches Together in Service. Similar to our mission, a portion of RRCB Fellowship Fund was assigned under the discretion of ACTS, to support persons in financial crisis.

The September church wide Celebration picnic sponsored by the deacons was well attended. The success of the picnic was in no small part due to the involvement and direction of Emily Tuck. I want to personally thank Emily for all of her hard work to again make the kick-off to the church year a success.

Other deacon responsibilities included preparing a slate of 2017 deacon officers and nominating five at-large members of the congregation to be on the Nominating Committee. An ad hoc committee led by Theresa Price, with the combined efforts of Marguerite Bostic, Tracy McGuire, and Charlie Sorrell, successfully fulfilled this requirement. The officer and committee slates were approved at the November business meeting.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Board of Deacons, I would like to personally thank Dr. Dan Bagby, Minister of Pastoral Care, and Susan Young, Administrative Assistant, for their efforts in support of the Board of Deacons throughout the year.

Respectfully,
Charlie Early, Chair, 2016 Board of Deacons

BOARD OF MISSIONS

The Board of Missions offers oversight to the mission endeavors of River Road Church and encourages the membership to be involved in making a difference in our community, state, nation and world.

Most of these endeavors are in partnership with other like-minded groups such as the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, River City Faith Network

Ministries (RBA), Meals on Wheels, CARITAS, and Stop Hunger Now. But in each of these partnerships, our goal is not to pay for someone else to do our mission work for us, but rather to open even more opportunities for members of our church to be involved personally.

A brief review of the highlights of the year would include:

On Super Bowl Sunday 2016, the youth of the church sponsored a "Souper Bowl" collection of cans of food and/or cash to be given to the food pantry at Oregon Hill Center.

Additionally each month clothing, food, and meals are collected for the Oregon Hill, Church Hill, and South Richmond Baptist centers. At Christmas, toys were collected for the annual Christmas Stores operated by the centers. Our middle schoolers, and other adults from the church, volunteered on a Saturday in December to work at the Christmas Store at Church Hill Center.

River Road also responded very generously to provide Thanksgiving Baskets for distribution through the Baptist centers.

In February and again in October, over 60 adults and children, spent a Saturday morning packing over 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now.

Also in those two months, many from our church were personally involved providing a touch of love, as well as temporary housing, for homeless through CARITAS (Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter).

On May 21, a team traveled to Millboro, Virginia, in Bath County to do cleaning and repairs at Camp Alkulana, a camp for inner-city youth, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015. Budgeted funds from the Board, our annual church offering for the camp, funds from the annual golf tournament and Mission Foot Print 5-K run provided additional funds to provide two scholarships to the camp.

In June members of several families traveled to Nickelsville, VA, to participate in our first Family Mission trip. During the week, members of the team worked in a food bank, a home for elderly, and on a ramp construction project. All agreed it was a great start for a new tradition. A similar trip is planned next year for June 25-July 1.

River Road has been a long-time supporter of CrossOver Clinic through our budgeted funds and our many volunteers. It provides health services for hundreds of our low-income neighbors living in the West End, especially the large population of immigrants in the area.

For many years RRC has participated in a ministry to incarcerated persons, their families, and recently-released prisoners. A volunteer team goes monthly to visit Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. Through BoM funds, Christmas presents were provided for three families of incarcerated persons as well as scholarships for two to attend a special camp for children of those incarcerated. In addition, the ministry provides undershirts for those in the Richmond jail. The Board also contributes to GraceInside which provides chaplains inside prisons.

Two teams worked this year to build modules for two ramps to be installed at a later time through a partnership with Project Homes: Renew Crew.

In September, a team went to Bland County for its annual construction/mission trip to the area. The first several days were spent building a ramp for an elderly woman who could no longer take the steps to get out of her house. The rest of the time was spend working on a former assisted living building to transition it for a safe house for women and children in the Wytheville area. For many years Lloyd Jackson was the "driving force" behind this significant mission trip. In honor of his contributions, this ministry has been named the Lloyd Jackson Ministry, Bland County.

Through the MICAH project at Oak Grove Elementary School, RR provided budgeted funds and the church Thanksgiving Offering to help purchase food for the "backpack" children on the weekends and during school holidays. The RRC congregation donated approximately 800 books to the school library to use in their summer reading program. Members of the congregation also travel weekly to Oak Grove to volunteer at the school in many capacities.

The BoM provided medical supplies and assisted with travel for the medical teams going to Panama. In this ministry, several RRC members partner with members of other churches in a team approach to medical missions.

The Endowment Board gave a \$100,000 unrestricted grant to the Board of Missions. A special committee of eight -- 5 from the Board of Missions and 3 from the church at large were appointed to determine the best use of these funds. It was decided early on that the money could easily be given away to many very worthy organizations. But the committee saw its challenge, not to spend the money, but to use the funds in such a way as to move our church to new levels of mission involvement and commitment. After surveys, focus groups, interviews and field trips, the committee presented to the Board of Missions its first major project -- a "*Catch the Spirit*" partnership with Westover Baptist Church. Fifty RR members toured Westover Church on May 1. Since that time, many have been involved in projects at Westover. In the summer, youth "tour" spent a week in cleaning and construction projects. Another group assisted with the Vacation Bible School. River Road has contributed food and several members have assisted with their twice-monthly food pantry.

The next major use of these funds will be to make available mini-grants to church members who are willing to take the lead in a new mission endeavor. Details are to be announced in January.

These are incredibly exciting times to be involved in the mission outreach of River Road Church. Our hope is that every person at River Road will be able to find meaningful places to be involved and to serve.

Bob Shoemake, Chair

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COUNCIL **Annual Report 2016**

In 2016, the Church was completing the *Rejoice and Give Thanks Campaign* projects:

1. Organ renovation was completed with a new electronic console using the ivory keys from the original console. The pipes and wind chests were all reconditioned and several racks of pipes were added.
2. Three grand pianos were repaired and tuned.
3. Sanctuary lighting was upgraded with LED type light fixtures and a new dimming system.
4. The upgrade of the sound system was still in progress at the end of 2016.

There were additional projects that were undertaken in 2016.

1. Complete painting of the exterior of all the buildings including refurbishing the crest on the front of the Chapel with new gold leaf.
2. Replacement of seven fan coil units (heating and cooling) in the preschool area.
3. Added electronic controls for the HVAC systems for the Sanctuary Building and the Music Wing using a state of the art building automation system.
4. Replacement of the HVAC compressor serving the office area with piping tying in the system to the main chiller plant.
5. Added a new built in cabinet/serving counter in the Reception Room that will store the tables for the space. Also, the cabinets in the serving area in the Kitchen were refaced.

The Council consisted of the following members:

John Heisler, Chair

Tom Ligon	Russ Collins	Wallace Chandler	R. C. Moore
Norman Milligan	Charlie Early	Carolyn Hartz	Jean Cauble
Steve Newsome	Patrick Barbier	Bill Rusher	Mike Price

ARTS COMMITTEE 2016

The mission of the Arts committee is to enhance and educate our congregation on the importance of the Arts in forming and experiencing our Christian Faith.

In the fall, our own artist-in-residence, Judy Dixon taught Watercolor 101. This is a six-week class that teaches the basic skills needed to create a painting. Class participants are provided a drawing each week to paint. The class is open to the River Road Church congregation and friends in the community.

In addition to the Watercolor 101 class, Judy Dixon led a two-hour fun night event – Watercolor Art Party on October 25. There were approximately 30 painters in attendance at this intergenerational event. Along with Judy’s leadership, the Arts Committee, and even some Watercolor 101 class members, monitored the room and helped the painters. The painting used for this event was an original by Judy. Refreshments were provided including to-die-for pies baked by the Arts Committee, and cold-tasty lemonade, coffee, and tea. At the end of the night, the room was filled with many proud smiles and beautiful paintings – certainly these paintings will be framed and hung in a carefully chosen places in their homes. And many thanks to Wyatt Heisler for outfitting everyone with disposal aprons in order to protect the artists from paint splatter.

The Arts Committee focus is on the visual arts. We are planning for an exciting 2017 with more adventures in the visual arts. The wonderful and hardworking members are Judy Dixon; Bev Evans; Beth Stuhlman; Sherry Sorrell; Caroline Brown; Margaret Almond; Ann Hays, Sue Hodder; DeAnne Shelton; Bob Harper; Cassandra Ducca, staff; and Gladys Fleming, chair.

Gladys Fleming, chair

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

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. Three weddings took place this past year.

Anne Bagwell, Kitty Davis, Janet Bagby, and Betsy Lowery chair the funeral committee. These ladies along with other volunteers do an outstanding job making sure our church family is taken care of when going through the loss of a loved one. They provide comfort and assistance to the bereaved families of River Road Church, Baptist. Prior to a funeral, this committee makes sure the Sanctuary is set up correctly for a service. Diane Shoemake and Nancy Anderson assist families with receptions following a funeral service at River Road.

Betsy Lowery is the chair of the Parament Committee. Mary Beth Scherer is assisting as needed. They both follow the liturgical calendar that is set by the staff and make sure the correct paraments are in place for Sunday worship and special events.

Betsy Lowery chairs the Flower Distribution Committee. With the help of seventeen women, the alter arrangements are made into small arrangements after worship on Sunday. Deacons are invited to pick up an arrangement for someone

in their care group as needed. Stephen Ministers are invited to do the same. Dan Bagby is very diligent in taking flowers during the week to those in need of care.

During the year, we continue to use oil filled candles on the alter. Chester Phelps and the acolytes fill the candles as needed. Oil filled candles are used in the advent wreath as well. They were cared for by Betsy Lowery. The use of the candles has been very cost effective.

Volunteers of the church assist these chancel members during decorating time at Christmas and Easter.

The chancel committee is blessed to have such dedicated women and men offer their time and gifts at River Road.

Betsy Lowery, Chancel Chair

COLUMBARIUM MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE, 2016

The Columbarium Committee had one meeting this past year and that occurred on October 26, 2016. Members attending were Fred Bagwell, Caroline Brown, George Davis, Gladys Fleming, Anne Kirkup, Tom Ligon, Dick Morris and the Chairman Henry Holland.

The Columbarium is composed of 368 niches. There are 48 large niches which will hold 4 urns and 320 niches which will hold 2 urns. Chairman Henry Holland reported that 291 of the 368 are still available for purchase. There is also a "Common Ground" where ashes may be spread or buried. Initially, a grid was kept of interments in the common ground so that exact location of specific ashes could be determined. Several years ago, this committee decided that the exact location of ashes was not necessary because of the intent of the term "common ground". George Davis noted that the church staff maintains an informal record of the grid.

This past year, a question was raised as to whether a small tree or shrub could be planted in the common ground. An informal discussion among committee members was held on October 30 via email. Members were concerned that limbs and roots might interfere with the location of ashes and thus agreed not to allow any plantings in this area. George Davis and R.C. Moore continue to provide routine maintenance on the Columbarium Gardens for which we are grateful. At the meeting, George Davis reported that plaques on the tablet attached to the Chapel wall need to be re-positioned so as to be centered on the tablet. He also reported that one of the urns near the common ground has become cracked. Caroline Brown and Anne Kirkup were appointed to study and make a recommendation for a possible replacement.

All in all, the Columbarium seemed to be functioning as it should this past year.

Dick Morris, 2017 Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, 2016

The Communications Committee happily welcomed a number of new members in 2016, and our larger membership numbers brought new ideas, enthusiasm, and resources to our work. As the year began, we worked to identify communications needs and organize our team to support and extend the efforts of our communications specialist in addressing those efforts. The group initiated planning for:

- 1) **Updating the church website**, initiating a process to identify necessary enhancements to the current site, including responsive design needs, event calendaring/information, online giving and member access, clarity of information and brand voice support, ease of use, video support and storage, hosting, SEO and other details. Plans for addressing this project continue into 2017.
- 2) **Audiovisual installations** for the Fellowship Hall, Assembly Room, and the Chapel Hall, with funds provided by a grant from the Endowment Fund, were an important focus of the year. As 2016 wrapped up,

the committee passed a summary report to the Building and Property Council outlining wishes, hopes, challenges, and other requirements for the installations to assist the council with requesting plans and bids for the installations.

- 3) **Options for extending our communications reach** beyond our church walls to connect with the community involved a greater use of electronic media. In 2016, the committee used electronic marketing tools to promote Trunk or Treat (Eventbrite and targeted Facebook ads), the Advent concert (again, Eventbrite and targeted Facebook ads), and Christmas Eve worship (Facebook ads, focusing on the 4 p.m. family service). While comparative numbers are not available at this writing, attendance at Trunk or Treat was markedly heavy, and the Advent concert attendance was about 600. The Advent postcard mailing into the surrounding community was discontinued, as results, other than anecdotal reports, were not possible with the mailing, and the numbers reached are minimal in comparison.
- 4) **Connecting with people in the pews** to share “who” River Road is through promotion of missions outreach efforts as well as spiritual development messages and church-wide events. Recognizing that visitors and some members of the congregation who have not connected with a small group may not be aware of the active missions emphasis of our church or of other opportunities to connect with the larger church family. To do that, the committee, together with the communications specialist, worked to introduce monthly or periodic pew cards to enhance outreach to those in the pews and to encourage use of the cards to invite others to the church. Plans to grow this effort continue for 2017. Additional ideas for supporting missions awareness (and carried over into 2017) included introducing “missions moments” testimonials during worship at appropriate times.
- 5) **Evaluating current communications and planning photo/video support** for future communications efforts were also initiated in 2016, with plans to continue this communications planning with the input of our new pastor in 2017.

The committee actively supported the efforts of the communications specialist in publicizing numerous efforts throughout the year in the life of the church, including branding and helping promote the Special Missions Committee’s partnership with Westover Baptist Church, creating an online presence for the Pastor Search Committee to support the search for a new pastor, and helping to create communications to introduce the new pastor candidate to the congregation. Additional plans include helping to identify operational communications options available through the ACS software.

Karen Collier, Chair
Cassandra Ducca, Communications Specialist

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The main responsibilities of the committee include:

1. The continued maintenance and organization of the church archives
2. Photography of church events
3. The display cabinet in the Lower Commons
4. The audio visual and taping project

The committee continues to attempt to keep the church archives current and organized. The archives include a collection of past service bulletins, newsletters, audio and videotapes and photographs as they reflect the history of the church. To that end, discussion with the Church Historian has been instructive in assisting the committee with setting goals for organization, consolidation and use of technology in maintaining the Archives.

A major focus for 2016 was the 70th Anniversary of our Founder’s Day. The committee assisted with planning the service of celebration on April 17, 2016, which included the affirmation of the Church Covenant as written in 1946. A condensed history of the 70-year history (*Living the Vision for Seventy Years*) was written and included as an insert of the bulletin. A pictorial display was prepared for the display case in the Lower Commons of the church reflecting the history over the past 7 decades.

The committee also assisted the Pastor Search Committee in researching material from previous searches as they established the parameters for their search for our current pastor, Dr. Daniel Glaze.

The annual exhibit of the Franklin Mint nativity set was displayed in the case during Advent and Christmas.

Tuckie Paxton and Carole Royall, Co-chairs

MUSIC COMMITTEE **Annual Report for 2016**

The Music Committee has the responsibility of overseeing and assisting in the planning of programs, and of supporting the Minister of Music, Dr. Robert Gallagher, in fulfilling the goals of the music program at River Road Church, Baptist.

2016 was an excellent year for music programs for children and youth at RRCB. Our choirs and directors are as follows:

Cherub Choir - Christine Kellett through May/ Kim Crowley beginning in Sept.

Carol Choir - Kara Harman

Crusader Choir - Bob Gallagher

Youth Choir – Bob Gallagher

River Road Camerata – Bob Gallagher

Children’s Bell Choir - Paul Honaker

Youth Bell Choir/Family Bell Choir – Paul Honaker

Appreciation is expressed to these music directors for outstanding leadership. We also thank the choir parents and others for their help and support.

The three older choirs sang for many worship services including the 4:00 Christmas Eve service. Additionally, the Youth Choir led the music on Youth Sunday, sang for Baptismal services and, as a group or individually, on several occasions joined the Chancel Choir in Sunday worship. On May 25th, the Children’s Music Ministry presented the musical *Elijah* by Mark Patterson. The Youth Bell Choir/Family Bell Choir provided worship leadership in several services, including Advent and Christmas Eve. The Chancel Choir continued to lead all worship services, including Easter and All Saint’s when they were joined by brass and/or orchestra. A Summer Choir, consisting of Chancel Choir members and other volunteers, sang for worship services throughout the summer. The Chancel Bell Choir, directed by Charles Todd, enhanced our worship services throughout the year and as well as the 11:00 Christmas Eve service.

The Choral Scholars Program has 4 participants from area universities. The goal is to offer them the opportunity to experience great music with excellent direction as they share their talents in a church choir setting.

On November 18-19 River Road Church again hosted the Youth Choir JAM. This weekend of music workshops and fellowship involves youth choirs from throughout the state. The event ended with a concert on Saturday afternoon.

The second half of the 2015-2016 season of the E. Carl Freeman Concert Series at River Road Church included the following concerts:

- February 21, 3:00 pm, - Arcadelt Ensemble, Music for Four Voices
- March 6, 7:00 pm, – Pitt Men’s Glee Club, University of Pittsburg, Richard Teaster, Director
- March 22, 7:30 pm, - College of William and Mary Choir, James I. Armstrong, Director
- April 10, 7:00 p.m. – Seraph Brass
- June 5, 7:30 p.m., - Spring Choral Concert, River Road Chancel Choir and Orchestra *Beethoven - Mass in C major*

The 46th season, 2016-2017, started with the following programs:

- August 29, 7:00 p.m., – choral concert by The Choir of Boys and Girls of Washington National Cathedral,

Michael McCarthy, Choirmaster.

- October 2, 3:00 p.m., – Stefan Palm, piano; Laura Palm, violin; Chen Chen, cello
Celebrating the renewal of our Steinway piano
- October 30, 7:00p.m., - An Die Musik, concert by Michelle Harmon Gulick and Carl Freeman
- November 12, 7:00 p.m., – One Voice Chorus, Lynn Atkins, Jr., Director (ticketed event)
- December 11, 7:30 p.m., - *Messiah*, Chancel Choir and Orchestra

The E. Carl Freeman Concert Series continues to be self-sustaining through individual contributions and with supplemental support from the Endowment Fund of RRCB. This year Eventbrite and ads on Facebook were used to promote *The Messiah* with interesting results. Our attendance topped 600 and there were online donations. Members of the Music Committee hosted “Meet the Artist” receptions following concerts, which were part of the regular concert series. They also assisted the Social Committee with the reception following worship on June 5 in recognition of the Chancel Choir.

As part of the ongoing *Rejoice and Give Thanks* capital campaign undertaken in spring 2014 to support the refurbishment of RRCB’s Möller organ, a new solid-state organ console was built by the firm of Richard Houghton. The new console was installed in November. We are awaiting the installation of five sets of pipes. Vendor relationships and technical considerations have been primarily managed by Bob Gallagher, with assistance from Seth Roberts and others. The Music Committee extends deepest thanks to all those involved in the management and support of this project.

The piano refurbishment continues. Two pianos have been completed and returned. The third is due to be returned in early 2017. A technical report, prepared in the fall of 2014 by the Music Committee, on the state of the church pianos revealed the need. Technician David G. Hughes, RPT, is performing the restoration.

A fund was established in memory of Music Committee member Anita McAllister to be used in assisting children and youth in their musical growth and development. This is administered at the discretion of Dr. Bob Gallagher.

River Road Church is the beneficiary of a music program and a musical tradition of the highest caliber. This Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to all the musicians and members of this congregation who have provided leadership and support for our worship experience.

Prepared by Margaret Phelps, chair

2016 Music Committee members: Beth Hooker, Anne James, Anita McAllister, Steve Newsome, Tuckie Paxton, Margaret Phelps, Libby Roberts, Carole Royall, Sharon Seward, Jane Terry and Richard Wood.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE, 2016

In September, 2016, the following were elected to the Pastor Search Committee by the congregation of River Road Church, Baptist: Hilton Almond, Fred Anderson, George Davis, Bill Gray, Clint Hubbard, Andy McAllister, Eleanor Nurney, Susan Phillips, Seth Roberts and Padgett Shoemake. Jane Terry and Norma Hays were elected as alternates.

On September 12, 2015, the Pastor Search Committee held its organizational meeting. Hilton Almond was elected by the committee as Chair, George Davis, Vice-Chair, Fred Anderson, Secretary and Padgett Shoemake, Assistant Secretary. At that time we agreed upon the following simple rules: we would open all meetings with a devotional and prayer, we would make a final recommendation to the church with at least a 9/10 favorable vote, and the two alternates elected by the church would participate in all activities and votes of the committee with the exception that they would not vote on the final candidate. Early on, we set a timeline, with the expectation of having a new pastor in place by the first Sunday of Advent, 2016.

Early in the process, we hired Dr. Bill Wilson from the *Center for Healthy Churches* as a consultant both for process and for candidate search. We used congregational listening sessions, as well as a survey, to elicit the views of the congregation. From this, we developed a pastor profile and a congregational profile, both of which were made available to the congregation.

We received either through recommendations of members and friends of River Road, advertising, our consultant, or direct application, 61 resumes. Each and every resume was rated by each member of the committee and from these 61 applications, 12 candidates were selected for serious consideration. In addition to these 12, we actively recruited three women in ministry who came highly recommended. None of these three felt inclined to leave their current position. These 12 were interviewed by telephone by three members of the PSC. Those interviews were all recorded so that the entire committee could evaluate them. We listened to a minimum of 2 sermons from each. From these 12, we selected 6 candidates for video interviews, conducted by the entire membership of the PSC. We listened to two additional sermons from these six. We developed a google document on which we listed 32 desirable emotional and personality traits as well as concerns. This document was completed by each committee member for each candidate.

After intense discussion and prayerful consideration, these six were narrowed to three finalists. Beginning in mid-August 2016, we invited these three candidates with their spouses to Richmond for a full day of interviews. These interviews were aimed at examining the E-Q, that is the emotional quotients, of these individuals as well as specific aspects of their ministry. We listened to more sermons and 2-3 members of the PSC visited each in their home church.

On September 12th the PSC held its 52nd meeting. We reviewed the 32 emotional and personality traits, the pros and cons of each candidate, and compared each candidate with the 9 ideal requirements listed in the pastor profile.

At that time we took a preliminary vote hoping to narrow the list to two candidates. Since this was preliminary vote, the alternates participated. Of the 11 members present, much to our delight, Dr. Daniel E. Glaze received all 11 first place votes and the 12th favorable vote on the next day, the latter submitted by the member who was absent. In conjunction with the Chair of Personnel and Finance an offer for employment was offered Dr. Glaze.

On October 9, the name of Dr. Daniel Glaze was presented to the congregation and in the following week, Dr. Glaze and his family were presented to the Chairs of Boards and Standing Committees, the staff, the children and youth and their families and the congregation through a series of social events.

On October 16, 2016, acting upon the unanimous recommendation of the Pastor Search Committee, Daniel E. Glaze was, without dissent, called by the congregation, as the 6th Pastor of River Road Church, Baptist. Dr. Glaze began work on November 27, 2016 – the first Sunday of Advent.

The Pastor Search Committee is grateful for the opportunity afforded by the congregation of River Road Church Baptist to have served in this capacity and looks forward with confidence to the pastorate of Dr. Daniel Glaze.

Hilton R. Almond, Chair Pastor Search Committee.

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT CENTER COMMITTEE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

River Road Church Preschool Development Center offers developmentally appropriate programs for children ages ten months through five years old.

Calendar year 2016 has been a year of transition.

After completing the 2015-2016 school year, Margaret Collins retired after 29 years of dedicated service. Kristina Barbier headed the committee to celebrate Margaret's service with an after church celebration in May.

The Preschool Director Search Committee performed a diligent and thorough candidate search in a very short period of time. Members of the search committee were:

- Lisa Cipoletti Chair
- Sharon Seward Assistant Chair
- Peggy Pruden
- Mary Murphy
- Steve Newsome

Dan Bagby and Susan Rucker (Personnel Chair) provided significant support.

Lyndsay McGreevy accepted the Director position and joined the school in July 2016.

Since the beginning of the school year, the school has added 2 new programs, both of which have continued to grow. In addition, The Preschool was observed by the *National Accreditation Council* (NAC) in the effort to complete the re-accreditation process. At this time, we have not yet received the official re-accreditation certificate, but we fully anticipate receiving the renewal information in the coming months

Stephen S. Newsome, Chair

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The job of the Social Committee is to hold receptions for special events during the year. These include anniversaries, Graduation Sunday, and retirements. Usually there are 2-3 of these per year. In 2016 the Social Committee hosted 9 events.

Jean Cauble, chair

TELLERS COMMITTEE

The Tellers Committee is responsible for counting the collection every Sunday. Each group works one Sunday per month due to the number of members. Our head teller takes the collection to bank.

Jean Cauble, chair

USHERS COMMITTEE REPORT 2016

The Ushers Committee consists of 15 members who regularly perform usher duties for all Sunday and special Church services for River Road Church.

Attendance for 2016 services is as follows:

January	1167	(5 Sundays, 1 which was cancelled from 14" of snow)
February	1126	
March	1893	(includes Maundy Thurs + 2 Easter Services)
April	1159	
May	1252	(5 Sundays)
June	936	
July	1135	(5 Sundays)
August	855	(low average of 214/service)
September	965	
October	1432	(5 Sundays)
November	1461	(high average of 365/service)
December	2101	(includes 2 Christmas Eve services)

Notable services with attendance:

Maundy Thursday	206
Easter 8:30	155
Easter 11:00	636

Christmas Eve 4:00 620
Christmas Eve 11:00 294
Christmas Day 11:00 130

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR SERVICES 281.5

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Hays
Chair, Ushers Committee

WMU ANNUAL REPORT FOR RRCB FOR 2016

The Woman's Missionary Union at River Road Church, Baptist was represented by the Women on Mission's Evening Group, aka the "Connectors." The Connectors met monthly for nine months of the year, usually on the second Tuesday evening, in members' homes.

During their monthly meetings, speakers were often invited so that the group could learn about specific missions' endeavors. The Connectors donated to Meals on Wheels, Church Women United, Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, the Elizabeth Kates Foundation, and LAMB'S Basket. Monthly Missions Involvement assignments from the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association to support the three inner city Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana were carried out. Mission Involvement assignments from the RCFN varied from preparing and serving meals to the homeless at the Oregon Hill Baptist Center to providing office supplies to the Church Hill Christian Wellness Center.

The Connectors also provided Christmas gifts to a family sponsored by CrossOver Ministries and collected toiletries for inmates at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women.

Membership in WMU Connectors group is open to all women at River Road Church, Baptist.

Wyatt Heisler, chair

2016 Annual Report to River Road Church, Baptist
from
The River Road Church, Baptist Endowment Fund

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

The Fund began the year with total investments of approximately \$8.9 million and ended the year with investments of approximately \$9.0 million. The Fund's investments are managed by TIFF (The Investment Fund for Foundations). The Fund took approximately \$226,000 in distributions from TIFF in 2016, and investment appreciation caused the remainder of the change in value. As of December 31st, these investments had an annual return, while under TIFF's management, of 4.45% for 2016, and there has been a return of 7.49% annually since the inception of the TIFF account as of 1995.

We are grateful to and thank those who have remembered the church and the Fund in their estate plans, as well as those who have made donations to the Fund to further its goals. This year, we received unrestricted gifts from one member family and one bequest. The Fund also received memorial gifts that were directed to the Endowment Fund as well as unrestricted memorial gifts given to the church during 2016.

During 2016, the Fund paid out approximately \$330,000 in grants. This amount included grants of \$100,000 to the operating budget of the church and \$125,000 for capital reserves and projects at the church.

In addition, the Fund paid approximately \$37,000 related to the \$100,000 grant previously made to the church to be used for mission projects. During 2016 the Fund agreed to match congregation gifts to the Deacons' Fellowship Fund up to \$40,000, and \$33,000 of this amount had been paid out through the end of the year. The Endowment Fund will match fourth quarter gifts in early 2017. Also funded were grants related to the pastor search committee, the choral scholars program, the replacement of ministerial stoles, the purchase of instruments for the music ministry for the youth of the church, work on the stewardship campaign, and hand bell refurbishment.

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 supported disaster relief for the floods in Louisiana and the Mission Footprint 5K.

During the period 2002 to 2016, the Endowment Fund contributed approximately \$2.7 million directly to the church and its programs. Approximately \$1.6 million 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 2016 were:

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

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

Dan Stevens resigned from the board after almost 40 years of outstanding service. We are grateful to Dan for all that he has done for the Endowment Fund and will miss his talents on the board. A committee of the board has been formed to nominate a replacement board member.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ransone Hartz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Ransone Hartz, President
January 14, 2017