

Heaven
on EARTH

cbf Virginia

General Assembly

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
First Baptist Church of Newport News

Heaven on EARTH

Welcome to the 2024 General Assembly!

This has been an amazing year for CBF Virginia. If I can summarize this past year in one word it would be: *Growth!*

We have more churches connected to CBFVA than ever! Today we will vote on our biggest budget to date; our staff is growing; our partnership with CBF Global is growing; and the connection between CBFVA and congregations is growing in exciting new ways.

Our primary goal over this next year is to strengthen the work that we do together. Partnership is a pillar for CBFVA and is a foundational principle for Baptists. As we aim to create “Heaven on Earth,” we know this can only be done together. No one church, no one organization, no one person can bring this to be. Yet we can make significant impacts together.

In our opening session you will hear updates on our pillars. Then, you will have time to engage with our partners in our exhibit hall. After that, we have two opportunities to engage in breakout sessions that cover a wide variety of topics. During lunch we will hold our business session where you will learn about some new and exciting things happening in the life of our organization. After that, Paul Baxley and Laura Ayala will hold a Q & A. We will finish our day around tables worshipping together, led by CBF PAK Field Ministry Coordinator Lynn Brinkley.

We are so grateful you have joined us. We know how valuable your time is, and we see your presence here today as a gift. Our hope is that you find inspiration and connection throughout the day, giving you renewed energy, connection and ideas for ministry.

Grace and Peace,

Mark Snipes

Coordinator, CBF Virginia

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Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Chaplains Breakfast <i>A 144</i>
9:00 a.m.	Registration, Coffee & Pastries <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
9:15 a.m.	Opening Session & Connection Time <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
10:15 a.m.	Breakout Session 1 <i>See page 6 for room assignments</i>
11:15 a.m.	Breakout Session 2 <i>See page 7–8 for room assignments</i>
12:00 p.m.	Lunch <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
12:30 p.m.	Business Session <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
1:00 p.m.	Q&A with Paul Baxley and Laura Ayala <i>Sanctuary</i>
2:00 p.m.	Closing Worship featuring Lynn Brinkley <i>Sanctuary</i>
2:45 p.m.	Dismissal

OPENING SESSION

9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

INTRODUCTION OF OPENING SESSION

David Haun
CBFVA Moderator

WELCOME

Randy Shepley
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church, Newport News

PRAYER EXPERIENCE

Micheal Cheuk

THREE PILLARS

Advocacy

Mark Snipes

Theological Education

Heidi Ruiz

Partnership

Laura Davis

CONNECTION TIME!

Fellowship Hall

We welcome you to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a time of connection. Grab a cup of coffee and a pastry! Sit around and catch up with old friends, or make new ones! Connection is such an important gift.

Connection is vital in ministry and CBF hopes to play a part in connecting you. Over and over we hear ministers like you say that they keep showing up at events like our assembly because “these are my people.” We hope this resonates with you and speaks to a deep desire to connect with people of like mind and values. We want to leverage this need for connection and take it to the next level! We believe connection is a lifeline for us all!

Ways CBF is trying to help connect:

- 1. REGIONAL REPS:** Each region has an elected representative. This regional rep’s role is to speak up for your unique region on the CBFVA council and to help connect ministers in your region. Connect with your regional rep!
- 2. PEER GROUPS:** CBF has invested in peer groups since the beginning. CBF already has multiple active peer groups around the state and we want to start more! If you are interested in joining a group but don't know where to start, contact a CBF staff member! We can help you connect.
- 3. PRAYER EXPERIENCES:** Starting in October, join our monthly Zoom sessions for 30 minutes of guided prayer, led by various community members. No distractions, just prayer!

Partners

Baptist Women in Ministry
Rise Against Hunger
Coaching
Pep Talk
Church Benefits Board

Virginia Baptist Women
in Ministry
CBF Foundation
Dawnings
Greenfields
CBF Advocacy

Together for Hope Appalachia
Virginia Interfaith
LUCHA
Baptist House
BSK Theological Seminary

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

10:15 a.m. | Locations Listed

CRINGING FROM CRITICISM

LED BY DAN KOGER | *Pastor, Churchland Baptist Church*

Room A 145

If you are a leader in a congregation—especially a paid staff member—you can expect criticism. It's hidden in that nebulous line that is often the last point in a job description: "other responsibilities as needed." Using the lens of the emotional system and the emotional process in a congregation, we will consider criticism and appropriate ways to respond.

LESSONS ON POLARIZATION FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

LED BY ANDREW GARNETT | *Pastor, Hampton Baptist Church*

Room A 143

We live in a polarized society, struggling to find common ground in a time of deep division. Conflicts plague many of our churches too. But there is good news—the first Christians also faced this challenge. This breakout session will draw from the book *Christians & the Roman: Lessons for Today*; using the church's relationship with the Roman army as a case study, we'll see what we can learn today about overcoming polarization in our faith communities.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW

LED BY SHARON FELTON | *CBF Congregational Advocacy Manager*

Youth Room

Moving from an intellectual understanding of what advocacy means, to following through with God's call to do justice in our everyday lives. Discovering practical ways to be an advocate personally and with your congregation.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

10:15 a.m. | *Locations Listed*

A RULE OF LIFE FOR HOME: EQUIPPING CHURCHES TO ENGAGE A MINISTRY AT HOME

LED BY TRAVIS RUSSELL | *Senior Pastor, Vinton Baptist Church*

Room 201

Many Christians struggle to be significantly formed by their faith through the traditional practices and ministries of the local church. The prevalence and power of competing voices in our culture create exhaustion and fragmentation. Busy schedules, work demands, and extracurricular activities add to this struggle, monopolizing many households' time and availability. Acknowledging the continual decline in church attendance across denominational affiliations and traditions, and current research that clearly reveals the necessity of the institutional church for faith development, I will explore some of the ways the church can begin to shift the focus of its faith formation ministries. While encouraging churches to continue providing meaningful faith formation opportunities within its walls, I will provide additional tools for churches to begin equipping their congregation for how to practice faith formation in their homes with more intentionality and consistency.

This process will specifically examine the core Christian values, spiritual disciplines, and shared practices of early monastic rules that believers developed in order to engage their faith in their everyday lives. By rediscovering and reimagining these historic spiritual disciplines and shared practices contextualized within a modern-day framework, families can begin to develop new rhythms in their home that allow them to be more intentionally formed by their faith. This work is not separate from the institutional church. Rather, it calls for a more intentional partnership between the church and the home that equips families for how to live more fully in the way of Jesus and experience the abundance (John 10:10) that Christ promised in their homes and wherever they go.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

11:15 a.m. | *Locations Listed*

CHAPLAINCY TRAINING

LED BY NATHANIEL BLESSINGTON | *CBF-Endorsed Hospice Chaplain*

BETH RIDDICK | *Lead Chaplain, Mary Washington Healthcare*

JERUSA TILLER | *Prison Chaplain*

Room A 143

Are you a chaplain or interested in learning more about chaplaincy? Join a panel of chaplains as we discuss chaplaincy today, the role of chaplains and how it is different from pastors, ways to pray for chaplains, and ways to volunteer!

**VIRGINIA BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY:
“HOW TO ENCOURAGE, ENGAGE AND EMPOWER WOMEN IN MINISTRY!”**

LED BY LESLIE PARK | *Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry and Pastor, Warsaw Baptist Church*
Room A 145

This breakout session will cover what churches need to consider when hiring women for ministerial positions.

CALLING ALL ELIS! CULTIVATING CALLING IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

LED BY STEPHEN COOK | *Senior Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Memphis, TN*
Room 201

As many churches are graying and coming to terms with diminished numbers of participants, we might resonate with the writer in 1 Samuel who says, “the word of the Lord was rare in those days.” When God calls Samuel, the young man cannot make sense of that without the help of a more seasoned soul, Eli. How do we help cultivate the collective wisdom and insight of our church members who are instrumental in helping others discern the voice of our still-calling God?

SEEDS OF CHANGE

LED BY BEN BROWN | *Minister of Students, Second Baptist Church, Richmond*
Youth Room

Middle and high school students see the world in a different way than other generations. These young people have already known two periods of economic hardship: the Great Recession (2007–2009) and the current impact of inflation resulting from the COVID-19 global pandemic (2020–present). Beyond economic trends, Generation Z’s attitudes and perspectives on technology, politics, social/civic engagement, compassion/empathy, faith, and advocacy are far from monolithic, but they differ greatly from previous generations.

Within this breakout session, hear more from Second Baptist Church of Richmond’s Minister of Students Ben Brown and his Doctor of Ministry project entitled: “Seeds of Change: Engaging and Inspiring Awareness and Advocacy for Local Food Insecurity with Generation Z.” Hear Ben’s research on what worked and didn’t work to engage young people in advocacy around poverty, hunger, and food insecurity and discuss ideas of what has worked in your specific context as well.

BUSINESS SESSION

12:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

WELCOME & CALL INTO BUSINESS MEETING

David Haun
CBFVA Moderator

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS
& THANK-YOU TO THOSE ROLLING OFF

BY-LAW CHANGES
Click [here](#) to access by bylaw changes.

BUDGET

Ben Brown
CBFVA Treasurer

GIVING PLANS
Click [here](#) to access the giving plans online.

David Turner
CBF Church Development Officer

Kristin Adkins Whitesides
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church, Winchester

ADVISORY COUNCIL

MODERATOR

DAVID HAUN

Senior Pastor

Fredericksburg Baptist Church
Fredericksburg

VICE MODERATOR

CHRISTY MCMILLIN-GOODWIN

Pastor

First Baptist Church
Front Royal

SECRETARY

MELISSA KESSLER

*Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care*

Grandin Court Baptist Church
Roanoke

MODERATOR-ELECT

MARNIE FISHER-INGRAM

*Associate Pastor for Youth
and Their Families*

River Road Church, Baptist
Richmond

TREASURER

BEN BROWN

Minister of Students

Second Baptist Church
Richmond

AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHRIS BURTON (24-27)

*Director of Leadership Institute Union
Presbyterian Seminary*
Richmond

ERIN SILVER (23-26)

*Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care*

Fredericksburg Baptist Church
Fredericksburg

YOUTH MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE

LAURYN EVERIC (22-25)

Associate Pastor
Grace Baptist Church
Richmond

ANNA MOXLEY (24-26)

*Minister of Faith Development
and Music Administration*

Derbyshire Baptist Church
Richmond

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

REGION 1 – SOUTHWEST

DIANA FARRELL WHITE (22-25)

Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church
Radford

REGION 4 – SOUTH CENTRAL

RYAN BUSBY (23-26)

Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church
Danville

REGION 7 – NORTHERN VA

JOHN MAJETTE (24-27)

Associate Pastor and Minister of Music
Haymarket Baptist Church
Haymarket

REGION 2 ROANOKE VALLEY*

MARK MOFIELD (24-27)

Senior Pastor

Melrose Baptist Church
Roanoke

REGION 5 – CAPITAL

MELISSA FALLEN (24-27)

Senior Pastor

Glen Allen Baptist Church
Glen Allen

REGION 8 – RAPPAHANNOCK

LESLIE PARK (23-26)

Pastor, Warsaw Baptist Church
Warsaw, VA

REGION 3 – BLUE RIDGE*

ALAN MILLER (24-27)

Pastor

Orange Baptist Church
Orange

REGION 6 – HAMPTON ROADS

BRIAN HARFST (23-26)

Equipping Pastor

Centerville Baptist Church
Chesapeake

* New Council Member

Q&A WITH PAUL BAXLEY & LAURA AYALA

1:00 p.m. | Sanctuary



REV. DR. PAUL BAXLEY has served as the executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship since January 2019. A native of Winston-Salem, NC, Paul has a rich pastoral background, with ministry roles in Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia. He holds degrees from Wake Forest University, Duke Divinity School, and the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Known for his passionate leadership and vision for collaboration within CBF congregations, Paul is deeply committed to shaping a vibrant Baptist witness in today's world.



REV. LAURA AYALA became CBF's coordinator for Global Missions in 2023, overseeing global missions, chaplaincy, and disaster response efforts. Before her current role, Laura served as the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras, becoming the first woman to lead this historic congregation. A graduate of Drew University and the Universidad del Turabo, she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Theology. Laura's leadership is characterized by her passion for seeing God's transformational work in communities worldwide, especially through empowering churches to participate in mission work.



—Thank You! —

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE to First Baptist Church Newport News, Randy Shepley, and Juan Garcia for graciously hosting this year's General Assembly. Your hospitality, creativity, suggestions, and friendship have been deeply appreciated.

A special thank you goes to our session leaders, worship leaders, and the Coordinating and Advisory Councils for their dedication in planning the Assembly. Your skills and gifts were invaluable, and this event would not have been possible without your contributions.

We also want to express our sincere thanks to our partners, whose vital work and commitment to partnership are essential to the mission and ministry of CBFVA.

Lastly, we are grateful to everyone who took time from their busy schedules to join us in worship, learning, and fellowship. We look forward to continuing our journey together and to gathering with you again next September in Richmond!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 146

Anna Moxley
& Matt Roberts, Whitney Russell

Come.

The invitation is extended.

The table is prepared.

We are here from different places,

We have traveled different roads—

And still,

Together, we are here.

No matter where you started,

No matter what you carry with you,

No matter your hunger,

There is a place set for you.

We gather side by side,

We gather in delight and cheer!

We gather in the name and love of our Lord Jesus Christ!

For happy are we who hope in the Lord—

The one who made heaven and earth;

The one who made the sea and all that is within it;

The one who is ever constant; who nourishes all who are hungry;

The one who enacts all manner of justice;

And frees us from what holds us back.

Our God is the one who opens our eyes so that we may truly see

And tenderly lifts our slouching heads

So we can look into the eyes of another.

Our God is the one who loves righteousness,

And watches over all of those who are often ignored.

Come!

There is a place for you!

Come!

There is a place for all!
The table is never full.
There is always,
Always
Room for more.

Hallelujah!

INVOCATION

Juan Garcia
Associate Pastor
First Baptist Church, Newport News

SONG

“Great Are You, Lord”

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
and great are You, Lord

Chorus

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

Bridge 3x

All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord

Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Randy Shepley
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Newport News

SONG

“For Everyone Born”

Words on following page

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 146

SERMON

“Faith, Food, and Freedom”

Lynn Brinkley
Field Ministry Coordinator
CBF PAK

MOMENT OF MEDIATION

COMMUNION AROUND THE TABLES

Juan Garcia & Lynn Brinkley

BENEDICTION

At this table, we laugh.

At this table, we pray.

At this table, we are filled.

From this place of nourishment,
we carry the bread of life with us out into the world

We go inviting others to the table...

Remembering that the table does not belong to us
but to the one who provides for us all.

Remembering that the one who provided manna in the wilderness
provides for us as well.

And, so we are reminded once again

That we are called to provide for others.

May the one who sustains us

lead us to those who need to know the same fullness

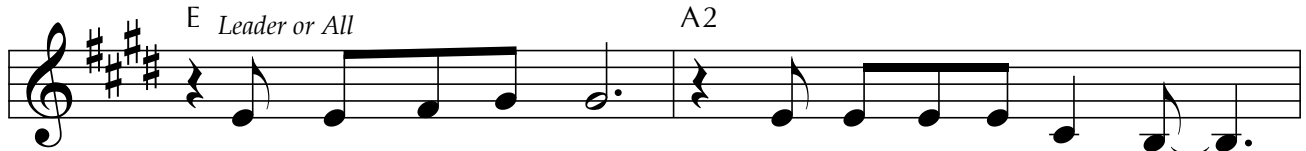
found only in the one who calls us forth...

The maker of heaven and earth.

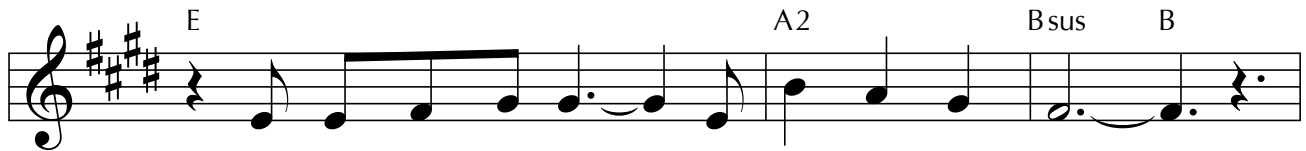
Hallelujah! Amen.

David Haun
Senior Pastor
Fredericksburg Baptist Church
CBFVA Moderator

769 For Everyone Born



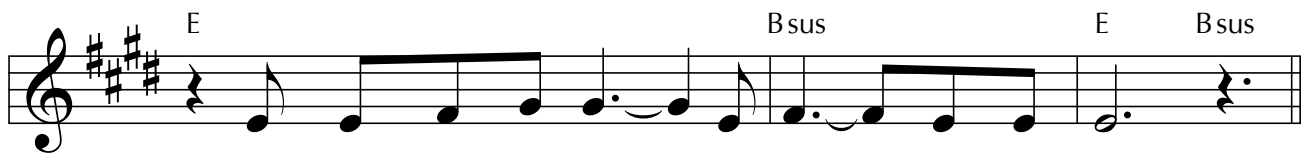
1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

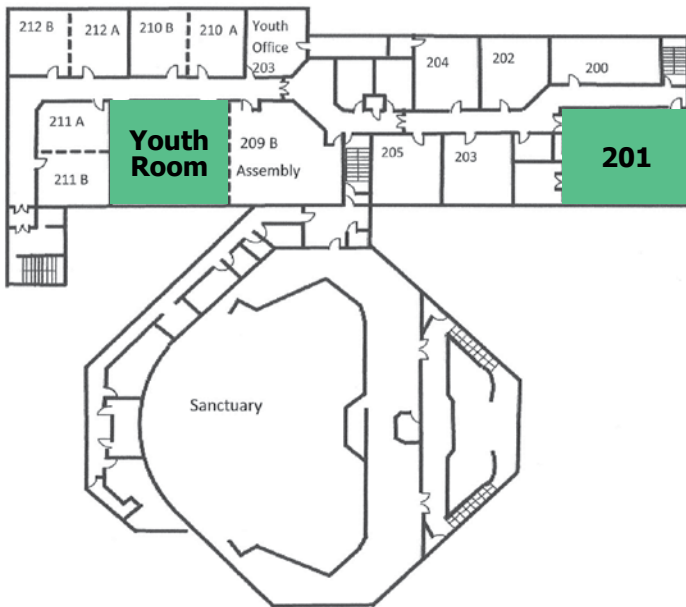
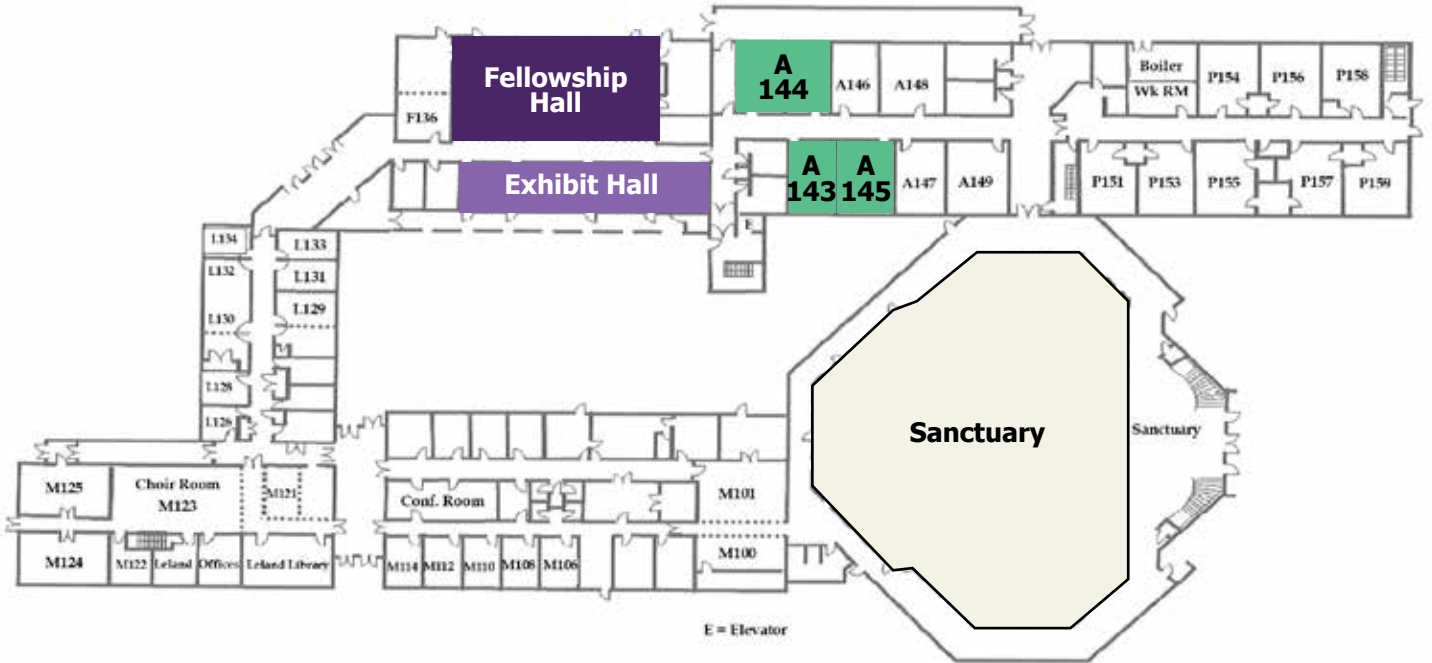


a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

FBC NEWPORT NEWS CAMPUS MAP



Map Key

- EXHIBIT HALL**
(Sunday school rooms)
- BREAKOUT SESSIONS
& CHAPLAINS BREAKFAST**
(Sunday school, youth & music rooms)
- REGISTRATION, COFFEE & PASTRIES,
OPENING SESSION & BUSINESS SESSION**
(Fellowship Hall)
- Q&A & CLOSING WORSHIP**
(Sanctuary)

Upcoming Events

Join us as we learn and fellowship together!

NOVEMBER 2

Cultivating Generous Congregations | *West Main Baptist Church, Danville, VA*

2025

JANUARY 14-17

Preacher Camp | *Richmond Hill Urban Retreat Center*

JANUARY 28

Pastor's School | *Union Presbyterian Seminary*

FEBRUARY 4-7

Christian Educators Conference | *Decatur, GA*

FEBRUARY 14-16

CBF Young Adult Summit | *Nashville, TN*

MARCH 14-16

Children's Ministry Retreat (Grades 3-6) | *Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center*

MARCH 21-23

15th Annual Mission Madness | *Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, VA*

APRIL 11-13

15th Annual Mission Madness | *Bluefield, VA*

MAY 12-15

Silence Retreat with Peptalk Ministries | *CrossRoads Camp*

JUNE 25-27

CBF General Assembly | *St. Louis, MO*

SEPTEMBER

CBFVA General Assembly | *Richmond*

NOVEMBER 14-16

Youth Fall Retreat | *Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, VA*



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