



Second Press

Volume 35 Issue 7 July-August 2017



Alex Evans, Pastor

Dear Church Family,

We, on the Church Staff, often tease that the pace of life slows down in the summer and that is when we can all catch up on our work. I say “tease” because we all know that we rarely sense any slowing down.

For sure, some things change in the summer months: Church School ceases on Sunday mornings, youth programs change pace, the choir gets a respite from regular practice and from leading worship, and the Session and most Councils do not meet in July.

But we keep seeking to nurture faith, build community, grow as God’s people, and serve God in this city all through the summer. Our Monday (Walk-In) Lunch Program is as busy as ever. Prayer groups, planning meetings, the young adult fellowship, Franklin Reding’s Bible study class, pastoral care visits, various study and fellowship events, and more, ALL continue with energy and faithfulness. And the church is especially busy this summer with workers in and out of the sanctuary and other parts of our fine building.

Also, with summer upon us, our weekly Sunday morning WORSHIP becomes all the more important. We are fortunate to have our fabulous Chapel which offers more intimacy and improved acoustics for our music and singing. Kathryn and I continue to give devoted attention to the planning of the service. We hope the sermons and liturgy engage hearts and minds. The music – with solos from our favorite musicians – promises to continue to enrich us across the coming weeks. If you are in town, please try to be present. If you are out of town, join us via live-streaming video or watch the delayed broadcast sometime during the week. We want everyone to feel connected to God and our worship at Second.

And as we move through these days, I offer a few other thoughts.

We seem to be in a season of growing FEAR, with increasing FATIGUE, and increasing CYNICISM.

The fear might come from the daily stories of gun violence, or new terror events around the world, or heightened concerns about the political situation, or the groaning environment, or something else. Remember that the foremost instruction from God is this: “Do not be afraid.” God is for us, with us, always prevailing over every challenge and issue.

The fatigue may come from the burdens we carry, the innate desire to handle all things on our own, the sense that we are not as strong or able as we used to be. Remember that living in faith means to trust God and to strive to trust God more. It is not all up to us. We seek to love and serve God and then “let go and let God.”

The cynicism probably emerges when we get really discouraged – by life’s challenges, by large problems we cannot control, by other issues that overwhelm us. But life is short. And our calling in life is to “Rejoice in the Lord, again I say rejoice.” We do not want the cynicism to steal the few moments we have to celebrate life and enjoy life’s blessings. Remember, God’s Spirit and grace are always at work, and we can be agents of that Spirit and grace.

As we move through these days and weeks of summer, may God’s love and light shine upon us and fill us with love and light for all things. See you in worship, and around in these days.

Alex

Highlights from the Session Meeting

At the June meeting, the Session:

- ◆ Enthusiastically moved to sponsor Jay Morgan as an “Inquirer” as he begins his studies at Union Presbyterian Seminary;
- ◆ Heard a positive report from the Property Council on progress to date in the sanctuary renovation;
- ◆ Moved to ask a task force on “Moving Forward Together” to bring recommendations to the Session for approval concerning further property enhancements and priorities beyond the sanctuary; the task force will clarify and unify ideas and comments from congregation, Property Council, and Wayfinding;
- ◆ Shared the “Position Paper on Gun Violence” from the June meeting of the Presbytery of the James;
- ◆ Supported ongoing stewardship of the church in maintaining property in the Virginia Building and Parking Deck, in building a better website, in ongoing mission and in Christian education, and in maintaining giving for support of all these programs.

Extending our Hospitality—Conversation after Worship — July 16

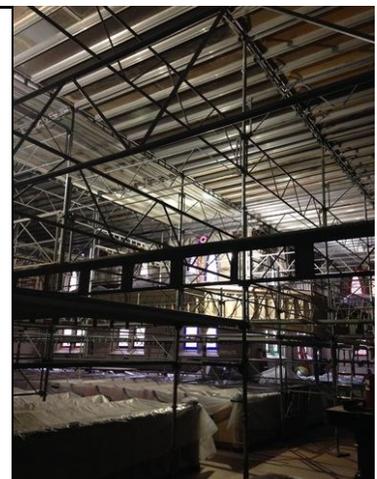
On Sunday, July 16, following worship, all are invited to attend another event in the Dining Room to see some of the designs and possible plans for the Virginia Building, the atrium, the courtyard, the Hawes Building and more as we continue to “Shine the Light of God’s Grace” and seek to enhance our building for effective welcome, ministry, and outreach. Join us after worship for conversation and questions.

Take a Tour of Our Work in Progress! Sunday, July 23

For those interested in seeing the progress of our sanctuary renovation, a walk-through tour will be offered following worship on Sunday, July 23. Come and get a glimpse of important upgrades that are happening, and share in the excitement!

The tour will be led by Century Construction and others from our church who are involved and knowledgeable in the details.

No climbing involved—scaffolding will still be in place and the walk-through will be user-friendly.



Attention, Poets!

The Arts Committee would like to showcase your poetry in a summer exhibit to be displayed in our hall gallery, beginning July 14.

Please submit your written words before **July 13** by leaving a hard copy in the folder at the Deacon's Desk. Or you may email your poems to Mary Millet (marycmillet@gmail.com) or to Janice McMurray (HARLANMCM@aol.com) by that date.

The Arts Committee will mount and hang the exhibit on July 14.

There is so much talent in our congregation that we anticipate an exciting show. Beginner poets, you are welcomed!



Are you interested in volunteering with a program that makes a difference in the lives of those who live on the margins in Richmond?

Help the Walk-In lunch program for a few hours on Mondays once a month or more. We need soup cooks, receptionists, dining room coordinators, clothing assistants, and folks to pack and distribute snack suppers. We also need volunteers a few times a year to help prepare and serve the lunches. Only have an hour to spare? We need drink servers and general helpers as well from 11:45-12:45. Please contact Elva Mapp or Nancy Updegrave for more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Walk-in Volunteers Needed

July 3

10:30 am—1:00 pm

Come join us serving our friends in need!

Please contact Nancy Updegrave at nancyru@gmail.com

Walk-In Summer Requests

Doing some reorganizing? Walk-in neighbors could really use sport-type water bottles and hats in this hot weather. Extra tote bags such as the kind you get at grocery stores or conferences are also very popular. Just drop them in the box across from the credenza in the hall between the Heritage Room and the kitchen. Thanks to everyone who has brought toiletries, clothing, books, and magazines over the last months. They are all appreciated by our neighbors and are welcome any time.

Montreat Women's Conference: The Fullness of Life

August 11-13, 2017



This year's conference, featuring Rachel Held Evans, will encourage participants to find grace and renewal through reflection, rest, and community. Conference activities will include worship, fellowship, recreation, rest, and workshops. There will also be a time set aside to study and discuss Rachel's book together as a conference community. So far, our attendees from Second will be: Julia Carr, Candace Blades, Cathy Howard, Dusty Pritchett and Ginger Evans. Would you like to join us? Let Ginger know if you are interested!

Greetings, Friends!

*A note from
Molly Spangler*

This summer I have been visiting churches all over the Presbytery of the James in order to update everyone on UKirk's happenings and needs. Several other churches in our presbytery seem excited and eager to help with UKirk and I am encouraged to see that we are not alone in our venture. We hope that these churches will consider partnering with us to help our congregation sustain and nurture this ministry together.

I also traveled down to East Carolina University in June to meet with its new UKirk Board. I shared the model of campus ministry we use here at Second Presbyterian for our VCU students. As an alum of the UKirk Campus Ministry at East Carolina, it was a special joy for me to help them think through how their ministry will look in the future.

Although we are in the summer months, I have been working on preparing for the fall as well. We plan to continue having our weekly program nights every Thursday at Second Presbyterian. We will have another fall retreat in September at Lake Gaston. Last year our students overwhelmingly agreed that the retreat was the most meaningful thing they did all year, so we are definitely doing it again!

I also want to extend the invitation to you all again to come and bring our students a home cooked meal! I cannot say enough about how this meal sets the tone for our time together each week. The students love having food that isn't fast and processed and they love taking home leftovers too! We all gather around the table together to eat and to enjoy fellowship. This is the time we get to hear what is going on in one another's lives. Our meal is the place where new students are welcomed as members of the family. Scripture is full of stories of powerful moments that are experienced when people are gathered around a table together.

Here is the Sign Up Genius page for the meals. Please look ahead at your calendars and grab a date that works for you:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a45acab22a4fd0-fall>

I am grateful for all of the ways in which this congregation continues to care for our students, and I hope that this will be another great year of ministry together.

Many thanks,

Molly



Coming again this Fall!

Second Course Groups

At locations all across the City, on different days of the week, at different hours of the day.

We hope to have small groups of Second Presbyterian folks gathered for fellowship, study, and prayer together. If you would like to be part of one of these groups, or would like to offer to host one, please contact Ginger Evans.



A Special Note of Thanks from Alex and Kathryn

On behalf of the congregation of Second Presbyterian Church, we would like to recognize the Flower Committee for their devotion to making the worship space even more beautiful each Sunday.



Dick Gibbons, as you probably know, has tirelessly headed this committee for many decades! He has created many unique arrangements in keeping with church holidays, and we love what he has done for this church. He, or one of his team of volunteers, comes down each week to create beautiful arrangements for all to enjoy. Please let this group know how much you appreciate what they do every Sunday by offering them a personal thank you.

Flower Team: Dick Gibbons, Katharine Anderson, Laura Anne Brooks, Anne Jefferson, Susan Nochta, Dot Apperson, Dot Hart, and “newbies” Stacey Dendy and Katherine Weisiger.

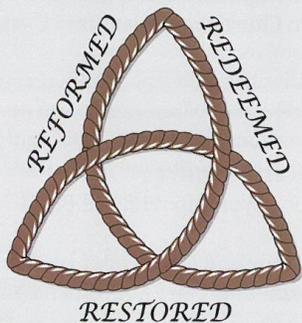
Flower Arrangers Needed

Katharine Anderson and Dick Gibbons are working on adding flower arrangers to the flower team calendar. If you are interested in helping in this important ministry, please contact Katharine at 355-0825.



You are Invited!

The 94th Annual Bible Conference and Church Music Conference



You are invited to gather together at Massanetta Springs as we remember the reformation through inspirational worship and music, dynamic preaching, and engaging teaching. This year, we are **Remembering the Reformation!** Join us as we celebrate the reformation and what it means for us in a reformed faith. We want to remember and give thanks for where we came from and where we are today.

Will you join us?

Get details and information at www.massanettasprings.org

Remembering the Reformation!

July 23rd - 29th, 2017



The Rev. Alex Evans
Preacher

Thursday and Friday



The Rev. Anna George Trayham
Worship Leader

— "A Place for All People to Experience God" —

News from our Child Care Center

Thank you to all who were involved in the silent auction and the generosity of many. It is a pleasure to report that over \$9,000 was cleared and some proceeds have been spent:

- Purchase of two toddler/preschool tables and 10 chairs
- Purchase of a brand new dramatic play kitchen
- purchase of gift cards totaling \$600 for perfect attendance by teachers
- a custom built cabinet was commissioned and installed for the shared Sunday school room that is used during the week by the Pre-K friends

Plans are underway for additional items in the enrichment room dramatic play area. Eboni and her team are excited about not only the new items to enhance the children’s experience but also recognition of the work of the teachers.

All are welcome to visit the Child Care Center and see for yourself the wonderful work that is being done with one of our Missions at Second. Just call to set up a visit and enjoy the love and liveliness of the children. As the words to a hymn express, “There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place.”



It is with gratitude and sadness that the Child Care Center Board bids farewell to Eboni Brickhouse, Director from 2008-2017.

Eboni is moving to North Carolina to be closer to her family.

Best wishes and blessings on the next new chapter in Eboni’s life!

Six from Second to be Commissioned for Guatemala Trip

Sponsored by the Presbytery of the James and Peaks Presbytery, the Guatemala trip August 14-21 will include six from Second Presbyterian Church: Lollie George, Kathleen Murphy, Don and Anne Looney, Randy Welch, and Mary Jane Winter.

They will be recognized and commissioned during the worship service on August 6. A total of 19 participants from the two presbyteries will travel, learn, and serve together.

Focusing on creation care, the group will plant trees (seedlings) in a much-needed reforestation project. In addition, they will share in worship and bible study and will experience first-hand CEDEPCA’s ministry in biblical training, the empowerment of women, and disaster recovery.



CEDEPCA (The Protestant Center for Pastoral Education in Central America) is a mission partner of the Presbyterian Church (USA) with an important relationship to Second over many years.

Look Who's Preaching



July 2	Molly Spangler
July 9	Alex Evans
July 16	Alex Evans
July 23	Kathryn Lester-Bacon
July 30	Kathryn Lester-Bacon
August 6	Alex Evans
August 13	Alex Evans
August 20	Alex Evans
August 27	Kathryn Lester-Bacon

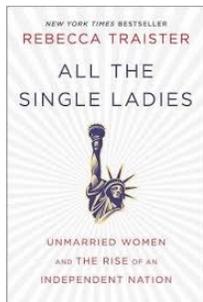
Literary Circle in July

Tuesday, July 11, 7:30 pm

Literary Circle will meet on July 11 at 7:30 pm at the home of Elva Mapp, 116 Matoaka Road.

Mary Jane Winter will lead the discussion of *All the Single Ladies* by Rebecca Traister.

Please contact Carolyn Brandt (804-288-2511, crbrandt1412@gmail.com) or Page Wagner (804-323-7038) for more information.



Literary Circle in August

Tuesday, August 8, 6:30 pm

On August 8, Carolyn Brandt will host the Literary Circle's annual pot luck dinner meeting at 6:30 pm at 1412 Chowan Road. At this meeting the group selects its 2017-2018 books.



If you are interested in joining the group, this would be a perfect opportunity to come and get acquainted.

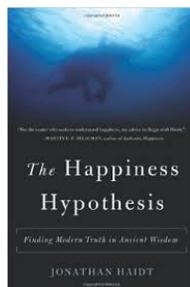
Please contact Carolyn Brandt (288-2511, crbrandt1412@gmail.com) or Page Wagner (323-7038) for more information on these events.

Day Book Group in July

**Tuesday, July 18, 10:00 am
Room 308 Virginia Building**

The book for discussion is *The Happiness Hypothesis* by Jonathan Haidt.

All are welcome.

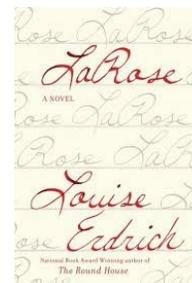


Day Book Group in August

**Tuesday, August 15, 10:00 am
Room 308 Virginia Building**

The book for discussion is *LaRose* by Louise Erdrich.

All are welcome.



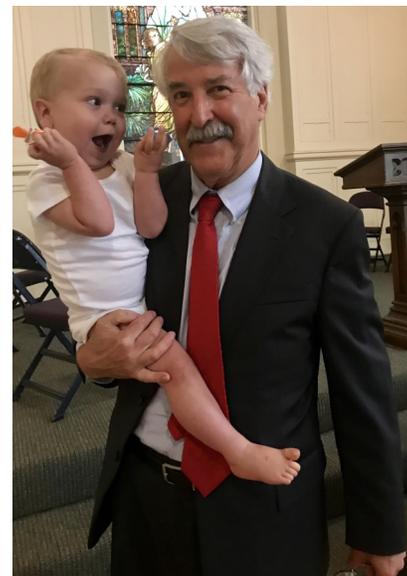
Prayers for Finn



Tom Flynn's grandson, Finley Noah Blumenthal ("Finn") was baptized in the chapel on Monday, June 19. Finn was born with many health challenges and is facing multiple surgeries.

Tom and his daughter Kelly and the family would appreciate your prayers. For more information, follow Kelly's **Prayers for Finn** page on Facebook.

Tom Flynn's daughter, Kelly, and grandson, Finn



Tom and Finn



Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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