

CHURCH CLERK

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2016	1973
Total Membership, December 31, 2016	1973
New members by transfer of letter or statement, 2017	10
Baptisms, 2017	4
Deaths, 2017	22
Removal by transfer or personal request, 2017	36
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2017	1929

New members by transfer of letter or statement:

Browning, Herbert Oswald	Gilmore, Helen S.
Browning, Rose Marie	Hintz, Gloria M.
Gilliam, Erica	Mayo, Georgia Gibson
Gilliam, Robert	Taylor, Bryn Bagby
Gilmore, Geoff K.	Taylor, Nathan Lee

New members by baptism:

Both, Anne Marshall	Macturk, Alexander Hunt
Both, Nicholas Arrington	Ryan, John Michael

Deaths:

Berry, Mary Ellen Fink	Nixon, Samuel Anthony
Bottoms, Vara Holland	Noble, Mary
Budwell, Jane Cavan	Pace, Douglas Nelson
Crute, Geraldine Buckles	Pearson, John Strother
Currie, Janet	Phillips, Malcolm Everett, Jr.
Gunter, Carolyn Harshbarger	Pulley, Junius Waverly, III
Holland, Henry Davis	Roberts, Carolyn P.
Marr, Clayton Edward	Sigman, Linda Lee
McKay, Nancy	Taylor, McKinney V.
Moss, Ann Edwards	Younger, Robert Burch
Neese, Nancy Saunders	Yount, Jack Erwin

Transfer or personal request:

Childs, Dawn	Horner, Catherine
Childs, Nathan	Horner, Charles
Davis, Raquel Logan	Jones, Sarah Layton
Eldridge, Dorothy	Kelly, David L.
Eldridge, Scott	Kelly, Jean M.
Finley, Robert James, III	King, Carter Shields Lyndhurst
Foster, William Hayden	Ludvigsen, Kathryn Anne
Franck, Robert	Magarity, Sarah McMullin
Hardy, Elizabeth Broaddus	Nelson, Ryan Emerson
Harris, Becky	Nugent, Caitlin Shea
Harris, George Larry	Ricks, Dean
Hellmuth, Rebecca J.	Roberts, Christopher Lynwood

Roberts, Gretchen Wagner
Robinson, Elizabeth Ann
Simonton, Mark Charles
Simonton, Mary E.
Stokes, Melanie
Street, Kasey America

Street, Christopher Forrest
Wilson, James Milton, III
Woodward, Alexandre Malcolm
Woodward, Eleanor Claire
Woodward, Elizabeth Wood
Woodward, Erik Tate

The office staff at RRCB – Susan Young and Terri McMahon – have once again earned my admiration and gratitude. They have kindly made possible the maintenance of our church membership roll; putting into readable form minutes from the four business meetings of the Church in 2017; and generated the letter which notified congregants who were elected to serve in 2018 as officers or on boards, committees and councils of the Church.

Thank you!

Emily D. King, Clerk of the Church

HISTORIAN’S REPORT

The year of 2017 was the first full-year of Dr. Daniel Glaze’s pastorate; and early in the year, there were further opportunities for various segments of the congregation to become better acquainted with the pastor. He spoke at a young adults’ luncheon and before a meeting of the Comma Club, the senior adults group. On Sunday, February 12, an installation service was held in the sanctuary and he was installed as the sixth pastor of the church. Across the course of the year, the pastor’s creativity in planning, programming and preaching were in constant play. Although the River Road pulpit follows the lectionary, the pastor addressed significant issues as they surfaced including the violent demonstrations in Charlottesville in the summer and the wide movement against sexual harassment which received attention in the fall. On these and other subjects, the pastor spoke from conscience, conviction, and courage.

Missions continued to be an overarching theme and passion at River Road. There were many evidences of the missions spirit from repeated participation in Panama missions which was focused on helping the Gnome Indians in Chibirital, a small primitive village, to a family mission trip to Nickelsville in far Southwest Virginia, to continued participation in packaging meals for Rise Against Hunger.

The Endowment Fund made a significant gift to the Board of Missions to enable the missions ministry and a “Catch the Spirit” call invited proposals for use of the gift. The BOM approved work with the sewing circle of CrossOver Ministry. The FaithLink class led by Margaret Phelps submitted a grant request, written by Andrea Glaze, which was approved. The project involved eight clients in CrossOver, individuals from Brazil, Mexico, and Guatemala, who desired to learn how to sew. The project included the purchase of sewing machines and the offering of instructional classes. Members of the congregation donated various sewing supplies and the sewing instructors came from within the congregation. A report from the project reflected the joy: “Our group is enthusiastic and eager to learn. There is a lot more happening than sewing. Our skills are improving and our relationships grow by the week. We are a noisy and happy group.”

In August, a small team from River Road made a missions exploratory trip to Ghana to assess possibilities of future involvement. The team consisted of Ty Hays, Judy Collins, Steve Larson and Joe Teefy. Also in the summer, the Bland Mission Trip – which was named the Lloyd Jackson Memorial Trip in memory of the person most instrumental in previous trips – brought 12 members to assist in the preparation for the new clothing distribution center and in construction of a wheelchair ramp for a family in need.

In September, the congregation generously responded to the needs in Texas following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. The Endowment Fund offered a \$10,000 matching challenge and the congregation responded so that some \$36,000 was donated to the Disaster Relief ministry of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Harvey was one of several hurricanes in 2017 which did horrific damage including in Florida and the Caribbean and especially Puerto Rico.

There were other missions opportunities for which the congregation stepped forward with donations. These include assistance in the ministries of Westover Baptist Church, Richmond in their collection of shoes for children and youth; the knitting of “prayer scarfs” for the church’s CARITAS guests; the provision of swim attire and children’s books for students of Oak Grove Elementary School in the city; and reading glasses and toothbrushes for distribution by the Panama Mission team.

Chester Phelps stepped up to the challenge to once again lead the church’s youth during an interim period and he revived the youth’s participation in missions at Farmington, Maine. The youth also participated in PASSPORT Camp at Averett University. Kim Crowley led the children and they participated in PASSPORTkids! Camp which was held at Eagle Eyrie.

Music remained another great magnet in River Road life and worship. The *E. Carl Freeman Concert Series* offered numerous stellar opportunities including a concert by the world-famous St. Olaf Choir from Minnesota; the Washington & Lee University Singers; a harpsicord recital presented by Jory Vinikour; a concert by a RRCB group, the “Arcadelt Ensemble,” which presented songs reflective of “love and strife”; and a concert by the Choirs of Boys & Girls of the National Cathedral.

The highlight of the year in music centered upon the long-anticipated use of the church’s restored and enhanced organ. A dedicatory recital was held on April 30 with David Higgs, chair of the organ department at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, on the organ bench. In June, the opening event of the Richmond American Guild of Organists regional convention was held at the church and the program featured a celebration of hymns identified with the Protestant Reformation. On September 17, Robert Gallagher – who had guided each step of the organ restoration – presented his own dedicatory recital. He also presented a concert of organ voluntaries played during worship services at the church. The annual Christmas concert featured Bach’s *Magnificat* and *Cantata 147*.

Religious education was offered in a variety of venues. The Winter Bible Study on the Book of Jonah was led by BTSR faculty members, Tracy Hartman and Mark Biddle. Summer Vespers featured guest speakers who were current or former BTSR students engaged in various ministries. These included Kim Crowley; Charles Bagwell, a pediatric surgeon and current BTSR student; Justin Pierson who works in the community ministry sponsored by First Baptist Church, Richmond and who spent a year in Austria with refugee ministry; and Karen Brown who has preached at her church, First Baptist of Richmond.

The mid-week gatherings offered a variety of programming for each age group. The dinner which precedes the programming was prepared by Annabell’s Catering which is operated by two brothers, Chefs Seldon and Moe Plumley. The variety of offerings included four programs on Black History Month in February: a presentation on the 19th century Black Baptist preacher John Jasper of Richmond which was given by Benjamin Ross, historian of Jasper’s Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church; a biographical sketch of famed tennis star Arthur Ashe of Richmond which was presented by Whit Sheppard; a program on ministries for families impacted by incarceration of loved ones as presented by Martin Brown, a special advisor to the Virginia governor as regards “prisoner reentry and family reintegration.” The fourth program was on “strengthening parents to improve child well-being,” a presentation on the Richmond Family Fatherhood Initiative. It was presented by Chandra Washington-Peyton who works at RFFI.

During Lent, the Wednesday evening programs were centered upon “learning and sharing faith stories” of fellow church members. Andrew Terry, a former member, shared Episcopalian Lenten traditions. Bob

Gallagher presented a program on the Lutheran hymn “O Spotless Lamb of God” which was written in 1522.

There was a presentation on CrossOver Ministries – which is considered “the largest free clinic in Virginia.” It provides an array of health care services. Julie Bilodeau, executive director, presented the program.

The annual Vacation Bible School for children carried the theme of “Have U Seen?” which “helped children to discover God’s fingerprints in their own backyard and beyond.” In May, the children of the church presented a musical, “*A Table for Five...Thousand,*” which told the story of the boy and his loaves and fish.

In the fall, the programming placed particular emphasis upon the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with several gifted speakers including Dr. Loyd Allen, professor of church history at McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University, who gave a history survey and a first-person narration on the life of Martin Luther; Pam Durso, who heads Baptist Women in Ministry, offered a fascinating introduction to previously unheralded women of the Reformation; Phyllis Rodgers Pleasants Tiessieri, church historian, offered insights into the history of the period. In addition, Bob Gallagher presented music of the Reformation and the guest organist Thierry Mechler performed the Lutheran Organ Mass. The highlight of the entire emphasis was Reformation Sunday, October 29, when the Chancel Choir presented a Bach mass. The ideals and values behind the Protestant Reformation were taught to the children of River Road by a variety of learning methods.

Early in the year, on January 9, Dr. Henry Holland, a longtime valued and very active member, died. On January 15, his Sunday school class – for whom he wrote and published a newsletter entitled “Poor Henry’s Almanac” – renamed their class the Shepherd-Holland Bible Study class thereby honoring the memory of two outstanding leaders. It also was decided to rename the long-standing summertime series known as the Catacombs Lectures which henceforth would be known as the Holland Lectures.

The summer lectures are offered on Sunday mornings in lieu of the regular Sunday school classes and they usually cover a certain overarching theme. The Holland Lectures for 2017 featured five women speakers who emphasized various forms of spiritual focus: Rozanne Oliver of Charlottesville spoke on contemplative prayer; Libby Grammer, spiritual discernment; Rebecca Wells of the department of neurology, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, meditation; Mary Ann McKibben Dana, solitude and prayer; and Hanna Zhu, Christian monasticism.

An art exhibit featured the watercolor paintings by church members who had studied under Judy Dixon. Through the sponsorship of the Arts Committee, Warren Johnson mounted a large exhibit of photographs which he made during his 35 years with the International Mission Board. The striking photographs reflected what Warren saw in countries around the world.

The church’s Endowment Fund celebrated its 50th anniversary with dinners held in members’ homes as well as at the church. At its 50th anniversary, the Fund totaled \$9 million and continued to make grants of some \$300,000 or more each year in support of the church and its ministries.

River Road Church is unique in many ways including the presence of an attractive columbarium. In the spring, two cast stone urns were placed in the area. They were custom made by the outstanding firm of Kenneth Lynch & Son of Oxford, Connecticut which has produced work for significant sites across its long history.

Within the congregation, there were several recognitions and achievements, including the following: Floyd “Bill” Gottwald and his brother Bruce were honored as “Outstanding Virginians of the Year” by the Virginia General Assembly; Libby Grammer published a book entitled Privilege, Risk & Solidarity on undocumented immigration and feminist Christian ethics; Anne and Rob James were recognized as

“Christian Educators of the Year” by the church “for their decades of service in Christian education and spiritual formation to both children and adults through music, word and deed.”

Within the staff, Chester Phelps was celebrated for his continued and abiding interest and service in the church’s youth through yet another interim role. When he decided to step away from the work, Kim Crowley served as Interim Minister to Children and Youth.

On October 29, the church in business session approved the calling of the Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram to serve as Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families and her husband, the Rev. Daniel Ingram, to serve as Minister of Administration. Daniel’s appointment would replace Billy Burford who had served as Interim Administrator. Marnie and Daniel came to River Road from over a decade of service with Passport Youth Camps headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. They were due to begin work at River Road in January 2018.

Lubos Dzurik joined the staff as a Pastoral Intern. A student at BTSR, he and his family reside in Austria but he is from Slovakia and is involved with Baptist churches there. He was afforded a variety of pastoral experiences in his internship.

In the fall, Chuck Ursiny, Building Services Coordinator, experienced an illness which led to medical leave and the congregation kept him in their circle of concern.

At year’s end, Dan Bagby, Minister of Pastoral Care, announced that he desired to retire from the position. Dan is a highly valued member of the staff and has served the church and congregation in a variety of ways including the constant display of compassionate concern and care of the members and others, the training of the Stephen Ministers, and the occasional preaching which always was gratefully received by the congregation. He and his wife, Janet, will remain members of the church.

River Road Church, Baptist prides itself for “thoughtful faith” and as a caring community. As shown once again in 2017, it offers service, ministry and fellowship for a variety of interests and for every age group. The range includes the senior adults who engage in the programs and activities of the Comma Club, the young adults who gather for “Amicitia” (Latin for “Friendship”) with its social events and missions projects, and the varied activities and learning experiences offered for children and youth. River Road Church, Baptist truly is a church for all seasons of life and for all reasons to live as Christians.

Fred Anderson
Church Historian

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Changes on Church Staff:

The 2017 River Road Church year began with our new pastor, Dr. Daniel Glaze, starting his first full year of ministry at our church. In addition to the church operations, Dr. Glaze concentrated on hiring full time ministers to complete the church staff. Dr. Glaze was fortunate to find a husband and wife couple that could fill both the staff position of Youth Minister and Minister of Administration. Marnie Fisher-Ingram and Daniel Ingram started work in January 2018. Billy Burford retired from position as Interim Church Administrator as Daniel Ingram started his position. We greatly appreciate the work Billy did to keep the church operating.

Dr. Dan Bagby, Minister of Pastoral Care, retired in 2017, and all of our members will miss him. Dr. Bert Browning will fill his position. Chuck Ursiny has been unable to work as our Building Services Coordinator due to chronic back pain. We miss him and the work that he normally does, and hope he will be able to return. The church has been relying on cleaning contractors to do his work. We are fortunate to have had Susan Rucker as chair of the personnel committee during this busy time.

Facility Changes:

The facility changes were accomplished by the Building and Property Council, and these include the sanctuary sound system, lighting, and organ restoration. In addition, the Fellowship Hall air handler and air conditioning system were replaced. A new location was found for the sanctuary flags. Ken Lantz, chair of the House and Grounds committee, did an outstanding job keeping the church looking as it should.

Economics:

The 2017 year was an outstanding year for both giving and stewardship. Currie Carter led the Stewardship Committee and Bill Stanton led the Finance Committee. Currie is leading the church toward a lifetime of church giving, and Bill has the finances of the church documented and transparent for all church members. Steve Lessels was chair of the Insurance Committee and did an outstanding job keeping the church protected at a reasonable cost. A special committee to recommend to the church how surplus *Rejoice and Give Thanks* funds should be used was established with Dan Stevens as chair.

Other Committees:

Harper Alford led the Facilities Use Committee and he has become an expert in this area. Wyatt Heisler was chair of the Kitchen Committee and we experienced growth in the Wednesday night dinners. In addition, the kitchens have never been so well maintained.

Special Thanks:

I appreciate the assistance I received from Martha Day Dumas, Hilton Almond, the church staff, committee chairs, and members of the board. I appreciate the work of Ellis West as secretary of the Board: I especially appreciate the help from the church support staff. They are always cheerful and helpful. The church is in good condition and in good hands to go forward into 2018.

Russ Collins, Chair

Finance Committee (BOA)

The Finance Committee met monthly throughout 2017 to support the Board of Administration in carrying out its responsibility to oversee the financial operation and condition of the church. The Finance Committee's actions during the year included:

- Requesting a grant of \$300,000 from the Endowment Board to support the 2017 operating budget and, specifically, the investment required to transition to a permanent ministerial and administrative staff.

- Recommending a proposed 2017 church budget to the Board of Administration for its approval and subsequent recommendation to the church, which unanimously approved the proposed budget at the business meeting on January 29, 2017.
- Reviewing revenue and expenses of the church on an ongoing basis to ensure that the church was on track to achieve its budget and reporting on a regular basis to the Board of Administration on the financial results and position of the church.
- Reviewing revenue and expenses of the *Rejoice and Give Thanks* campaign to ensure funds were spent for approved projects and reporting on a regular basis to the Board of Administration on the financial status of the campaign, including as the year progressed, estimates of the expected surplus of campaign funds over the cost of approved projects.
- Reviewing the status of reserve and other designated funds to ensure that all funds were expended in accordance with donor intent.
- Reviewing and approving the Preschool budget for the 2017-2018 school year and assisting with various financial matters related to the Preschool.
- Receiving and considering budget requests from officers, boards, councils and standing committees of the church in preparation for recommending a 2018 operating budget.

Highlights of the church's financial results for 2017 were:

- Revenue, including support from the Endowment Fund, for the operating budget totaled \$1,752,000, an increase of \$295,000 or 20% over the prior year.
- The Endowment Fund grant to the operating budget was \$300,000 and represented 17% of revenue received toward the budget. The 2016 grant was \$100,000.
- Offerings increased by \$97,000 or 8% over the prior year.
- Total expenses were \$1,679,000, an increase of \$168,000 or 11% over the prior year. The increase in expenses was primarily attributable to the provision for future facility upgrade and exterior painting expenses (\$80,000), staff salaries and benefits (\$42,000), and building maintenance and repair expenses (\$37,000.).
- Revenue exceeded expenses by \$72,000. This amount will be available for future needs of the church.
- Revenue exceeded budgeted revenue and expenses were less than budgeted.
- Total contributions to the *Rejoice and Give Thanks* campaign through December 31, 2017 were \$1,963,000, representing 95.4% of the \$2,058,000 pledged to the campaign. The balance of campaign funds at December 31, 2017 was \$587,000. We currently estimate that the campaign will have a surplus of approximately \$400,000 after all approved projects have been completed.
- Total revenue (including Endowment Fund support) received by the church in 2017 was \$3.1 million. This was comprised of \$1.8 million given for the operating budget, \$400,000 in designated contributions and Endowment Fund grants other than the grant for the operating budget, and \$900,000 in Preschool tuition and fees. (These amounts are approximate.)
- Endowment Fund grants to the church in 2017 totaled \$361,000, including \$300,000 for the operating budget and \$60,000 for the Deacons' Fellowship Fund, disaster relief and various programs not included in the operating budget.

Bill Stanton, Chair

Insurance Committee (BOA)

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 2017 included:

- Reviewed policy coverage and with church staff coordinated with the church's insurance broker as necessary.
- With church staff met with a representative of the church's insurance broker in December to review the insurance policy details and premium changes for the upcoming year, 2018.

Steve Lessels, Chair

Committee members: Jean Ellis, Ron Tamagni, Neil Groseclose, Mike Price, Russ Collins, ex officio

Kitchen Committee (BOA)

The Kitchen Committee has continued to work to facilitate the use and cleanliness of kitchen facilities and to enhance the dining experience of attendees at Wednesday night dinners. Skilled and personable brothers, Moe and Seldon Plumley, continued to provide appetizing meals for church members at Wednesday night dinners. Place settings, cloth tablecloths, and table decorations were used to improve the dining atmosphere.

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 Chapel 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.

Wyatt Heisler, Chair

Personnel Committee (BOA)

The Personnel Committee worked to support our new pastor this year as he completed his first year of ministry at River Road Church, Baptist. During the year, we continued to focus on the needs of the church and how the staff of the church, including the preschool, supported those needs. During 2017, our committee:

- Provided support in the hiring of both full-time and interim employees during the year;
- Provided support during the departure of employees during the year;
- Oversaw staff recognition for those earning service awards or leaving positions;
- Oversaw the compensation and benefits payments and policies for all staff in coordination with church staff; and,
- Oversaw the personnel budget.

In developing the personnel budget, 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 budget was shared with the Finance and Stewardship Committees for their consideration for the final 2017 and proposed 2018 budgets.

Additionally, we undertook a complete review of the Personnel Manual with the pro bono support of the Williams Mullen law firm. This review resulted in a number of changes to update our manual for current best practices in human resources administration and to better document our policies. This was presented to the Board of Administration in the fall, and the new version became effective in October, 2017.

Some of the more important changes that were made include the following:

- We clarified the employment classifications of different types of personnel, and their hours of work and benefits with a particular focus on part-time employees;
- We strengthened the work place policies related to employment, including at-will employment, equal opportunity employment, and anti-harassment, and updated them for current employment law per recommendations of the law firm;
- We clarified vacation policies and how they are accounted for, both in general and as they relate to different types of personnel;
- We clarified the annual salary adjustment policy, particularly related to situations where someone may not be in line with benchmark market compensation;
- We adjusted the service recognition award amounts, and eliminated the difference between ministerial and other staff for these awards; and,
- We updated the performance standards and evaluations section to be more in line with best practices in personnel management.

We are currently working with our pastor on plans for hiring remaining open positions in 2018.

We look forward to continuing our work on behalf of the church.

Susan Rucker, Chair

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The elected Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation (BCE&SF) met as an entire board every other month beginning in January 2017, 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 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 Committee

Kim Crowley was the pastoral liaison.

Some accomplishments:

- Kept the same elementary 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. Changed the curriculum for our preschool and kindergarten students to a more age appropriate one and added a curriculum for our toddlers. Teachers were honored and celebrated.
- Children participated in worship on a regular basis including reading, singing, waving palms during Palm Sunday and presenting a gift to Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze, our new senior pastor, at his installation service.
- Changed the Wednesday night schedule so that all adults, children and youth could be on one schedule.
- Trip to PASSPORT*kids!* Camp.
- Vacation Bible School led by lay leaders Kate Knerr and Betsy Lowery, plus many volunteers.
- Halloween Trunk or Treat was very successful 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 4:00 pm. There were approximately 600 people in attendance.
- More events to accommodate families with different aged children and youth which included the Shrove Tuesday party and summer recreational activities.

Youth Committee

Chester Phelps was the pastoral liaison.

Some of the accomplishments:

- PASSPORT Camp
- Unidiversity Camp
- Mission tour to Farmington, Maine
- Youth Sunday and Graduation Sunday
- 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

Adult Committee

Libby Grammer was the pastoral liaison

Some accomplishments

- The fall season began with Celebration Sunday in September, 2016. The Board of Deacons and BCE&SF hosted a picnic of fried chicken and potluck food from the congregation.
- Full Wednesday night programming for spring and fall including but not limited to BTR faculty leading our Bible study, Veterans recognition, two missionary events during the year, teacher recognition event honoring Ann and Rob James
- Intergenerational activities included game night with children and adults, and a hike in Pocahontas State Park.

Martha Lou Green, chair

BOARD OF MISSIONS

The Board of Missions tries to provide opportunities for members of River Road Church to be involved in meaningful mission activities in our community, the state, the nation, and the world.

Not surprisingly, our most active ongoing mission programs serve people in our community and the greater Richmond area. For example, each month River Road delivers clothing, food, and meals to the Oregon Hill, Church Hill, and South Richmond Baptist Centers, and our middle-schoolers and adults volunteer one Saturday in December to work in the annual Christmas Stores operated by the centers, providing toys to needy children. Similarly, River Road provided generous amounts of food for Thanksgiving to families in our community through the Welborne United Methodist food bank.

Another long-term aspect of our community-based missions is our ministry to incarcerated persons, their families, and recently-released prisoners. A volunteer team goes monthly to visit young offenders in the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. The Board of Missions also provided Christmas presents for three families of incarcerated individuals, as well as two scholarships for children of incarcerated parents to attend a special camp focused on the needs of those children. The ministry also provides items such as note cards for women prisoners, and undershirts for those in the Richmond jail, which may seem small but are appreciated by those receiving them. The Board also provides financial support to GraceInside, an organization that provides chaplains for Virginia State Prisons, and with which River Road has a close relationship through Lynn Litchfield, its Director and a former staff member at River Road.

A particularly successful and rewarding new mission project during 2017 was the creation by Margaret Phelps and several other women from River Road of the *Circulo de Costura*, or Sewing Circle, done in connection with the CrossOver Clinic. This program provides sewing instructions and access to sewing machines for women attending the Clinic, using sewing machines purchased by River Road. Almost all of these women are immigrants from Latin America and speaking either Spanish or Portuguese. In practice, the program has provided not only assistance in sewing, but has given these women a close, meaningful social support group, a support group that clearly includes the volunteers from River Road. River Road has been a long-time supporter of the CrossOver Clinic itself, through both financial contributions and participation by many volunteers. The Clinic provides health services for hundreds of our low-income neighbors living in the West End, especially the large population of immigrants in the area.

Through its Micah program, River Road members led by Susan Ryan provide ongoing support of all kinds to Oak Grove Elementary School, including reading to students, providing food to take home over holidays, donating materials to teachers and students, and helping the school teaching and administrative staffs in innumerable ways.

While many of our mission activities take place largely within the context of River Road and its members, other significant mission activity is done in partnership with groups such as the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, River City Faith Network Ministries, Meals on Wheels, CARITAS, and Rise Against Hunger. These partnerships not only allow River Road to expand the scope of its mission activities, but also foster strong Christian relationships with our other partners.

Twice during 2017, teams from River Road participated with Project Homes: Renew Crew to build access ramps for handicapped individuals in the Richmond area. In June and again in September, River Road held Saturday morning events to package large numbers of nutritious dried meals for Rise Against Hunger, which then distributes the meals to places around the world where malnutrition and starvation are serious risks. The Rise Against Hunger events, in particular, have drawn large numbers of participants, including families with children actively participating. CARITAS is another important mission partner, providing food and shelter to the homeless in the Richmond area through the participation of local churches. Under Deb Gray's dedicated leadership, River Road hosted over 30 homeless individuals for a week in February

and again in October, at which River Road members not only serve food and provide a physical place to stay but also visit with the guests and make them feel accepted and welcome.

Regional projects also play an important role in River Road missions. In May a team traveled to Camp Alkulana in Bath County to do cleaning and repairs at the camp. Camp Alkulana is a camp for inner-city youth that River Road actively supports through financial contributions, an annual church offering for the camp and proceeds of an annual golf tournament, in addition to contributions from a large number of individual River Road members. In June, members of several families traveled to Nickelsville, VA, to participate in a Family Mission Trip, working in a food bank, a home for elderly, and on a ramp construction project.

August saw a team of 45 River Road members travel to Maine for a highly successful combined youth and adult mission project emphasizing construction activities. Then, in September, a team went to a financially depressed area in Bland County, Virginia, for the annual Lloyd Jackson Memorial Bland County Mission Trip. Part of the group built a ramp to allow handicapped access to a home. The construction was complicated due to the significant rise in elevation from the ground to the door, and the relatively tight space in which the ramp needed to be built. The rest of the group worked to organize materials for a new distribution center for contributed clothing.

Internationally, a team of predominantly River Road members led by Judy Collins went with CBF missionary Sue Smith to Panama for the sixth year in a row to provide medical and dental care to indigenous Panamanians who otherwise lack meaningful access to medical services. This program is conducted in conjunction with the *Fundacion Christiana Medico Social*, a Panamanian faith-based group that provides doctors and medical and dental students from Panama City to carry out this mission. As we come to the close of 2017, the team is preparing to return to Panama in early 2018, this time with an additional goal of renovating an existing building to create a permanent clinic to service an indigenous population in the Canal Zone near Panama City.

Another international project involved a four-member site visit to a church in Ghana in August at the invitation of a Ghanaian pastor studying at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. The team spent six days in Ghana, meeting with local church leaders, members of the church congregation and the head of the Ghana Baptist Convention. The Board of Missions, along with members of the River Road pastoral staff, continues to consider ways in which to grow this promising relationship.

It has been an exciting year in missions, and we look forward to an equally exciting 2018.

Stephen Larson, Chair

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COUNCIL

The Building and Property Council was privileged to serve River Road Church, Baptist during 2017 accomplishing the following projects:

1. Completion of the multi-year project of refurbishing the Sanctuary Organ. This work included replacement of the console from an analog electrically controlled console to a fully digital console reusing the ivory keys from the original console. Also included was the removal and retuning of all the pipes, reworking the wind chests and adding one rack of pipes. The work was done by Richard Houghton (console) and Emery Brothers (pipes and wind chests).
2. Completion of the multi-year project of replacing the sound system (spoken word) in the Sanctuary. That work included a line-array speaker system with two twelve foot high by four inch wide speakers attached to columns on both sides close to the front of the Sanctuary. New digital

amplifiers and controls were also installed. Included were speakers in the Kitchen and the Lower Level of the Sanctuary. Audio/ visual capabilities were installed in the Sanctuary for recording services and special events. R.C. Moore coordinated this project from beginning to completion.

3. Replacement of the ceiling lighting in the Sanctuary. All the light fixtures in the ceiling of the Sanctuary were replaced with LED fixtures. The dimmer equipment and controls were replaced with new current model units. Bill Rusher coordinated this project from beginning to completion.
4. A new serving counter with storage for tables in the Reception Room was installed and the counter top and sink were replaced in the Sacristy. The Corian top material was donated by Robert and Laurie Gray.
5. In the Kitchen, the cabinets were resurfaced. Carolyn Hartz coordinated that project.
6. A wrought iron gate was installed at the top of the stairs leading down to the sub-basement.
7. The air conditioning equipment serving the upper level of the Fellowship Hall was replaced. The old unit was original to the building (1964).

John Heisler, Chair

Members – R.C. Moore, Bill Rusher, Jean Cauble, Tom Ligon, Wallace Chandler, Carolyn Hartz, Russ Collins, Steve Newsome, Patrick Barbier, Mike Price

ARTS COMMITTEE

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 May, the Arts Committee hosted a watercolor exhibit in the Lower Commons. The works featured were paintings by participants of the Watercolor Art Parties in 2015 (a flower) and 2017 (a butterfly).

In June, the Arts Committee went to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) and received a docent tour of several galleries. Our docent, Arlene DeConti, has led several of our groups and continues to be a great friend to River Road Church.

In October, the Arts Committee hosted another exhibit in the Lower Commons. This exhibit featured the photograph of RRCB member Warren Johnson. Warren shared over 60 photos from his work with the International Mission Board (IMB) for over 35 years. During his time at IMB he traveled to over 95 countries capturing the world around him.

The Arts Committee focus is on the visual arts. We are planning for an exciting 2018 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, Anita Tamagni; DeAnne Shelton; Bob Harper; Cassandra Ducca, staff; and Gladys Fleming, chair.

Gladys Fleming, Chair

BAPTISM COMMITTEE

During 2017, one Baptism Service was held on January 8, 2017 at 11:00am. The service was held during the worship hour due to bad weather. The following were baptized: Anne Marshall Both, Nicholas Both, Alexander Macturk, and Jack Ryan.

Sandy Rooney, 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 make 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. Margaret Almond and Julia Tyler with the help of Laura Lee Chandler created new artificial garlands that were hung in the chancel and from the balcony during our Christmas season. These garlands and other Christmas decorations have a new storage space in our church thanks to the help of George Davis and the FIXERS. The church was decorated on a Saturday this year in hopes of having more family involvement during this festive time. We were blessed to have a lot of helpers working at our church that day.

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. Julia Nixon made new green paraments this past year. Every time they are used, we will always think of Julia and smile as we admire her beautiful work.

Betsy Lowery chairs the Flower Distribution Committee. With the help of seventeen women, the altar 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. Steven Ministers are invited to do the same.

Dan Bagby is very diligent in taking flowers during the week to those in need of care. We had five new ladies join this group this year.

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 COMMITTEE

The Columbarium Committee is charged with the oversight of the Columbarium and the its associated gardens. The committee members are: Fred Bagwell, Caroline Brown, George Davis, Gladys Fleming, Anne Kirkup, Steve Lessels, Tom Ligon, and Dick Morris, chair of the committee.

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. There is also a "Common Ground" where ashes may be buried. Currently, there are 289 niches available for purchase.

At the beginning of the year the committee decided to replace the shallow, open bowl decorative urns located on either side of the Common Ground due to the difficulty in keeping healthy plantings in the urns. Upon the recommendation of Caroline Brown and Anne Kirkup, two cast stone finial urns were ordered and placed in the Columbarium in March.

In the Spring, a question was raised by the church Nominating Committee as to whether the work of the Columbarium Committee could be done by other committees of the church. The Columbarium Committee met on Sunday, April 9 to discuss this question. The members were unanimous in their feeling that this committee is an important ministry of this church and this ministry is best served by a committee which has as its sole purpose the oversight of the Columbarium and the surrounding gardens. The committee will, of course, continue to need the assistance of members of the House and Grounds Committee in matters regarding the maintenance of both the Columbarium's physical structure and its associated plantings. The committee appreciates the assistance that has been provided by George Davis and R.C. Moore over the past year.

In the Fall, a meeting was held on October 8 to consider the question of names that may be placed on the plaques that are attached to the niches. After much discussion the committee agreed on the following restatement of Article 9 which appears in the document, "Rules and Regulations for the Columbarium Memorial Gardens."

Engravings: Engraving of the plaque shall be completed by the church and shall include the name of each person whose remains are there inurned with dates of birth and death. The name will normally be engraved as first name, middle name, last name. Initials may be used if preferred but titles will not be shown. A nickname is not normally shown but may be approved for use in place of a formal name. No pictorial engraving shall be done on the plaque. All engraving shall be at the sole approval and discretion of the church or its authorized representative. The cost of the engraving shall be billed for the full amount upon completion of the engraving to the License Holder or the License Holder's estate.

The Columbarium is a beautiful and important addition to River Road Church and the Columbarium Committee strives to ensure its lasting and meaningful significance.

Dick Morris, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee had another successful year working to coordinate communication efforts throughout the church. We continued to work on a number of the initiatives begun over the past few years while at the same time looking for opportunities to bring new communication strategies into the mix. Communications is not done as an exclusive act by the committee but across the board by various groups throughout the congregation. We see ourselves as a partner for the various Boards, Committees, and small groups trying to extend their participation and outreach. We also could not accomplish our work without the support of our church's Communication Specialist Cassandra Ducca and other staff.

We supported a number of initiatives this past calendar year to help ensure that the congregation and community were aware of the opportunities and the successes that we had. Some of the programs that we worked to help communicate, through various mediums, included the Endowment Fund *Celebrate 50 and 50 More* Campaign, the Stewardship *Growing in Generosity, Rooted in Faith* Campaign, the *Catch the Spirit* Mission Project Grant Proposal program, the summer youth and children activities, and many more projects throughout the church. These activities utilized a wide range of communication media including print, mailings, web, social media, and word of mouth.

During 2017, we worked on three major initiatives for improving communications for the church:

1. **Redesign and revamp of our public website.** The committee supported our church staff as we partnered with FaithLab (a faith-based design and consulting firm) to completely redesign our website. We had a tremendous amount of content already available but they helped us to reorganize the site and bring a fresh look. We are pleased with the mobile-friendly conversation starting point for those looking for a community where they can develop their thoughtful faith.
2. **Continued to extend our reach into the community using various online communication tools.** The committee continued the use of social media platforms to reach our members, our guests, and potential guests. We promoted our activities and events through our Facebook and Twitter presence as well as using EventBrite to promote our concert series. These tools permit us to not only reach our members but send targeted information to individuals that appear to have similar preferences as our existing membership. Much of the usage is free but we can also use promotional capabilities to push out the targeted messaging. We look forward to building on these successful efforts in the future.
3. **Pushed forward on laying the groundwork for the future.** As much as we are focused on the current events and activities, we also tried to take a look at what we would need in the future to effectively communicate. We continued to work with the Building & Property Council on opportunities to finalize enhancements to some audio/visual installations throughout the church, we reached out to the faith community groups to encourage them to share their small group activities, and look for opportunities to document our many events and activities so that we can use those images in the future.

We are excited about the opportunities that are ahead for River Road Church, Baptist and look forward to the opportunity to help communicate the great things going on at our Church. If you have a communication need, please remember we are here to help you craft your strategy.

Respectfully submitted,
Buddy Sumner, Chair
Cassandra Duca, Communications Specialist

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The main responsibilities of the committee include:

1. The continued maintenance and organization of the church archives
2. Keeping a photographic record of events at the church
3. Exhibits for the display cabinet in the Lower Commons
4. Keeping the audio visual and taping project current

The archives includes a collection of past service bulletins, newsletters, minutes of committee and board meetings, audio and videotapes, and photographs as they reflect the history of the church. In trying to determine the importance of what is considered archival and what information should actually be kept for archival purposes, the chairs met with Fred Anderson, RRCB church historian and recently retired Executive Director of the VA Baptist Historical Society and University of Richmond archivist. A goal for 2018 is the development of a set of guidelines for receiving materials into the Archives. The focus will be on materials with a significant connection to the history of the church or present programs at RRCB.

The cabinet displays this year included:

1. "Getting to Know the Glaze Family"...a welcome and introduction of Daniel, Andrea, Ella, Ashley, and Micah, the family dog, to the RRCB church family.
2. "50th Anniversary of the Endowment Fund"...a historical account of the activities and support of the endowment fund and looking to the future.
3. A partnership with the Arts Committee to display the photography of church member Warren Johnson.
4. The annual exhibit of the Franklin Mint nativity set, a gift to RRCB by Miss Frances Still, aunt of Joyce Gibson, was displayed during Advent and Christmas.

It is a challenge to keep the archives current and inclusive of timely information and assistance from all committee and church members is appreciated.

Tuckie Paxton and Carole Royall, co-chairs

MUSIC COMMITTEE

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.

2017 was an excellent year for music programs for children and youth at RRCB. Our choirs and directors were as follows:

- Cherub Choir - Kim Crowley
- Carol Choir - Kara Harman/Kim Crowley
- Crusader Choir - Bob Gallagher

- Youth Choir – Bob Gallagher
- River Road Camerata – Bob Gallagher
- Chancel Bell Choir - Charles Todd

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

The children's choirs sang for many worship services including the 4:00 Christmas Eve service. Additionally, the Youth Choir led the music on Youth Sunday, and on several occasions joined the Chancel Choir in Sunday worship and for Dr. Glaze's installation service. On May 24th, the Children's Music Ministry presented the musical *Table for Five . . . Thousand* by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The Chancel Choir continued to lead all worship services, including Easter and Reformation Sunday 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.

The Choral Scholars Program continued to sponsor 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 17th and 18th, River Road Church again hosted the Youth Choir JAM directed by James Wells from Nashville, Tennessee. This weekend of music workshops and fellowship involves more than 100 singers from youth choirs from throughout the state and from North Carolina. The event ended with a concert on Saturday afternoon.

The second half of the 2016-2017 season of the *E. Carl Freeman Concert Series* at River Road Church included the following concerts:

- February 3, 7:30 p.m. - The St. Olaf Choir, Dr. Anton Armstrong, Director
- February 26, 5:00 p.m. – Washington and Lee University Singers, Dr. Shane Lynch, Director
- March 19, 7:00 p.m. - Jory Vinikour, Harpsichordist
- March 26, 5:00 p.m. – Arcadelt Ensemble
- April 30, 4:00 p.m. - David Higgs, Organ Dedicatory Recital
- June 25, 7:30 p.m. - Musical Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation
 - Chancel Choir with Organ, Brass, and Timpani
 - This was the opening event of the Richmond American Guild of Organists Regional Convention
 - This concert was reviewed in *The American Organist* as follows: “Precise intonation and laudatory musicality of adult and children's choirs were equally exemplary both in Renaissance compositions and in premieres of new works by William Bradley Roberts, Mary Beth Bennett, Andrew Senn, and Julian Wachner.”

The 47th season, 2017-2018, started with the following programs:

- August 28, 7:00 p.m. – Concert by The Choir of Boys and Girls of Washington National Cathedral, Michael McCarthy, Choirmaster.
- September 17, 4:00 p.m. – Bob Gallagher, Organist Dedicatory Recital
- October 22, 4:00 p.m. - Thierry Mechler (Cologne), All-Bach Organ Recital
- November 12, 7:00 p.m. - Bob Gallagher, Organ Voluntary Series
- December 10, 7:30 p.m. - Advent/Christmas Choral Concert with Orchestra, All-Bach

The *E. Carl Freeman Concert Series* continues to be self-sustaining through individual contributions and with supplemental support from the Endowment Fund of RRCB. Members of the Music Committee hosted “Meet the Artist” receptions following concerts which were part of the regular concert series.

Renovation of the Möller organ was completed by Emery Brothers during the course of 2017, leaving the possibility a few minor alterations/additions as needed. 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 refurbishment of three church grand pianos is now complete. Technician David G. Hughes, RPT, performed the work between 2016 and 2017. In addition, towards the end of 2017, Bill Stanton contributed his family’s Steinway Model L, a fine instrument that Ellen Stanton had practiced on for many years. This piano was placed at the front of our Chapel, near the lectern, and will be very useful for services in the Chapel.

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.

Sallie Sparks, Chair

2017 Music Committee members: Beth Hooker, Anne James, Steve Newsome, Tuckie Paxton, Margaret Phelps, Libby Roberts, Carole Royall, Sharon Seward, Jane Terry, and Richard Wood.

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT CENTER COMMITTEE

This was a year of excitement and growth for River Road Preschool and Development Center. Lyndsay McGreevy completed her first full year as Director of the Development Center in July 2017. The school received official notification of reaccreditation from the National Accreditation Council in February of 2017, which will not need to be renewed until February 2020. To accommodate the growing need of the community, the preschool opened three new classrooms and welcomed three new teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. Below you will find additional information on the Spring of the 2016-2017 and the Fall of 2017-2018 school years.

School Enrollment

2016-2017 Children Enrolled: 168

2017-2018 Children Enrolled: 172

Families Currently Members of the Church: 3

Teacher Training Schedule:

January 10th - Speech Development in Early Childhood – Charlotte Crain with Talk LLC

February 9th - Book Study: *Use Your Words: Lisa Murphy on Play, The Foundations of Children’s Learning*

August 28th & 29th -

- Book Study: *Use Your Words: How Teacher Talk Helps Children Listen*
- Visual Classroom with Susie Chenault
- Emergency preparedness & walk
- Puppetry in the classroom - Barefoot Puppets

October 9th -

- Concept Development – Gina Coats
- Effects of Premature Birth on Early Development - Lorraine Hughes

November 7th - Book Study Discussion – *Use Your Words: How Teacher Talk Helps Children Listen*

December 12th - Child Abuse and Neglect Training –Department of Social Services

2017 School Schedule of Events

February 6th & 7th – Chapel

March 20th - Family Night, 5:30pm-7:00pm

March 20th - 24th – Scholastic Book Fair

March 27th-31st – Teacher Appreciation Week

April 3rd & 4th – Chapel

April 16th – Chick Hatching Project Begins

April 27th – Parent Teacher Conferences

May 2nd & 3rd – Spring Program for Parents

May 25th – Last day of school for children

May 29th - June 30th – Summer Camp

August 30th – Parent Night and New Family Orientation

September 5th – Meet the Teacher

September 6th- First Day of School

September 20th – Sign-up Sports/AA/Inspire

October 10th – 12th – Fall Pictures/Class Pictures

October 16th & 17th – Chapel

October 18th – Pre-K/JK Information Session

October 23th – Family Night, 5:30pm-7:00pm

October 23rd - 27th – Scholastic Book Fair Week

November 7th- Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 15th - 18th – NAEYC Conference

November 28th & 29th – Puppet Show– Gingerbread Man

December 5th & 6th – Scottish Rite speech and language evaluations

December 11th & 12th – Chapel

Steve Newsome, Chair

THE RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thanks to those involved in regular, or even occasional recreational activities. The Book Lovers, Yoga, Evening Bridge, Watercolor Class, Softball Team and the Fall Hike are examples. When we are involved in small groups that regularly meet or participate in multigenerational experiences, we grow in common interest and form further bonds within our church family. Join the softball team, sign up will begin February. Got another recreational activity in mind? Contact a member of the recreation committee.

Marge Rusher, 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.

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 the bank.

Jean Cauble, Chair

USHERS COMMITTEE

The 2017 River Road Church Ushers served for all Sunday services, Special Easter and Christmas services, and Concert Series services.

Average attendance for all 11:00 Sunday Services: 280

Average monthly attendance figures for the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Services:

January	216	May	270	September	274
February	306	June	265	October	279
March	286	July	229	November	286
April	390	August	237	December	324

Attendance for Special Services:

Rev. Glaze's Installation	268
Maundy Thursday	211
11:00 Easter Services	733
4:00 Christmas Eve	542
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve	275

John Hays, Chair

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU)

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 third Tuesday evening, in members' homes.

For 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.

Membership in WMU Connectors group is open to all women at River Road Church, Baptist, who are interested in fellowship and missions.

Wyatt Heisler, Chair

2017 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 and is managed by a twelve-member Board of Directors. Our Endowment Fund has grown to approximately \$10 million 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 celebration of the Endowment Fund's 50th anniversary, the Fund undertook an awareness campaign in 2017 to help the membership of River Road Church, Baptist better understand the Endowment Fund. The theme of the campaign was "Celebrate 50 and 50 More". The current balance of the Endowment Fund is primarily the result of approximately 50 legacy gifts and the related appreciation on those gifts over the past 50 years. It should be noted that the church also forwards memorial gifts to the Endowment Fund, as well as any unrestricted gifts left directly to the church. The goal of the awareness campaign was to gain commitments from another 50 families to remember the church in their wills or through other planned gifts. Forty-nine individuals or families had made that commitment by the end of 2017.

The Endowment Fund further developed its communication and education efforts related to the Fund in 2017. We celebrated the generosity of all those whose gifts support the ministries of River Road Church, both today and for years to come, by hosting a Grateful Hearts Banquet in the late fall. We also established a page on the church's website that has information about the Endowment Fund, its purpose, and the role it plays in the life of the church.

The Fund began the year with total investments of approximately \$9.0 million and ended the year with investments of approximately \$10.1 million. The Fund's investments are managed by TUFF (The Investment Fund for Foundations). The Fund took approximately \$521,000 in distributions from TUFF in 2017, and investment appreciation accounted for the remainder of the change in value. In 2017 the Fund's investments had an annual return of 18.24%, and since the inception of the TUFF account in 1995, the Fund has had an annualized total return of 7.94%.

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 thirteen legacy gifts, either as bequests or directly from church members, of approximately \$185,000. The Fund also received memorial gifts that were directed to the Endowment Fund as well as unrestricted memorial gifts given to the church during 2017.

During 2017, the Fund paid out approximately \$373,000 in grants. This amount included grants of \$300,000 to the operating budget of the church and approximately \$16,000 to the Deacons' Fellowship Fund. Also funded were grants related to the choral scholars program, the concert series, and the support of technology and communications programs for the church.

Additionally, part of our mission is to support activities that the church would support if it had the funds. This year, the Fund gave \$10,000 for Baptist programs that support disaster relief and also gave a grant to support a class related to religious liberty at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Serving on the Board in 2017 were:

Ransone Hartz, President
Bill Gray, Secretary
Hilton Almond
Karen Collier
George Davis
Andy McAllister

Fred Bagwell, Vice President
Susan Rucker, Treasurer
Eleanor Nurney
Susan Phillips
Seth Roberts
Bill Stanton

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".

Ransone Hartz, President
January 14, 2018