



Annual Report — 2018

River Road Church, Baptist

CHURCH CLERK

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2018	1926
Total Membership, December 31, 2017	1929
New members by transfer of letter or statement, 2018	16
Baptisms, 2018	5
Deaths, 2018	14
Removal by transfer or personal request, 2018	9
Membership clarification	1
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2018	1926

New members by transfer of letter or statement:

Broadnax, Catherine	Norman, Timothy K.
Broadnax, Cory	Thompson, Paul S.
Crawford, Ronald Walter	Tilley, Juanita Ann
Fisher-Ingram, Marnie	Welker, Lorraine M.
Hazelwood, Betty Layne	Welker, Terry W.
Ingram, Daniel Huffman	Wester, Aimee Stewart
Merritt, Barbara J.	Wilson, Cathy C.
Norman, L. Kathryn	Wilson, Kenneth Allen

New members by baptism:

Ingram, Mollie Claire	Rooney, Amanda Lynn
McAllister, Claire Havens	Seward, Elizabeth Winston
Roberts, Emelia Susan	

Deaths:

Edwards, Douglas Thomas	Nelson, Maurice Arthur
Gauldin, Mary Coleman	Pollard, Overton Price
Harvie, Barbara Hall	Shreve, Mary S.
Haydon, Stephen Nuckols	Slatton, Elberta Lee
Mathews, Vivian Minson	Thornton, Virginia Saunders
Measell, George Samuel, Jr.	Thornton, William Edward
Measell, Kyle Hardee	Ware, Earle R., II

Transfer or personal request:

Albertis, Loretta Lucas	Evans, Ashley
Bailey, Carlton Davis, Jr.	Evans, Keith Eubank
Bailey, Sharon Weller	Grammer, Libby Mae
Bridges, David Powell	Underwood, William Powell
Bryant, Mark Daniel	

Susan Young and Terri McMahan, who staff the front office at RRCB, continue to earn my appreciation as they simplify my responsibilities as Clerk of the Church. In 2018 that included maintaining our church membership roll, and putting into readable form the minutes from the five church business meetings. In December, Laura Thorne, assistant clerk, signed the letters to congregants which notify them of their election to serve in 2019 on church boards, committees, and councils of the Church. Well done – and thank you!

Emily D. King, Clerk of the Church

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

The second year of Daniel Glaze's pastorate brought continued vibrancy in all phases of the church's life and work. The pulpit ministry remained a strong segment of the River Road Church experience and Dr. Glaze's messages were insightful, thought-provoking and timely, sprinkled at times with his own gifts of humor. In September, the pastor preached a five-part series based upon the book of James. On occasion, the pulpit was shared with guest preachers including Dr. Linda M. Bridges, president of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR) who gave one of the "Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching" sermons as did Rev. Kim Crowley, Interim Minister to Children; Rev. Libby Grammer who preached on two Sundays including her farewell Sunday as a staff member; Rev. Lubos Dzurik, an international student attending BTSR who served as a Pastoral Intern at the church; and several other church members including Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel, Pastor Emeritus, Dr. William P. Tuck, a retired minister, and Dr. Dan Bagby, former Minister of Pastoral Care.

Another opportunity for pulpit sharing was in the summertime Vespers. Speakers included Rev. Kim Crowley; church youth who had participated in PASSPORT camps; Chris Crowley, who is a minister of music and who used music to explore the meaning of Luke 14:25-33 on discipleship; Beth Rooney, who offered reflections on her PASSPORT experience in Washington, DC which focused upon "food justice" and homelessness; the church's youth and chaperones who attended UniDiversity Camp held on the campus of the University of Tennessee; and Rev. Nathan Taylor, Executive Director of the Virginia Baptist Historical Society and the Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies, who spoke on the Baptist heritage of dissent.

Whether on Sundays or at Vespers or other occasions, worship remained at the core of River Road life. The annual Christmas Eve services were well attended with 675 at the late afternoon Family Service and another 281 at the 11 p.m. Candlelight Service. Another unique worship experience was the annual Starlight Service of Remembrance, held near year's end in the Chapel which offered reflection and solace for those who had experienced personal loss.

The mid-week gatherings on Wednesdays took the theme of "Thoughtful Faith Community" (TFC) and the program offerings were varied, informative, and helpful. Before each program began, the fellowship meal provided nourishment and an opportunity for the community to gather around family tables. The dinner experience was greatly enhanced when the new church year featured a new chef, Christopher Ahart (who previously was best known for his magnificent singing voice in the choir). He planned, prepared, and served delicious and creative meals, offering a choice of a meat entrée or a vegetarian entrée. And he never repeated a menu! Attendance increased for the fellowship meals.

The TFC programs in 2018 included a variety of subjects beginning with a Winter Bible Study presented by three women professors of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University: Dr. Denise Janssen, Dr. Lynne Caldwell, and Dr. Lakisha Lockhart. For the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Tony Cosby presented a monologue based upon Dr. King's sermons and addresses. Dr. Theodore T. Brown, pastor of Quiocasin Baptist Church, an historical African-American church in Western Henrico, spoke at one of the adult assemblies and he also returned to preach for a Thanksgiving service held jointly with River Road and Quiocasin. Other TFC programs included Tiffany Terry who spoke on the CARITAS ministry; Dr. Tom Graves who shared impressions from the year 1968 which he termed "the year that changed our nation and also many of us"; and Rev. Nathan Taylor who shared Baptist heritage in a program on "Exploring Our Spiritual Family Tree".

Music is another strong part of the River Road experience. Under the direction of Dr. Robert (Bob) Gallagher, the music program at the church remains a blessing to the congregation and to many other Richmonders who are attracted to the church because of its superior musical offerings. The

E. Carl Freeman Concert Series continued its outstanding programming, including an organ voluntary series by Bob Gallagher; a recital by Violaine Michel, violinist, and Hope Armstrong Erb, pianist; an organ recital by Katelyn Emerson; a classical guitar performance by Francisco Roldan of New York City; and a duo-organists concert presented by Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault.

For the second year, the church brought a world-class musical group to perform. In 2017 it was the St. Olaf Choir from Minnesota; and on December 2, 2018, the Sanctuary was full for The Tallis Scholars who perform Renaissance music. The publicity alone brought an awareness of River Road to the larger Richmond community as there were numerous announcements on WCVE and notices in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

Two special events were repeat visitors: the William & Mary Choir and the Boys and Girls Choirs of Washington National Cathedral. The River Road Camerata joined the Cathedral choirs to sing David Hogan's *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*. Also, two of the Chancel Choir members presented vocal recitals: William Dameron and Christopher Ahart.

The Chancel Choir with orchestra presented Mozart's *Requiem* and, in December, performed Handel's *Messiah*. The every-other-year performance of *Messiah* again attracted a large and enthusiastic audience.

Looking ahead, Bob Gallagher began the advance planning and promotion for a second choir pilgrimage to the United Kingdom. (The first was the choir's participation in the worship services at Canterbury Cathedral in the summer of 2014.) The opportunity scheduled for August 2019 will include worship services at several sites in Western England including Bristol, Bath and Gloucester.

Education is yet another strong part of the River Road experience. In May, Emily Campbell Tuck was recognized as the church's Christian Educator of the Year for her decades of service in church education and spiritual formation through teaching and leadership. She taught classes in the various churches where her husband, Bill Tuck, served as pastor and is a teacher of the Friendship Class at River Road.

The annual Vacation Bible School offered children from preschool through fifth grade a fun way to learn how they can become "heroes" as God gives them heart, courage, wisdom, hope and power. The church's youth attended PASSPORT Youth Camp held at Averett University where they joined over 350 youth in hands-on missions along with Christian fellowship. Judy Morris was one of the chaperones, and in an article for the church's website, she noted that the event offered participation in missions projects including cleaning, repairing and painting an old house which would become a safe place for women in crisis, the cleaning of a riverwalk trail and the opportunity to work in a food pantry. She summarized the experience as providing "fun and games" as well as "opportunities for growth in friendship and in next-generation mission-mindedness."

The annual Youth Sunday was observed in April and the speakers were Zach Bostic, Meg Rooney and Joey Mistretta. The youth of the church filled other worship service roles including as greeters and choristers.

The annual Holland Lectures (formerly known as The Catacombs) featured Dr. C. Michael Hawn, a renowned sacred music professor who shared background on hymns of the faith. The lectures drew large and engaged adult audiences.

The Board of Deacons offered an educational opportunity with a special speaker for its September meeting. Tina Thomas, director of program and services for The Alzheimer's Association of Greater Richmond, was the guest speaker and the program was opened to all in the congregation.

In the fall, the Thoughtful Faith Community programs on Wednesdays included a series on literary and Biblical perspectives of heaven and hell as presented by Dr. Art Wright of BTR; Rabbi

Hal Schevitz of Congregation Or Atid who shared traditions of Hanukkah; and an intergenerational dialogue around the dinner tables.

Missions remains another vital part of River Road. The church's Endowment Fund offered "Catch the Spirit" grants through the Board of Missions. The purpose of the grants was "to raise the missions involvement of River Road Church" and the Board of Missions made funds available "to those who are willing to take the lead on a new endeavor, responding to the call to serve those in need." A "Catch the Spirit" grant was approved for a *Circulo de Costura* (that is, sewing circle) at CrossOver Ministry. Margaret Phelps summarized the importance of the project: "[The women involved] learned how to use a sewing machine and completed projects; however, more important than sewing skills, were the relationships formed within the group."

The church continued to host area homeless through CARITAS, and also hosted a furniture drive-in which members and others contributed furnishings to help those establishing a home. In the fall, with a new facility in place for CARITAS, church members served meals to the homeless at the facility.

Once again, River Road Church members participated in the Panama Mission project with medical, dental and construction services. Five churches partnered together enabling 19 persons to participate. Those from River Road included Judy Collins, Joe Teefey, Libby Grammer, Norma Hays, John Heisler, Bonnie Livick, Emily Sumner, Bill Rusher, Anne Rusher and Geoff Sundberg.

The church again sponsored a missions trip for families to participate in various missions projects in Southwest Virginia based around Nickelsville. Ten church members participated and their areas of service included food pantry organization and construction projects. Laura Lee Chandler, one of the participants, shared that the goal of the Nickelsville ministry was "to work for the good of those who love Him."

In October, the church was the site for a Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event which enabled children, youth and adults to interact together in preparing some 10,000 meals to be distributed in places of need at home and around the world. Church members also continued to assist with school supplies needed for pupils at Micah and Oak Grove Elementary School.

There are many phases to the River Road experience. In November, the Arts Committee mounted a large exhibition of the quilting art of master-quilter Julia Hubbard Nixon. A long-time church member, Julia considers quilting as her "mission to bring joy and warmth to friends and family." One of the displayed quilts was purchased with the funds going to the church's missions program, and with the intention of the quilt to be placed in a public space at Lakewood where Julia now lives. Another arts opportunity was the watercolor class offered by Judy Dixon. When the paintings created by the beginning watercolorists were displayed, everyone marveled at the talent within the congregation.

When Dr. Glaze began his pastorate, he was challenged to help the church fill several staff positions. In early January 2018, a married couple began their ministries at River Road: the Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram, Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families and the Rev. Daniel Ingram, Minister of Administration. They were called by the church in the fall of 2017 and came to the church after eleven years serving with PASSPORT Youth Camps.

In February, the church honored Dan and Janet Bagby with a reception, recognizing his ministerial service as Minister of Pastoral Care. A quilt created by Julia Nixon was presented. Bert Browning served as Interim Minister of Pastoral Care.

Beginning in January 2015, Libby M. Grammer served as a Pastoral Intern with Dr. Clingenpeel; and in September 2015, she became Interim Minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. In the fall of 2017, her title and role shifted to Pastoral Resident which provided her with practical pastoral experience. She concluded her service at River Road at the end of July 2018 when she was called as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Martinsville.

In April, the church's building support staff was enhanced with the employment of Mike Christian, an ex-Marine, who takes special pride in the maintenance of the building and in assisting the needs of various programs and events.

At year's end, in a church business meeting held on December 2, two new staff members were called by the congregation: Rev. Anna Perry Miller, Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship, and Sandy Rooney, Minister to Children and Their Families. Anna came to River Road from Westhunt Baptist Church in Henrico County where she served as pastor for eight years and Sandy, already a lay leader within the congregation, was serving as a lead teacher in the River Road Church Preschool Development Center. Both were set to begin their new ministries in January 2019. In December, the congregation recognized the contributions of the Rev. Kim Crowley who served as Interim Minister to Children from June 2016 through 2018.

There were significant improvements in the church facilities which were funded through the excess capital funds remaining from the organ renovation. These improvements included rebuilding of the two passenger elevators and remodeling of public restrooms. At year's end, in response to concerns regarding hospitality and security, "greeter stations" were established at the Lower Commons and Preschool entrances.

On the church's grounds, two memorial trees were planted. A Japanese Maple was planted by the Fellowship Hall. It was donated in honor of the church by the Suu Le family who were aided by the church in 1975 when they were Vietnamese refugees. The other tree is a white Dogwood planted behind the Chapel near the Columbarium Memorial Garden. It was donated in memory of Dr. Henry Holland by his family.

River Road folks enjoy being together! As a time of fellowship, members of the congregation went together to explore the new Porterfield Memorial Pedestrian Bridge which crosses the James River just over the falls. Another fellowship time, provided by the Member Engagement Committee, was a summer night "jamming" with the River City Party Band on the Plaza in front of the sanctuary building. In early September, a potluck supper became an opportunity to kick off the new church year, to reflect upon summer activities and to enjoy fellowship. The Comma Club, the church's gathering for seniors, sponsored a city tour led by church member Steve Pugh, a professional tour guide. Long-time and even native Richmonders were amazed at the changes within their city. The church continued to sponsor the Halloween event for children known as "Trunk or Treat" which required at least 60 cars with trunks open to provide treats. For the second year, Daniel and Andrea Glaze opened their home for a church-wide open house, choosing this year to open on the weekend after Thanksgiving.

At year's end, a church with many traditions added yet another. A church publication declared that "a new family tradition" for the congregation was to be the First Sunday Food Share. Members were encouraged to bring a bag of food for the clients of the Baptist Centers located on Church Hill, Oregon Hill and in South Richmond. The food was to be placed in green grocery carts in the Upper and Lower Commons and, looking ahead, the publication noted that January 6, 2019, was the First Sunday of the new year, the day to bring food for neighbors in need.

Fred Anderson
Church Historian

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

I thank the following officers and committee chairs who served the Board ably during the year 2018: Steve Lessels, Vice Chair; Page Highfill, Secretary; Tom Gilsdorf, Assistant Secretary; Bill Stanton, Finance; Susan Rucker, Personnel; Buddy Sumner and Martha Day Dumas, Stewardship; Russ Collins, House and Grounds; Harper Alford, Facilities Use; Insurance, Jean Ellis; and Betty Damon, Kitchens.

Highlights of the year:

In early 2018, the Board of Administration (BOA) approved and presented to the Congregation the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee regarding the excess funds of the *Rejoice and Give Thanks* campaign. The following projects, under the direction of the indicated individuals were approved and have been completed or are nearing completion: 1) bus purchase, Bill Thurston; 2) upgrade of technology, Communications Committee and Daniel Ingram; 3) Renovation of elevators, Building and Property Council; 4) upgrade in signage, Daniel Ingram; 5) Renovation of porte-cochere bathrooms, Building and Property Council; 6) stage lighting, Bill Rusher; 7) chairs for Fellowship Hall, if funds available, Daniel Ingram; 8) installation of automatic door openers, if funds available, Building and Property Council. Projects 1, 2, 3, 5 have been completed and 4 and 6 are nearing completion.

A second *ad hoc* Committee, under the leadership of Jean Cauble and Sharon Seward, undertook a study regarding the Security of the Church and Congregation. That study was presented to the Board in October 2018 and the following recommendations were approved: the immediate creation of two greeter stations at the Lower Commons and porte-cochere entrances, to be in effect by the end of the year, and the establishment of a Safety Committee, as a standing committee of the BOA.

In November the following amendment was made to the By-Laws of the BOA:

Safety Committee

Membership: The Safety Committee shall be composed of a Chair elected by the Board and at least five additional members, who are appointed by the Chair of the Board with the approval of the Executive Committee and who are drawn from throughout the congregation.

Duties: The Safety Committee shall make recommendations to the Board relative to the establishment, review, revision, and implementation of policies concerning safety of buildings, grounds, and the congregation of the Church.

The following were appointed to the Safety Committee for 2018: Sharon Seward, Chair, Dan Stevens, Nathan Taylor, Melanie Butterworth, Lisa Cipolletti, Martha Lou Green, Ralph Nelson, Margaret Collins, and John Hays.

In December the BOA, in conjunction with the other Boards, approved the recommendations of the Pastor to call Rev. Anna Perry Miller as Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship and Sandy Rooney as Minister to Children.

The following officers and committee chairs were elected for 2019: Bill Rusher, Chair; Martha Lou Green, Co-chair, Tom Gilsdorf, Secretary; Bill Thurston, Assistant Secretary; Bill Stanton, Finance; Oliver Way, Personnel; Buddy Sumner and Martha Day Dumas, Stewardship; Russ Collins, House and Grounds; Harper Alford, Facilities Use; Jean Ellis, Insurance; and Betty Damon, Kitchens.

Hilton Almond, Chair, Board of Administration

Finance Committee (BOA)

The Finance Committee met monthly throughout 2018 to support the Board of Administration in carrying out its responsibility to oversee the financial operation and condition of the church. Finance Committee activities and actions during the year included:

- Recommending a 2018 church budget to the Board of Administration for its approval and subsequent recommendation to the congregation, which unanimously approved the proposed budget at the business meeting on January 28, 2018
- Reviewing revenue and expenses of the church on an ongoing basis to monitor performance against budget, identify potential problems, and initiate appropriate action, as necessary
- Reporting the financial results and financial position of the church to the Board of Administration on a regular basis
- Reviewing revenue and expenses of the *Rejoice and Give Thanks* campaign to ensure funds were spent only for approved projects
- Reporting the financial status of the *Rejoice and Give Thanks* campaign to the Board of Administration on a regular basis, including periodic reports on the availability and use of surplus campaign funds for projects recommended by the *ad hoc* committee and approved by the congregation
- Reviewing designated funds to ensure that funds were expended in accordance with donor intentions
- Reviewing and approving the Preschool budget for the 2018-2019 school year and assisting with various financial matters related to the Preschool
- Considering budget requests from officers, boards, councils, and standing committees of the church in preparation for recommending a 2019 operating budget
- Requesting a grant of \$325,000 from the Endowment Fund to support the 2019 operating budget

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

- Operating budget revenue increased by 3% over the prior year, from \$1,752,000 to \$1,809,000. Budgeted revenue was \$1,811,000
- Offerings also increased by 3% over the prior year, from \$1,341,000 to \$1,384,000
- The Endowment Fund grant to the operating budget was \$325,000 and represented 18% of revenue received toward the budget. The 2017 grant was \$300,000.
- Total expenses were \$1,680,000, the same as in the prior year. Expenses were \$131,000 less than budgeted, primarily attributable to a favorable variance of \$95,000 in personnel expenses. (Personnel expenses were less than budgeted due to searches for new staff members taking somewhat longer than expected at the time the budget was prepared).
- Revenue exceeded expenses by \$130,000. This amount will increase the operating reserves of the church.
- The balance of *Rejoice and Give Thanks* campaign funds was \$587,000 at the beginning of the year and \$206,000 at the end of the year. Most projects funded by the campaign were completed during the year or were nearing completion at the end of the year. Details of project status are included in the Board of Administration report above.
- Endowment Fund grants to the church for current needs totaled \$390,000. In addition to the \$325,000 grant for the operating budget, the church received grants totaling \$65,000 for other purposes, including upgrading audio-visual capabilities (\$20,000), missions

initiatives (\$15,000), the Fellowship Fund (\$10,000), choral scholars (\$13,000), and the concert series (\$5,000).

- Additionally, the Endowment Fund prepaid \$325,000 for the 2019 operating budget and \$63,000 toward the 2020 operating budget in order to meet distribution requirements under IRS regulations.
- Gifts to missions totaled \$312,000, including \$205,000 from the operating budget and \$107,000 from designated gifts. Designated gifts included \$55,000 for the Fellowship Fund (in addition to the \$10,000 Endowment Fund grant), \$14,000 for global missions, \$13,000 for disaster relief, \$11,000 for Camp Alkulana, and \$14,000 for other missions causes.
- Total revenue of the church in 2018 was approximately \$2.8 million (excluding the prepayments of Endowment Fund grants noted above.) This included offerings, Endowment Fund grants, designated gifts, and Preschool tuition and fees (\$800,000).

Bill Stanton, Chair

Members: Hilton Almond, Fred Bagwell, Wallace Chandler, George Davis, Martha Day Dumas, Steve Gilliam, Daniel Glaze, Michelle Gulick, Ransone Hartz, Daniel Ingram, Steve Lessels, Cynthia Macturk, Mike Rucker, Rob Sandford, Dan Stevens, Bill Thurston, and Jim Trent

Insurance Committee (BOA)

The committee is responsible for reviewing the property and casualty needs of the church, and making such changes as are necessary with respect to societal changes.

Key actions for 2018 included:

- Reviewed policy coverages with Kelly Hoag, our representative from our agency, NCG Insurance Agency, Inc., and discussed the premium details for the term 01/01/2018 - 01/01/2019
- Agreed to keep the policy at the same limits as the prior year, which resulted in a premium of \$46,696

Insurance Committee:

Jean Ellis, Chair

Members: Steve Lessels, Ron Tamagni, Bryan Bostic, Michael Price

Personnel Committee (BOA)

The Personnel Committee worked to support our pastor and staff this year as they serve River Road Church, Baptist. During 2018, 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 are required. The budget was shared with the Finance and Stewardship Committees for their consideration for the final 2018 and proposed 2019 budgets.

We are currently working with our pastor on plans for hiring remaining open positions in 2019.

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

Susan Rucker, chair

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The sixteen elected members of the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation (BCESF) met each month beginning in January 2018, with the exception of the summer months and December. The three committees met separately during the summer as needed.

According to the By-Laws of RRCB:

The Board shall determine educational goals in light of the general philosophical orientation of the Church and set standards for leadership. It shall recruit leaders and teachers for educational programs, organize and oversee programs, select curriculum resources, and perform such other duties as appropriate to the educational program of the Church. The Board shall submit to the Finance Committee of the Board of Administration an annual proposed budget for the educational programs.

Major accomplishments:

- Overseeing all Sunday School activities
- Providing the receptions for two baptismal services on March 4 and November 4
- Planning, promoting, and executing Celebration Sunday, September 9, 2018
 - A day for renewing attendance at all activities of the church including Sunday School and the annual church picnic with the youth, under Marnie Fisher-Ingram's leadership, providing the program of reflection of missions events of the summer. Attendance was especially high.
- Honoring Christian Educator of the Year, Emily Tuck on Wednesday, May 23rd
- Thanksgiving service shared with Quioccasin Baptist Church
- Beginnings/implementation of Safety Committee
- Advent Bible Study, Sunday evenings in December taught by Daniel Glaze

The Board is led by **three committees** who focus on the work at the age-level group. Goals were set in February and reviewed regularly to determine if the goals were being met and what other goals should be added.

Children Committee:

Melanie Butterworth, Chair

A sample of accomplishments:

- Reviewed curriculum for needs and appropriateness
- Recruited all elementary teachers, preschool teachers, and worship care volunteers (roughly 45 individuals who volunteer one Sunday a month for the entire time preschool children are present on that Sunday)
- Reached a goal to add more children participating in worship services
- Adjusted the Wednesday night schedule to be better for children and families

- Provided summer recreational activities
- Introduced a Saturday play time for preschoolers
- Provided opportunity for third – fifth graders to attend PASSPORTkids Camp
- Vacation Bible School
- Christmas pageant at the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Over 700 in attendance.

Youth Committee:

Marguerite Bostic, Chair

The major goal of this committee was to offer whatever support was needed for Marnie Fisher-Ingram in her first year as the Associate Pastor to Youth and Their Families. This goal was accomplished in a superior way! Marnie Fisher-Ingram celebrated the completion of her first year with great acclaim and the admiration of teachers, parents, and youth. Multiple activities were offered to all youth who continue to be committed to the growth of fellowship, care, and spiritual formation.

Adult Committee:

Scott Leake, Chair

A sample of accomplishments:

- Program planning for Wednesday nights
- Assisting adult Sunday School Classes with curriculum, technology needs, outreach suggestions, promotions, and more. By Thanksgiving the committee closed a chapter on one of the oldest SS classes – The Fellowship Class. Their numbers had dwindled over the years to a point where they could no longer maintain enough members for fellowship and learning. They joined the Friendship Class. Special thanks to Gene Damon and Don Powell for their faithful dedication to teaching the class over many years.
- Emphasizing Celebration Sunday to all adults
- Planning and carrying out the Christian Educator of the Year program
- Developing intergenerational activities and more incorporation into Wednesday night programming
- Beginning in-depth Bible study series on Sunday nights. The first series was an Advent Bible Study on the Sunday evenings in December led by Daniel Glaze

Diane Shoemake, Chair

BOARD OF DEACONS

The 2018 Board of Deacons was comprised of 58 members. The elected officers were: Chair – Ray Nelson, Vice-Chair – Sara Heisler, Secretary – Karen Collier, and Treasurer – Karen Cothran.

The 2018 Board of Deacons executed the responsibilities of deacons as described by the RRCB Constitution and By-Laws. Duties included serving Communion, taking up offering, greeting those arriving for services, hosting coffees, and watching over members in Care Groups.

Deacons attended monthly meetings, excluding summer months. Four of these were dinner meetings. Programs were held at most of these meeting on topics helpful to deacons in their duties. Take away programs included the following:

1. Hospital, Surgery, and Home Visits – Dr. Bert Browning spoke on the role of the visiting deacon in these situations. A handout was given with thoughts on making these visits meaningful.

2. Safety Awareness – Sgt. Barry Clark and Officer Scott Phillips shared observations and insights concerning safety awareness at our church. Jean Cauble and myself had accompanied Safety Officer Sgt. Billy Moffet on a site visit prior to this meeting. His suggestions were incorporated into the talk.
3. The Significance of Camp Ministry for Youth – Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram, our new Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families, spoke on this topic both from her experiences as a youth and as former Director of the PASSPORT summer programs.
4. Member Engagement Committee Update – Ms. Emily Phillips and Mr. Bill Rusher presented a PowerPoint of their committee’s work and discussed how Deacons might help with welcoming visitors and new members.
5. Alzheimer’s and Memory Issues – Ms. Tina Thomas, Director of Programs for the Alzheimer’s Association of Greater Richmond was our presenter. Her talk concerned the impact of this disease on individuals, their families, and communities. She shared the work of the association towards a cure and to provide assistance for patients and their families. Handouts were shared.
6. What is ACS and how do we access it? – Our own Dr. Glaze spoke of the capabilities of the ACS program in terms of updating Deacons and church members on RRCB Church Life. He demonstrated step by step how to access ACS. A take home handout was provided.
7. *ad hoc* Committee Report: Role of a Deacon – Dr. Dan Bagby, Moderator, and Mary Beth Scherer, Deacon, discussed the suggestions of an earlier online survey and committee discussions as to how the current deacon role might be reduced. Seven suggestions were forwarded for the 2019 Chair and Board of Deacons to consider going forward. The Committee members were: Dan Bagby, Moderator, Mary Beth Scherer, Christie Lessels, Bill Gray, Peggy Pruden, Sara Heisler, and Daniel Glaze.

The Deacon Handbook was revised prior to our January 2018 meeting. The task of overseeing yearly revision as needed prior to the beginning of each New Year was added to the Vice-Chair duties.

A Deacon Orientation was held 2 separate times in January to “walk” new and interested returning Deacons thru the logistics of Deacon duties in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Kitchen. Name tag files were reorganized in both the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. A copy of duties for each area was placed in the front of each file for Deacon access as needed.

Deacon Ordination was held during church services the 2nd Sunday in January for 5 Deacons new to the position.

The Fellowship Fund is managed by the Board of Deacons to discreetly provide assistance to persons in need whether within the church or the community. The Fellowship Fund’s description was altered this year to reflect its availability to RRCB members in need of assistance. Deacons felt that was not previously made clear in writing to our own congregation. The Endowment Board generously provided a grant to the 2018 Board of Deacons Fellowship Fund for which we are most grateful.

I worked with church members and personnel to research the deactivated list of church members. The goal being to make certain a Deacon was assigned where appropriate. A second list of RRCB members will be assessed in 2019 to determine whether health or memory concerns should affect a future Deacon assignment.

Deacons continued to deliver Easter lilies to shut-ins or those in Care facilities. Dr. Bagby and Ann Bagwell have been organizing this ministry for some time. In the past, poinsettias have been delivered at Christmas. These were purchased by the church separately from Sanctuary plants and made available for Deacons to pick up at our early December meeting. There was a check list as to which Deacon had which member on the list. This year the Giving Tree was started by the

Member Engagement Committee. Church members and their families were encouraged to take a name from the tree, and visit with small gifts and Christmas cheer. Due to the Giving Tree and the late realization that the poinsettia tradition had not happened as yet, it was decided to see how the Giving Tree worked for 2018 and reassess with the Member Engagement Committee for 2019. I will pass the collected folder from Ann Bagwell on to the 2019 Chair for consideration in the fall of 2019.

Preparation for Celebration Sunday in early September began over the summer. The Board of Deacons co-sponsors this event with the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. Duties were divided by the Board chairs, committees were appointed, and a plan formulated for this 2nd Sunday in September celebration. Celebration Sunday, a church-wide pot luck picnic, and a presentation of summer programs by children and youth are the highlights. 240 members attended in 2018. We were cozy inside the Fellowship Hall due to weather.

In November, the *ad hoc* Deacon Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for 2019. They are as follows: Chair - Sara Heisler, Vice-Chair - Bill Thurston, Secretary – Karen Collier, and Treasurer – Karen Cothran. They were elected unanimously. This committee was also charged with nominating 5 at large church members to the church Nominating Committee for a two-year term beginning in 2019. Nominees included Emily Sumner, Ken Lantz, Marguerite Bostic, Lani Gilliam, and Fred Anderson. They were presented and approved at the November Business Meeting. The *ad hoc* committee members were Bob Shoemake, John Gordon, and Cynthia Lantz.

The Deacon Chair serves as Chair of the Coordinating Council which consists of the Minister and the Chairs of the 4 main Boards. The Council meets quarterly to facilitate communication among the Boards, the congregation, and the Minister. We held 3 breakfast meetings in 2018 and shared ideas and caught up on the workings of each Board thru their Chairman and our congregation and staff with our Minister.

My thanks to Daniel Glaze for his friendship and support of me as Deacon Chair. Dan Bagby has also been such a support as well in helping me with member questions, serving as Moderator for our *ad hoc* Committee, and being a sounding board. Thank you to my 2 new best friends, Terri McMahan and Susan Young for keeping me on task with scheduling, Deacon notebooks, assignments, Care Groups, and which deacon has what duty which month. Sara Heisler has been a gift in my life. I am blessed to get to know her and many other Deacons as my friends this year and into the future.

Lastly, I would like to thank the 2018 Deacons and their families who have been such a support for RRCB, our Ministers, and me. Your encouragement, willingness to serve, and dependability have made this a wonderful year for our church family and life.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Nelson
2018 Deacon Chair

BOARD OF MISSIONS

The Board of Missions (BOM) provides opportunities for members of the River Road Church congregation to be involved in meaningful mission activities in our community, the state, the nation, and the world.

Our heaviest emphasis, in terms of time spent and numbers of individuals involved is with the ongoing mission programs to serve people in our community and the greater Richmond area. River Road regularly delivers clothing, food, and meals to the Oregon Hill, Church Hill, and South Richmond Baptist Centers. Our youth and adults volunteer at the centers' in the annual Christmas

Stores which they operate, providing toys to families in need. Similarly, River Road provided generous amounts of food throughout the year to families in our community through the Baptist Centers and Welborne United Methodist food pantry.

Another community-based mission 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, and in late 2018 agreed, with representatives of Bon Air Presbyterian Church, to sponsor staffing and support for a gospel choir at the Correctional Center. The Board of Missions also provided Christmas presents for families of incarcerated individuals, as well as 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 meaningful to those receiving them. The BOM also provides financial support to Grace Inside, an organization that provides chaplains inside 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 mission project is the *Circulo de Costura*, or sewing circle, which began in 2017 and operates in connection with the CrossOver Clinic. This program provides sewing instructions, provided by River Road members, for women attending the clinic, using sewing machines purchased by River Road. Almost all of these women are Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking immigrants from Latin America, and the program provides a warm and meaningful social support group for them. 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, with an especially important effect on the large population of immigrants in the area.

Through its Micah program, River Road members led by Susan Ryan provide a variety of types of ongoing support to Oak Grove Elementary School, including tutoring, reading to students, providing food to take home over holidays, donating materials to teachers and students, and helping the teaching and administrative staffs to improve the educational opportunities for the low-income students attending the school.

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 General Association of Virginia (BGAV), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association (RBA), 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.

River Road participates with ProjectHomes: Renew Crew to build access ramps for handicapped individuals in the Richmond area. Crews from River Road meet with Renew Crew staff members for several hours on a Saturday morning to construct the wooden ramps. Also during 2018, River Road held two Saturday morning events to package 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 are family oriented, and draw large numbers of both adults and children. CARITAS is another important mission partner, providing food and shelter to the homeless in the Richmond area through the participation of local churches. River Road hosted homeless individuals for a week in February, at which River Road members serve food and provide a physical place to stay, and also visit with the guests and help them feel accepted and welcome. Beginning next year, CARITAS will be operating its own shelter, but River Road will continue to support this mission by providing food and financial support.

Regional projects also play an important role in River Road missions. In May a team helped with cleaning and repairs at Camp Alkulana, 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 June, River Road members traveled to Nickelsville, VA, working on various projects, including a food bank and assisting in a home for the elderly.

In September, a team was scheduled to go to Bland County, Virginia, for the annual Lloyd Jackson Memorial Bland County Mission Trip. However, due to Hurricane Florence, the trip was cancelled.

Internationally, a team from River Road led by Judy Collins and Joe Teefey went with CBF missionary Sue Smith to Panama to provide medical and dental care to indigenous Panamanians who otherwise lack meaningful access to medical services. The group members are from a number of other churches, including Second Baptist, and for the first time included construction activities, which significantly increased the number of potential participants. 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.

It has been an exciting year in missions, and we look forward to increasing the impact of our mission projects in 2019.

Stephen Larson, Chair

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COUNCIL

Chair – John Heisler

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

The Building and Property Council was privileged to serve River Road Church, Baptist during 2018 accomplishing the following projects:

- A. Building & Property – Budgeted and Endowment Fund Projects:
 - 1. Replacement of five HVAC fan coil units in the Preschool area
 - 2. Replacement of the Chapel boiler
 - 3. Audio/Visual upgrades were made in the Fellowship Hall, Assembly Room, and Chapel Hall
 - 4. Insulation was replaced on the supply and return ductwork for the main air handling unit for the Sanctuary

- B. Projects completed with surplus funds from the *Rejoice and Give Thanks* campaign
 - 1. Replacement of power and control equipment and the refurbishment of the cabs of the Church's two elevators
 - 2. Renovation of the two rest rooms in the Sanctuary lower level near the porte-cochere; rooms were updated to current ADA standards

Respectfully submitted,
John Heisler, Chairman Building & Property Council

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 February and March, the Arts Committee hosted a watercolor exhibit in the Upper Commons. The works featured were paintings by the participants of Judy Dixon's Watercolor 101 classes from the last several sessions.

In the spring and 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. No experience in painting or drawing is necessary.

In November, the Arts Committee hosted another exhibit in the Lower Commons. This exhibit featured quilts made by RRCB member Julia Nixon. Julia has been sewing and quilting since she was a teenager, and has made over 300 quilts. Gladys Fleming curated this exhibit with 24 quilts on display. In addition to the exhibit, there was a meet-the-artist reception after worship, and a slideshow with photos of Julia's other quilts was shown. During the exhibit, a group from Lakewood came to the church to see the show, meet Julia, and watch the slideshow.

The Arts Committee's focus is on the visual arts. We are planning for an exciting 2019 with more adventures in the visual arts. The wonderful and hardworking members are Gladys Fleming (chair), Margaret Almond, Caroline Brown, Judy Dixon, Bev Evans, Ann Hays, Sherry Sorrell, Beth Stuhlman, Anita Tamagni, and Cassandra Ducca (staff).

Gladys Fleming, Chair

BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Baptismal Committee I submit the following report.

This year two services of baptism were held. The first service was held on March 4, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel. Mollie Claire Ingram was baptized by her father, Rev. Daniel Ingram. The second service was held on November 4, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. Four candidates were baptized by Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze. They were Claire Havens McAllister, Emelia Susan Roberts, Amanda Lynn Rooney, and Elizabeth Winston Seward.

Respectfully submitted by
Sandy Rooney,
Chair of Baptismal Committee

CHANCEL COMMITTEE

The Chancel Committee is made up of the following subcommittees: Flower Teams and Special Events, Wedding, Funeral, Paraments, and a newly-titled Flower Ministry. 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. Margaret and Julia have worked very hard this year organizing all Christmas decorations. The majority of the decorations are now artificial. After the holiday, everything has been neatly stored in a new location specific for chancel use. Thanks to the FIXERS, hooks have been installed for garland and wreath hanging in this space. This will serve as a money saver in the future and make it easier for others to take ownership of Christmas decorating in years to come. Saturday is now designated as the church decorating day in hopes of getting more family involvement in this yearly event.

The Wedding Committee is led by Margaret Almond, Bonnie Way, and Betsy Lowery. These ladies continue to make 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, and Janet Bagby chair the Funeral Committee. These ladies continue doing an excellent job making sure our church family is taken care of when going through the loss of a loved one. Diane Shoemake and Nancy Anderson assist families as needed with receptions following a funeral or memorial service.

Betsy Lowery is the chair of the Paraments Committee. Mary Beth Scherer and Deb Gray have assisted her as needed.

Georgia Mayo is the new chair for the Flower Distribution Committee. In May this committee was renamed The Flower Ministry. A team of ladies make smaller arrangements from the alter flowers on Sunday after worship. These arrangements are taken to members of our church family by our deacons or a minister.

Volunteers of the church continue to assist 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 Church, Baptist

Betsy Lowery, Chancel Chair

COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

The Columbarium Committee is charged with the oversight of the Columbarium and its associated gardens. The members of the committee 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 214 niches available for purchase.

In the spring of this year, the committee worked on the Columbarium Brochure. The committee was generally pleased with the then current brochure but proposed making some minor changes. Cassandra Ducca, our Communications Specialist, has made these alterations. The revised brochure is now available in the office of LeAnne Lane.

During the fall of the year, LeAnne Lane arranged to have some power washing of the Columbarium. George Davis took responsibility for weeding and seeding of the common ground as well as seeing that fertilizer and lime were spread. The committee continues to be appreciative of the assistance of members of the House and Grounds Committee on matters regarding the maintenance of both the Columbarium's physical structure and its associated plantings.

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

Dick Morris, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Communications is a very broad subject that can encompass all kinds of activities. In 2018, the Communications Committee continued to work with 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.

During 2018, some major initiatives for improving communications for the church included:

1. **Continued push to complete, and support for, the upgraded audio/visual setups.** The committee continued to be a driving force in conjunction with the Building & Property Council to implement audio/visual enhancements in the Fellowship Hall, Assembly Room and Chapel Hall. We successfully got through design, bids, and contract signing for these enhancements and work began on implementation before the end of 2018. The Fellowship Hall includes new, mounted projector equipment, replaced wiring, new controls, and speaker setup for spoken presentations. The Assembly Room and Chapel Hall will get nearly identical setups: permanently mounted screens, connectivity options, and built in audio amplification. The committee also worked to improve our mobile audio/visual needs through the purchase of a new projector that permitted more connectivity flexibility and ease of use. We look forward to being able to utilize these new setups in 2019.
2. **Regular weekly recordings of worship and sermons in the Sanctuary.** When the Sanctuary sound system was installed in 2016, we were also given the capability to video record services. Previously our use of video was left for special occasions, guest preachers, and special services. In the fall we started recording video weekly. The full worship video, as well as a separate video for the sermon and stewardship moments, are all posted to the church's YouTube channel. The full worship video is included on the website in the post with the sermon audio. All audio and video can be found on the church's website at rrcb.org/sermons. When we moved to the weekly recordings, a group of children and youth signed up to volunteer to be videographers each week: Mollie Ingram, Ashley Glaze, Matthew Cicolletti, William Gray, and Jack Ryan. We are grateful for their leadership and time. Special thank you to George Davis, Warren Johnson, and Daniel Ingram for being back up videographers and helping the children and youth set up the system.
3. **Improved WiFi connectivity throughout campus.** This is one that we will only take credit for having been assigned oversight. Through the diligent work of Daniel Ingram and Bill Rusher, we have implemented our WiFi connectivity coverage across the entire campus. There are now 20+ WiFi Access Points strategically spread across the various buildings and floors. This initiative was financial supported by excess funds from the last capital campaign and designed to provide the various ministries, education small groups, and members access to online resources.

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 Ducca, Communications Specialist

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The RRCB Archives was established in 1997 with the intention of setting up "a procedure to enable the smooth flow of historical materials to a central place for processing as well as to make the

materials available to researchers and organizers of events.” The Archives Room is located on the administrative hall and is a secure and fireproof room.

The overall responsibility and oversight of the archives is in the hands of the History Committee. The archives include a collection of past service bulletins, newsletters, audio and videotapes, and photographs as they reflect the history of the church. It is a challenge trying to determine the importance of what is considered archival and what information should actually be kept for archival purposes. Therefore, much time is spent organizing and cataloging. Guidelines are being developed as to what is archival.

At this point the committee is establishing a procedure for using technology to provide an index to the contents of the archives as well as reducing paper holdings.

The History Committee uses the display case in Lower Commons to feature seasons and activities of the church. Displays included this year are:

1. An inspirational Easter exhibits including a “modern” depiction of the Last Supper loaned by Bill and Emily Tuck
2. A partnership with the Arts Committee to display the quilts of church member, Julia Nixon
3. The annual exhibit of the Franklin Mint nativity set, a gift to RRCB by Miss Frances Still, aunt of Joyce Gibson, displayed during Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

We are always open to suggestions from other groups that might want to promote an event or activity. We are willing to help orchestrate it for you.

The History Committee appreciates the efforts made by many to submit material to the archives.

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.

2018 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 - Suzanne Spicer
- 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. Rev. Kim Crowley was especially helpful in accompanying, and directed various choirs as needed. We also thank the choir parents and volunteers for their help and support.

The children’s choirs sang for many worship services including the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Additionally, the Youth Choir led the music on Youth Sunday, and on several occasions joined the Chancel Choir in Sunday worship. On May 16th, the Children’s Music Ministry presented the musical *Once Upon a Parable* by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The Chancel Choir continued to lead all worship services, including singing Vierne’s *Messe Solennelle* on All Saints’ Sunday conducted by David Gulick, with Bob Gallagher playing the organ accompaniment. River

Road Camerata went “on the road” and sang for a 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral during the spring. And the Crusader and Youth Choirs sang for a Sunday evening Vespers service at Lakewood. The Chancel Choir sang throughout the year with the exception of August and the first week of September — this summer break allowed choir members to attend all of Dr. Michael Hawm’s lectures on hymns for the Holland Lectures. The Chancel Bell Choir, directed by Charles Todd, enhanced our worship services throughout the year.

Plans have continued for a choir pilgrimage to the West of England in August 2019. The group includes members of River Road Chancel Choir and several singers and music directors who are thrilled to have the opportunity to worship and to lead worship in four cathedrals and abbeys in the cities/towns of Bath, Bristol, Gloucester, and Tewkesbury. A tour of Wells Cathedral and the ruins in Glastonbury will fill out a tour that will inspire and feed our faith and vision for years to come.

The Choral Scholars Program continued to sponsor participants from who are enrolled full-time in college or university. 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 16th and 17th, River Road Church again hosted the Youth Choir JAM directed by Kevin McBeth from St. Louis, MO, and Associate Conductor of the St. Louis Symphony. This weekend of music workshops and fellowship involved more than 120 6th- to 12th-grade singers from youth choirs from regional churches (including five River Road Youth Choir members), from Northern Virginia, and from North Carolina. The event ended with a concert on Saturday afternoon.

The second half of the 2017-2018 season (our 47th) of the *E. Carl Freeman Concert Series* at River Road Church included the following concerts:

- February 11, 2:30 p.m. - Violin and Piano Recital with violinist, Violaine Michel and pianist, Hope Armstrong Erb. During the concert, Ms. Erb told the audience about her beloved University of Richmond mentor, Hannah Coker, who was the UR music librarian and a long-time patron of music at River Road Church. Ms. Coker donated our Steinway B piano that Ms. Erb performed on. Funds from the *Rejoice and Give Thanks* Campaign were used to restore this same piano.
- March 9, 7:30 p.m. - Organ Recital by Katelyn Emerson, winner of the 2016 American Guild of Organists National Competition. This recital was co-sponsored by the Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.
- April 15, 2:30 p.m. - Classical Guitar Recital by Francisco Roland from the Mannes College of Music in New York. This recital took place in the Chapel.
- May 20, 3:00 p.m. - Vocal Recital by William Dameron. Mr. Dameron, accompanied by Dr. Charles Staples and assisted by Ms. Kara Harman-Barrios, gave a recital that included scenes from three Wagner operas, and excerpts from musicals.
- June 10, 7:30 p.m. - The Spring Choral Concert with River Road Chancel Choir and Orchestra featured music of Austria: motets by Anton Bruckner and *Requiem* by W. A. Mozart. Inclement weather had a negative effect on attendance, but the performance of the choir, soloists, and orchestra was exceptional.

The 48th season, 2018-2019, started with the following programs:

- August 26, 7:00 p.m. - Concert by The Choirs of Boys and Girls of Washington National Cathedral, Michael McCarthy, Choirmaster. This year, they were joined by the River Road Camerata for the closing selection, the *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis* by David Hogan. Our Camerata singers also attended rehearsals at Roslyn Retreat Center, which is the site of the cathedral choirs’ annual pre-season retreat.

- November 11, 2:30 p.m. - Vocal Recital by Christopher Ahart, tenor. Mr. Ahart sang a variety of vocal works by Handel, Schubert, Vaughan Williams, Butterworth, and Weill to an audience the included many visitors new to River Road Church.
- December 2, 7:00 p.m. - The Tallis Scholars presented a concert entitled *A Renaissance Christmas*, with 668 tickets sold through Eventbrite. The concert included works by Palestrina, Byrd, Nico Muhly, and Hieronymus Praetorius. The audience, who attended partially as the result a vigorous advertising campaign, responded with great enthusiasm. The group sang “The Lamb” by John Tavener as an encore.
- December 16, 7:30 p.m. - Annual Advent/Christmas Concert with the Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra performing Part One of Handel’s *Messiah*. Bob Gallagher also performed Handel’s *Organ Concerto in B flat*, Opus 4, No. 6 with David Gulick conducting the concerto. This concert was attended by more than 700 people.

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.

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 Sallie Sparks, chair, and Bob Gallagher, Minister of Music.

Music Committee members: Rose Browning, Tom Gilsdorf, David Gulick, Kara Harman-Barrios, Tyler Hays, Beth Hooker, Anne James, Margaret Phelps, Carole Royall, Sharon Seward, Jane Terry

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT CENTER COMMITTEE

Lyndsay McGreevy resigned as director of River Road Preschool in July 2018.

Kay Starke has been serving as Interim Director since August.

The school year continues to run smoothly with enrollment of 154 students.

Our afternoon activities program is quite popular with our families.

We are presently taking applications for the 2019-2020 school year with daily tours.

School Enrollment

2016-2017	Children Enrolled	168
2017-2018	Children Enrolled	172
2018-2019	Children Enrolled	154

Our October Family Night was well attended with over 200 families. We had pony rides and musician Chris Campbell performed. We also provided pizza dinner and additional activities for the children.

Our December Christmas Chapel was also well attended. The children performed songs and listened to a Christmas story. We invited parents and grandparents.

River Road has an Outreach Program called All God’s Children. We collected hats and mittens for the Christmas Mother in December. We have several outreach projects throughout the year.

Many thanks to Kay Starke and her staff for their continued excellent work.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen S. Newsome, Chair

USHERS COMMITTEE

The 2018 River Road Church Ushers served for all Sunday Services, Special Easter and Christmas Services, and Concert Series Services.

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

January	278	May	265	September	282
February	293	June	275	October	245
March	324	July	238	November	286
April	361	August	217	December	284

Average attendance for all 11:00 a.m. Sunday Services: 280

Attendance for Special Services:

Maundy Thursday	250
11:00 a.m. Easter Service	651
Thanksgiving Service	171
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Svc.	675
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Svc.	281

John A. Hays, Chair, Usher Committee

WOMEN'S MISIONARY 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, Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, the Elizabeth Kates Foundation, and LAMB'S Basket. Monthly Missions Involvement assignments from the River City Faith Network (RCFN) of the Richmond Baptist Association to support the three 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