



# THE ROANOKE

# Messenger

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A publication of Roanoke Bible College, Elizabeth City, North Carolina 27909

## *Joy to the World: God's Son in the Flesh, God's People in the Flesh*



### **God's Gift to Us**

We celebrate the joy of the season with you, God's gift of a Savior. For the fourth year, one of our campus celebrations was the musical drama written by Steve Jackson, Recruitment Team Director. This year's play, "Not That Far from Bethlehem," reminded the audience that when our hearts are full of the hope that Jesus gives us, we are--spiritually speaking--not far from Bethlehem. The play is an annual gift of love and thanks to the church and the community. (Left: cast and crew of "Not That Far from Bethlehem")

### **Our Gift to Others**

Sharing God's message of hope and salvation--in both word and deed--is our gift to others and is the reason Roanoke exists. The college recently received national recognition for its "deeds" in relief work in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Beginning here and continuing on Page 2 are pictures and details of that work and other service-learning work students are accomplishing.

Rejoice with us that you share in this ministry . . . your prayers, your goodwill, your gifts, your sons and daughters all help to grow the Kingdom of God.



## RBC, a 'Campus That Cares' (Continued from "Our Gift to Others," Page 1)

Last year a team of students, staff, and others joined hosts of servants from across the nation in the Gulf States. They carried relief to some of those devastated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

During that fall break service trip (October 2005), Roanoke students volunteered 895 hours. Their projects included raising money to purchase new refrigerators to give away; feeding, cleaning the living area, and doing laundry for relief workers; and debris removal.

Debbie Dodson, Director of Service-Learning, "submitted a report to the National Campus Compact organization for the President's Honor Roll describing five areas of service-learning and five outreach projects related to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

"Over 500 colleges and universities entered. I'm proud to report that RBC was recognized 'With Distinction' for our efforts." Only two other schools in North Carolina were recognized for their hurricane relief efforts.

During spring break (February 2007) students will again travel to Louisiana. A team of 20 is in place to serve as a regional student-led Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART, in conjunction with International Disaster Emergency Services).

For more information about service-learning at RBC, contact Director Dodson at 252.334.2033 or [ddd@roanokebible.edu](mailto:ddd@roanokebible.edu).

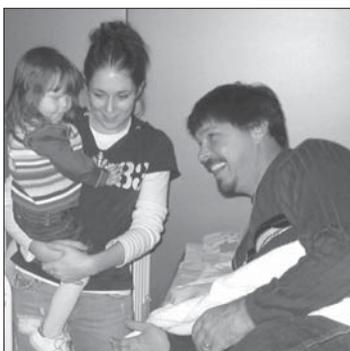


**ABOVE:** A newly built shed. **RIGHT:** A new refrigerator for Beverly.



### Publications in New Format

Starting in January, you will receive the *Messenger* in an expanded format quarterly, rather than monthly. Please be patient as this paper changes and grows in the coming year. Also, the former *ROAnoke Letter* will be redesigned as a digital newsletter with color and links. If you wish to receive that e-publication when it is ready, send your request to be added to the list and your email address to [mil@roanokebible.edu](mailto:mil@roanokebible.edu).



## Where in the World Is . . . the Roanoke Family?

**In Pennsylvania (above and left)!** Eleven from the college traveled to Hershey, PA, the weekend of Nov. 10-12 for the Eastern Christian Convention to serve by coordinating the nursery and caring for children ages 6-36 months. **In Indiana (above)!** About a dozen from the campus attended the National Missionary Convention, Nov. 16-19. The convention was "so encouraging and refreshing to us because it reminded us of why we are attending RBC," said student Helen Scott. Several current and former students had the privilege of carrying flags in the Parade of Nations in the opening night ceremony, including Lina Prayanti, a student from Indonesia. **In Virginia!** That same weekend a number of students and staff participated in Impact (Virginia's state Christian teen convention). Some of their duties were serving as youth sponsors or security personnel.



**THEY REALLY DIG CLASS!** Dr. Bob Smith leads students Eric Abshier and Scott Cumberledge in work for the class Archaeological Techniques: Hands-on History.

## Music to Their Ears and to Their Hearts

Through the years Roanoke has required an introductory music class of those seeking degrees. Various emphases in the class have included learning to read music, leading a congregation in singing hymns, identifying kinds of instruments (string, brass, percussion, woodwind, etc.), and appreciating various genres of music.

Music is often alluded to in scripture as an avenue of praise and worship, thus to consider helpful ways that music is a part of the curriculum, taught by Professors

Students were asked to identify "problems facing [their] community" and to be addressed. For example, Luther was concerned about the "illiterate" problem (Germany) and addressed the problem by writing singable, attractive, German hymns. His solution was one religious leader said, "He has damned more through his music than his sermons," and we continue to sing many of his hymns today.

A more recent example was that of Patrick Kavanaugh, who was concerned about divisions within the church regarding differing musical tastes. He addressed the problem by publishing an examination of Christian sacred music of Western Civilization, showing connections between genres, in order to help believers understand and appreciate all forms of Christian music. Professor BonDurant's students were to supply their comments regarding any impact the book (used as their textbook) had on them, some of which were: "[now] I love singing hymns, and I like to look at the bottom of the page to see who wrote the hymn." "I have a greater appreciation and knowledge for all types of music." "Through the ages people have used what they believe were their God-given talents to create styles of music that can assist people in worshipping Him."

Finally, students identified such communities/problems as those who think "all Christian music is boring," divisions in home churches over traditional/contemporary music, ministering to nonbelievers or the elderly in nursing homes, and reaching the downtrodden. Their innovative ways of addressing problems they saw included taking music to neighborhoods, teaching children the *meanings* of the songs they sing, and inviting unchurched friends or family members to services that include musical presentations.

Use us, Lord,  
to bring comfort  
to the downhearted,  
strength to the weak,  
and healing to the ill  
with the music  
You have placed  
in each of us.  
~ a current student

to in scripture as an avenue it behooves a Bible student to use it. Such consideration Music Appreciation Professor Beth BonDurant.

to identify "problems facing how those problems might be addressed, in the 1500's Martin Luther was concerned about his community's illiterate, ignorant of Scripture) problem by writing and publishing scripturally based hymns in apparently effective, since

## Digging into the Past

This semester RBC students studying archaeological techniques have been excavating in the back yard of the old Providence Hall, at one time a female residence hall for the college and now the Smith family home.

This class project was designed to help students become better consumers of archaeological reporting that relates to the Bible. In the excavation units, a path of recycled brickwork that led to outbuildings was exposed. The artifacts discovered ranged from toys like plastic soldiers and a ceramic doll's arm to domestic utensils like fragments of bottles and plates.

While a wrist watch was found in the top layer of soil--an item that could have belonged to a student from around 1990--no physical evidence has been found that clearly indicates that a Bible college ever used the property. This absence of evidence is a clear example that negative evidence does not prove anything.

This is a lesson that needs to be learned by Christians who are confronted by challenges like, "Why do we not find Moses' name on Egyptian monuments?"

## LIVIN' the LIFE Notes from Student Life

**SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK, Oct. 23-27**--devotions and activities focusing on prayer, time of silence, prayer walk, preaching and praise times. **SPIRIT WEEK, Oct. 30-Nov. 3**--special dress up days included hats, costumes, matching outfits ("twins"), and RBC wear as a way to cheer on the Flames (men's basketball team).

## ADMISSIONS NEWS

### SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE!

The first two SNL! events welcomed about 200 youth and sponsors each evening. The dates for next semester's worship fellowship for area youth groups are Feb. 11, Apr. 1, and June 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more information about this free event, contact Jason Woolard, [jmw@roanokebible.edu](mailto:jmw@roanokebible.edu) or 252.334.2047.

### ROUND 'EM UP FOR ROANOKE

Seniors across the nation are feverishly applying to their colleges of choice. Starting in January, they will begin anxiously awaiting their acceptance letters. Take a prospective student under your wing. Speak to him or her about serving the Lord vocationally; offer to pray with that person; assist him or her in the application process. A future preacher, missionary, teacher, youth minister, worship leader, counselor, nonprofit manager, or other servant may be in your presence, awaiting the encouragement that only you can give. Learn more at the web site listed below, or call us at:

[www.roanokebible.edu](http://www.roanokebible.edu)  
[admissions@roanokebible.edu](mailto:admissions@roanokebible.edu)  
1.800.RBC.8980  
Local: 334-2028

### Seeking Your Input

We invite alumni and friends to help us select the next Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). Beth BonDurant wishes to retire (a second time) from the post she has held for 37 years.

The leadership team at the college is considering resumes but wishes to hear from various constituents of the college. We value what you consider to be important characteristics, skills, and experiences for the next VPAA. Please visit [www.roanokebible.edu](http://www.roanokebible.edu) and click on Alumni Web and then on "Vice President Academic Affairs" listed on the right side to participate.



**STUDENTS FROM COLONIAL HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST, Norfolk, VA. Front:** Hope Dennis, Racheal Leach, Ashley Murray. **Middle:** Rebekah Graham, Josh Curry, Eric Abshier. **Back:** Joe Cartwright, Lyle Hinsdale. **Not pictured:** Neil Anglen.

## Giving Their Most Precious Possession

Families and congregations send us their most precious possessions, their loved ones. Often these students have been active in the services and ministries of their congregations, so their absence leaves a hole in the hearts of both their families and their home churches. How grateful we are, and how blessed is the Kingdom, that both the senders and the students are willing to endure the pain of separation and the challenges of college life (academics, bills, social adjustments, to name a few) in order to become better equipped servants of the King.

Pictured above are the students enrolled this year from Colonial Heights, the congregation with the most students--nine--currently enrolled at Roanoke. Other top senders are Towne South Church of Christ, Elizabeth City, 7; Greenford Christian Church, Greenford, OH, 6; Geneva Park Church of Christ, Chesapeake, VA, 5; and West Park Church of Christ, Portsmouth, VA, 5.

### Welcome to Professor Greene

Ken S. Greene joined the faculty this year as professor of youth ministry and Christian education. He comes to Roanoke from Crossroads College (formerly Minnesota Bible College), where he was professor of youth and family studies from 1997 to 2006 and senior minister at Marion Church of Christ in Rochester, MN. He holds degrees from Cincinnati, Kentucky, and Milligan and is completing his Ed.D. from Saint Mary's University in Rochester. He and Shelley (who is now operating RBC-T's) have four daughters.

*The next issue of the Messenger will introduce other new faculty and staff members.*



### 59th Gospel Rally in March; Walling, Lowen, Grubb

The 59th annual Gospel Rally and Homecoming on Mar. 15 and 16 will feature Jeff Walling and Eddie Lowen '85 as the evening speakers. Brother Walling is a minister and author and a graduate of the University of California at Irvine and did graduate work in religion at Pepperdine University. He produces inspirational video and audio series used by churches and schools nationwide. He serves as senior minister for Providence Road Church of Christ in Charlotte, NC. Thursday he and Chuck Booher will lead a Blueprint Tour seminar, and he will preach that night. Eddie is senior minister at West Side Christian Church, Springfield, IL, and will preach Friday evening. Sarah Lynn Lewis Grubb ex'99 will be worship leader. Alumni from the classes of 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, and 1997 will be honored or recognized at this year's rally.

## 'I Can't Possibly Give \$40,000!' How One Couple Can

Impossible, you think! Yet, a couple on a modest wage can give multiple thousands to Kingdom work in one simple way—tithing! One husband and wife who have been giving to the college for over 30 years are approaching the \$40,000 mark in gifts to the college. If they are blessed with good health and continued employment, that amount will continue to grow for 10, 15, or more years.

And that figure does not include a nearly equal amount given to their local congregation, about half that amount given to a parachurch organization, and donations to a variety of other causes. Their giving, although regular and faithful and beyond a tithe, is not, in their opinion, "sacrificial."

What can you give for Kingdom work? What *will* you give? May you experience the blessings of giving early, giving faithfully, and giving long. And if you have yet to begin, may you experience the blessing of committing to giving regularly and then doing so.

## Why Pay for a Living Trust and Will?

### Here's an offer we hope you won't refuse!

Want to insure the future ministry of your church? Have you had anyone leave a bequest to your church lately? Looking to help your people become better stewards of their resources? Emmett Murphy, Assistant Vice President for Development (AVPD), is now booking dates in 2007 for presenting a one-hour estate planning seminar.

Attorneys usually charge several hundred dollars or more to prepare a will and/or living trust. RBC offers **free** professional estate planning services to friends and supporters of the college through Financial Planning Ministry (FPM). This valuable service includes the preparation of a revocable living trust and a will for you and/or your spouse at no cost. And the trust and will may be revoked or amended by you at any time. This is a tremendous value regardless of the size of your estate.

FPM was founded by Michael Prior, a Christian attorney who works in partnership with several ministries associated with the Christian churches and churches of Christ. RBC is a sponsoring ministry of FPM in order to provide estate planning services to all our constituents without cost or obligation. Contact AVPD Murphy at 757.872.7357 or [epm@roanokebible.edu](mailto:epm@roanokebible.edu). He would be happy to provide references and answer your questions about how this service will benefit your congregation and the Kingdom.

## SPRING CALENDAR

Jan. 6, 7	Orientation
Jan. 8	Final Registration
Jan. 23	RBC Foundation Meeting
Jan. 30	Gospel Rally '08 Committee Meeting
Jan. 30	Trustees Meeting
Feb. 11	Sunday Night Live
Feb. 24-Mar. 4	Midterm Break
Mar. 15, 16	Gospel Rally & Homecoming
Apr. 1	Sunday Night Live
Apr. 7-10	Easter Recess
Apr. 17	Alumni-Graduate Orientation
Apr. 20, 21	Great Getaway (gr. 7, 8)
Apr. 25, 26	Spring Musical, 7:00 p.m.
Apr. 27	Junior-Senior Banquet
Apr. 29	Concert (Spring Musical), 7:00 p.m.
Apr. 30	College Picnic
May 4	Baccalaureate
May 5	Commencement
May 20, 21	Free (Youth Ministers' Retreat)
June 3	Sunday Night Live
July 22-27	East Coast Encounter (gr. 9-12)

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Help RBC avoid expensive postal fees by sending changes in your name and address to [jer@roanokebible.edu](mailto:jer@roanokebible.edu). Or call 800-RBC-8980; ask for Jenny Rowland.

## Giving Beyond Your Means

Who hasn't said, "If only I could give more, I would." Perhaps you can. You may work for a company that will match your charitable giving, particularly to an educational institution. Check with your employer now. Economic upswings and downturns keep the list of matching gift companies in flux, so even if your company did not match gifts last year, it may be doing so this year. Do such gifts make a difference? Yes! The total of matching gifts RBC has received over the past three years exceeds \$108,000.

## MATCHING GIFTS

Bank of America

for Onnie B. Boyd

Tyco

for David G. Sink

Unitrin, Inc.

for Billy H. Smithwick

Wachovia Bank & Trust Co.

for Dannette McCracken

## Tribute Gifts

Continued from Page 6

### TO THE FOUNDATION

Bob Moulden (Honor)

by Sheva Church of Christ,  
Chatham, VA

Donna Scott

by Elaine W. Bowen

J. T. & Addie Maye Segroves

by Jerelyn S. Anderson  
M/M Sherrill J. Fritts

Tom Wood

by Ruth Wood

Other Foundation Gifts:

The Lindsley Fund

by Jo M. Alexander

M/M Robert Claus

Saide Dulario

M/M Gregory E. Horace

Molly Krugman

Tim Krugman

Marvina Mann

Carolyn A. Underwood

## NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

❑ Wedding bells rang for Chris Garrett '05 and Shelley Hauck, Aug. 27; Zach Poyner '02 and Mifue Shimamura, Nov. 11; Johnny Coleman and Kim Fisher '03, Dec. 1.

❑ Changes of ministry include Bill Griffin '62 to West Belhaven Church of Christ, Belhaven, NC, interim; Thom Perry '62 to Verona Christian Church, Verona, MS; Raffael Farrow '87 to Poplar Creek Church of Christ, Grundy, VA; Keith Hamm ex'90 to Mt. Olive Church of Christ, Belhaven, NC; Brian Harris '06 to Beaver Dam Church of Christ, Washington, NC, youth minister; Senior Kelli Shanahan Alexander to First United Methodist Church, Elizabeth City, director of children's and youth ministries; Junior Lee Modlin to Powells Point Christian Church, Harbinger, NC, youth minister.

❑ Mike ex'91 and Mona Link welcomed Mikaela Theresa, Oct. 24.

❑ Senior Glenn Crocker was ordained at his home church, Stoneybrook Church of Christ in Wilson, NC, Nov. 5.

❑ Guest speakers in chapel include Alex Eddy, Richard Clark '78, Dr. John Mulford, Dave Milam, and Mac McClintock '99.

❑ **Alumni Spotlight:** Mickey Derrow '71 retired from the "paid ministry" in November, having served New Hope Christian Church in Roanoke, VA, for thirty years. The church honored him with a celebration of his life and ministry on Nov. 4.

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF . . .

Mary Jane Watson  
 Merritt Watson, Sr. (Honor)  
*by Jane Brown*  
 Danny & Harvey Whitehurst  
*by Edith Whitehurst*  
 M/M Tony A. Wolf (Honor)  
*by M/M Richard J. Lindsley, Jr.*

### TO THE LIBRARY

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF . . .

George W. BonDurant (Honor)  
 Sarah P. BonDurant  
*by M/M Walter Schwitzerlett*

### TO THE FOUNDATION

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF . . .

Phillip N. Alligood (Honor)  
 Richard S. Clark (Honor)  
 Roger K. Marvel (Honor)  
*by D/M D. Clay Perkins*  
 S. Elizabeth BonDurant (Honor)  
 Pearl A. Presley  
*by George W. BonDurant*  
 Sarah P. BonDurant  
*by George W. BonDurant*  
*M/M James A. Moore*  
 Odis & Ruby Bennett  
*by Jean B. West*  
 Ted Clifton (Honor)  
*by Forrest Hill Christian Church,*  
*Penhook, VA*  
 Lucy Duke  
 Iola P. Keffer  
*by M/M Linden B. Keffer*  
 Willard Fritz  
*by M/M Denis Fritz*  
*M/M Jeffry Martin*  
 Jake Griffin  
*by M/M William A. Griffin*  
 Gene Higgins  
*by Men's Bible Class*  
*Horsepasture Christian Church,*  
*Ridgeway, VA*  
 Frances Luck Mills  
*by Jerelene Mills Richards*

Tribute Gifts continued on Page 5

## Alligood, Byers Chosen 'Preachers' for November, December



Phillip N. Alligood '64

under it." He says that he loves to preach the Word because "I love to help in the winning of souls. I love to see people's lives changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a joy. It is amazing. I love being able to tell everyone the truth: Jesus is the answer to all of life's problems." He married Ora Jane Scruggs '65 of Chatham, VA, on August 4, 1967; they have two children (Lisa Bennett '96 and Neal '98) and two grandchildren.



Allen L. Byers '95

other people. I want to be known as His servant, serving others for Him." One of his favorite texts is 2 Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth." He and his wife have five children and thirteen grandchildren.

**Phillip Alligood**, a 1964 graduate and full-time staff member since 1965, came to Roanoke from the Rosemary Church of Christ in Washington, NC. As a student, Phillip served the Havelock Church of Christ in Havelock, NC. Upon graduation, he then ministered with Mt. Zion Christian Church in Live Oak, FL (1 year); West Road Church of Christ in Chesapeake, VA (8 years); Holly Neck Church of Christ in Roper, NC (23 years); and Bethlehem Church of Christ in Hertford, NC, where he is in his eighth year. He cites as one of his favorite texts I Corinthians 10:13, which says, "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up

**Allen Byers '95**, a retired military man, and his wife, Carol, came to Roanoke at a time when his peers were doing something easier than going to college. As a student, Allen ministered at the Nazareth Church of Christ in Killenney, NC, and at South Mills Church of Christ in South Mills, NC. Upon graduation he served at Great Bridge Church of Christ in Chesapeake, VA (10 years) and is currently in his second year serving at New Beginnings Christian Church in Summerville, SC. He is challenged by a quote from Dennis Crehan, "As a preacher, to be successful there are at least four things you must do: Love them! Love them! Love them! Preach the Word!" Of being a preacher, he said, "I love being a preacher as it gives me the opportunity of serving the Lord and allowing Him to use me to touch the lives of

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A New Testament School—Set for the defense of the Gospel (Phil. 1:16)

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