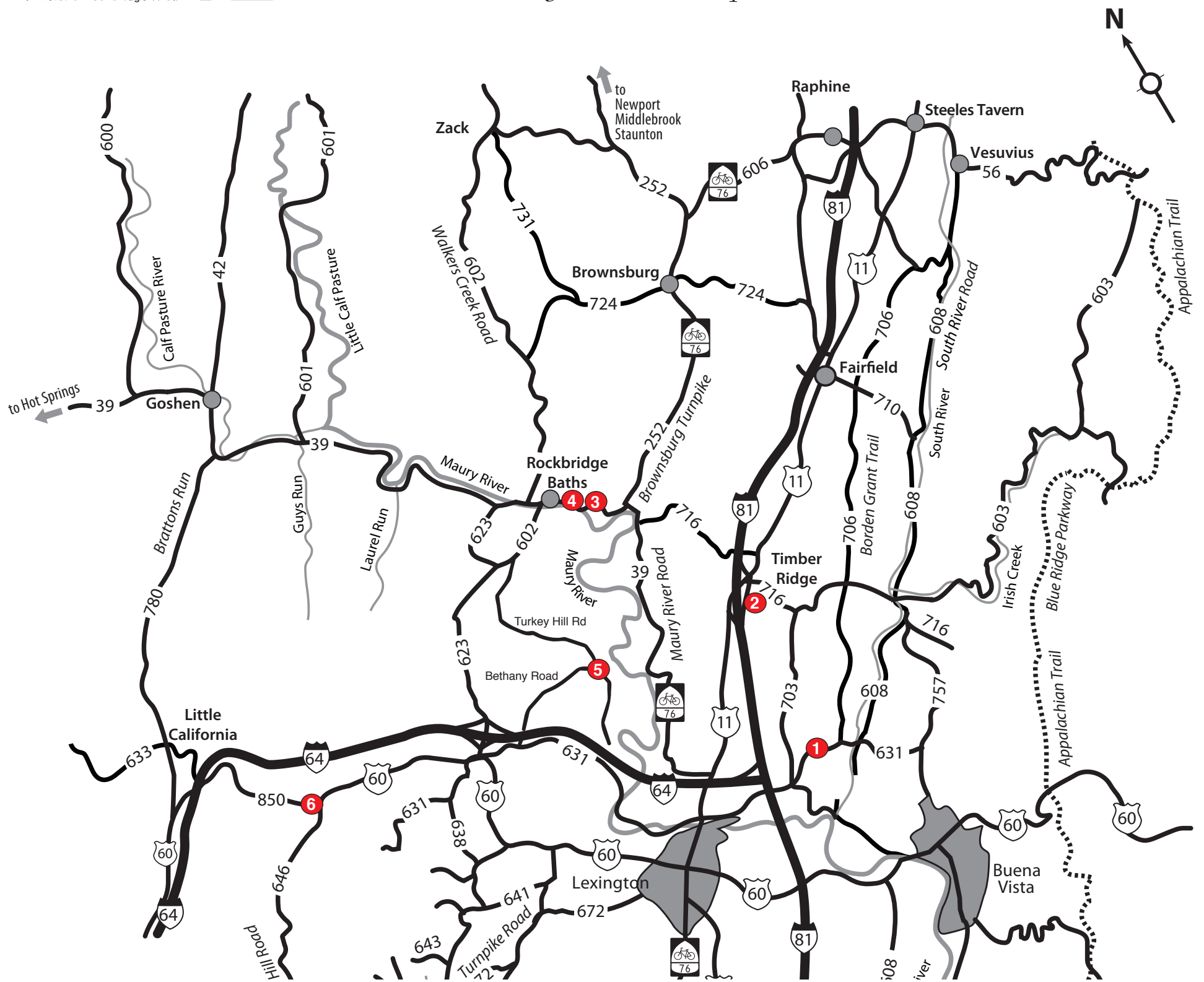


Sacred Places: Historic Rockbridge County Church



Open-House May 24/ 10am - 3pm



1 Neriah Baptist Church (10am - 1pm)

Old Buena Vista Road, Buena Vista, VA

Description: The church dates from 1816 and is the oldest Baptist church in the county that has been in continuous use. Also, per the pastor, the interior is largely original, with original pews and balcony (said to be the slave balcony). The stained glass windows were installed in the 1970s. Across the road from the church is the old slave cemetery; it has no grave markers. The church was built by the noted early 19th century firm of Samuel Darst and John Jordan.

Directions: After crossing the Maury River Bridge in Lexington go right on Old Buena Vista Road; pass the intersection with Rte. 81; then, about a mile after passing Forest Grove Road, Neriah Baptist Church is on your left.



2 Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church (10am - 1pm)

73 Sam Houston Way, Timber Ridge, VA

Description: Listed on the National Register of Historic Place the present stone church dates from 1756. It served as the site for Liberty Hall Academy from 1777 until 1780. While the church has gone through many changes, its main portion incorporates the wall of the 1756 structure, and, as such, is the second oldest Presbyterian church in the Valley of Virginia.

Directions: From Neriah Baptist Church return east on Old Buena Vista Road, then go right on Forest Grove Road for several miles, then left on Timber Ridge for about two miles.
or
Return to Lexington on Old Buena Vista Road and take Rte. 11 north five miles.



3 Bethesda Presbyterian Church (10am - 1pm)

90 Bethesda Road, Rockbridge Baths, VA

Description: Built in 1876, the brick church is typical of Presbyterian churches built after the Civil War. There is an unusual open choir loft behind the altar. The Italianate bell tower was added in 1908. The three colored glass windows made by the Tiffany company also date to 1908. There is an additional stained glass window in honor of a member killed in Vietnam.

Directions: From Timber Ridge go north on Rte 11 to Ploggers Corner. There turn left onto Mt. Atlas Road. Remain on this road until you reach Rte 39. Then right (west) on 39 to Rockbridge Baths. Bethesda Presbyterian is on the left.
or
Drive south on Rte. 11, then west on Rte. 39 to Rockbridge Baths.



4 Ebenezer United Methodist Church (noon - 3pm)

25 Bunkin Hill Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA

Description: In the early 1800s the congregation met at Lambert's Meeting House. Later a brick church was built and remained in use for 60 years. Then, in 1908, rather than repair the old church the present church was built. The stained glass windows were installed in 1967. The 1985 flood badly damaged the sanctuary, requiring replacement of the pews and altar.

Directions: From Bethesda PC drive west on Rte. 39 one mile. Turn right on McCurdy Lane to Ebenezer. Slightly more than one mile from Bethesda PC



5 Bethany Lutheran Church (noon - 3pm)

1320 Bethany Road at Alone Mill

Description: Original church was built in 1853 and organized in 1859. Because of a change in the location of the road that church had to be abandoned and the present church was built in 1904. The stained glass windows were installed in the 1960s. The present Gothic Revival style brick church is distinguished by its tower and tall spire.

Directions: From Ebenezer turn right on Rte. 39 to cross the Maury River Bridge, then left on Turkey Hill Road, about six miles to Bethany Lutheran Church.



6 Maury River Friends Meeting House (noon - 3pm)

34 Waterloo Drive at Denmark

Description: This building was erected as an auxiliary church to New Monmouth Presbyterian. Its use was relinquished by New Monmouth in the 20th century. It was acquired by the Friends in the late 1990s.

Directions: At Bethany Lutheran take Bethany Road west, going under I-64. Turn right on Big Spring Drive. Turn right on Route 60W and drive approx 4 miles. Friends Meeting is on Waterloo Drive, eight miles from Bethany Lutheran.

Lexington: Return to Lexington driving east on Rte. 60, about 25 minutes from the Friends Meeting House

