



# Second Press

Volume 36 Issue 11 November 2018



Alex Evans, Pastor

Dear Church Family,

## Why Church?

I get that question from time to time – people wondering why in these days the church still matters, or deserves our care and commitments. I think about that question very often, as I tell

people what I do or where I work, and I imagine their minds spinning with ideas and questions. Here are some recent thoughts on Why Church?

### **Church offers us an opportunity to encounter God.**

While there are plenty of opportunities to encounter God outside of the church, the church seeks to be a place where God's grace can work effectively – as we read the Bible, pray, sing spiritual songs, celebrate the sacraments. The church seeks to be a place where we are intentional, and without reservation, at opening our hearts and lives to God. The church seeks to be a place where we learn about Jesus, where we remember God's loving care through all things.

We hope that in all the happenings around this church, we sense God's presence and promises, feel God's love and light, and seek to grow closer to life with God.

**Church surrounds us with community.** We are social beings. We need one another, especially in an era when loneliness is on the rise, and addictions, suicides, and other signs of isolation haunt our culture. Church gives us a place to connect with others, opportunities to be with other faithful people who are striving to trust God and serve God amidst life's changes and challenges. Church gives us a place to learn from one another what it means to be a disciple, to practice forgiveness, to love others, even our enemies. Church gives us a place to belong, to find encouragement, to grow, to change, to be better people.

We hope that this community increases your sense of belonging, your sense of fellowship, your connections that deepen your faith and improve your life.

**Church broadens our perspective, raises our gaze toward God.** Life is so much bigger than our lives.

God's purposes are so much broader than our knowledge and views. Yet it is so easy to be tuned in mostly to our problems, our concerns, our limitations. In church, we are always invited to step back, to look to God, to see our lives in the broader realm of God's love and plans. Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. Nothing can frustrate God's plans to move the world toward the kingdom of heaven. The church also gives us a place to practice the hard things of life – forgiving ourselves and others, maintaining hope amidst life's setbacks, keeping on when we feel shattered. Death on a cross is not the end. The grave does not have the last word. No darkness can overcome God's light.

We hope that this community broadens us to God's steadfast love and equips us as living, trusting and serving disciples.

**Church gives us a mission and a purpose for living.** We do not live for ourselves or to ourselves. We do not live for wealth and possessions or to be happy. We live to serve God – to glorify God and enjoy God forever. So, we seek to give to God – through the church – our heart, soul, mind, strength. We seek to give God our money and time. We seek to give to God our lives. We are created to love God and love others. The church gives us a place to live this out – as we come together, serve together in downtown Richmond and around the world.

We hope that this community deepens in each of us sincere commitments toward selfless service in the world as disciples of Jesus.

**The church is a place to sing out our life with and for God. The church is a place to sing away our fears and selfishness and grow in love. The church encourages us to do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God. Thanks be to God for this church and for our life together.**

Alex

**November 4**

**Special Guest Preacher ~**

The Rev. Dr. Beverly Zink-Sawyer  
*Professor Emerita of Preaching  
 and Worship*  
*Union Presbyterian Seminary*



*Daylight Saving Time  
 Ends*



**November 11**

**DEDICATION**  
  
**Sunday**

*Second Sunday Lunch!*

*November 11*

*Baked Spaghetti (with or without meat)*

*Tossed Salad*

*Delicious Garlic Bread*

*Assorted Cupcakes*

Adults and Youth \$8; Kids (10 and under) \$5



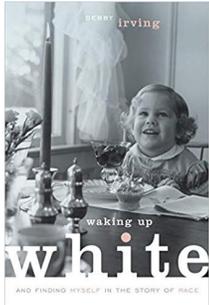
**YOUTH**

Sunday, November 4	REFRESH ~ Waffles ~ Discussion	9:30 am
Sunday, November 11	REFRESH ~ Waffles ~ Discussion Second Sunday Lunch + Afternoon Activity	9:30 am 12:30-2:00
Sunday, November 18	REFRESH ~ Waffles ~ Discussion Worship Nite, Youth Group, and Dinner	9:30 am 5:00-7:00 pm
Sunday, November 25	No Youth Group Activities ~ Thanksgiving Weekend!	---

## Adult Education in November

**November 4, 11, 18, 25**  
Dining Room

### “Waking Up White”



**November 4** Sally Johnston will begin the class with a discussion of the ecological effects of racism.

**November 11, 18 and 25** Sally Johnston and Ginna Dalton will explore Debby Irving’s book *Waking Up White* with support from Presbyterian resources.

“Debby Irving’s powerful *Waking Up White* opens a rare window on how white Americans are socialized. Irving’s focus on the mechanics of racism operating in just one life —her own—may lead white readers to reconsider the roots of their own perspectives—and their role in dismantling old myths. Readers of color will no doubt find the view through Irving’s window fascinating, and telling.” -- **Van Jones**, author, *Rebuild The Dream, The Green Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems; President, Rebuild The Dream; Co-host, CNN Crossfire*

**Faith and Literature**  
Suite 301

**November 4** “Pigeon Feathers,” John Updike, p. 75

**November 11** “Watching Her Die,” Reynolds Price, p. 96

**November 18** “All Stories Are True,” Wideman, p. 110

**November 25** “Obasan,” Joy Kogawa, p. 125

**Bible Study**  
Pastor’s Classroom

**The Book of John** ~ led by Franklin Reding

**November 4**  
Nursery

**Parents of Young Children**

**October 28**  
**November 4, 18, and 25**  
5th Floor Conference Room

**Art Class: Creating Advent Banners ~ with Hannah Garrity**

Join us in a special creative art class led by new member, Hannah Garrity. Together, we will make Advent banners that will hang in the sanctuary. Hannah is an art teacher and a liturgical installation artist at the Montreat Conference Center. She is offering this class as a gift to her new church family.

### *“Steadfast Witness: Planting Seeds of Peace in Palestine”*

On **Sunday, November 11**, Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Christian farmer and director of the peace-building center Tent of Nations will present a program called “Steadfast Witness: Planting Seeds of Peace in Palestine” at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 3602 Hawthorne Avenue, Richmond, 23222 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm.

This program is free and open to the public and is sponsored by Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine and the Arab American Association of Central Virginia.

**Faith-based Advocacy** requires *prayer, action, and education*.

Advocacy priorities at Second Presbyterian for 2018-2019 include refugee/immigrant issues, reducing gun violence, and climate concerns.

To stay informed, please join the “Advocacy@2ndPres” email list. Send your name and email address to Lucretia McCulley at: [lucretia.mcculley@gmail.com](mailto:lucretia.mcculley@gmail.com).

### *Connections and Conversations at Covenant Woods with Alex Evans*

Monday, November 12  
at 3:30 pm in the Treetops

### *Warmth Ministry*



We are collecting new warm gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for our Walk-In neighbors.

There will be a designated box in the hall near the credenza in which to put them. There is no deadline. They can be brought in anytime through the winter months. *Thank you!*

### *New Name Tags for Members*

If you would like a magnetic name tag, printed with your name on it, just add your name to the sign-up sheet located on the small table in the Atrium. Please allow several weeks for printing. When name tags are ready, they will be placed at the same table for pick up. Please note—magnetic name tags are not suitable for individuals with pacemakers.

### *Organizing Church Documents*

The Administration Committee is working on a **Document Organization, Retention and Destruction Policy** and we need your help. So many of you have generously donated your time and expertise to help with the management of this historic church, and we know some members of the congregation have in their possession documents the church should have.

If you have a legal or financial document you think the church should have, can you please let Anne McDonnell know? She’s trying to figure out who’s got what, what’s missing, and how to organize the collection of these documents. She can be reached at [anne@biav.net](mailto:anne@biav.net). Thank you!

## *Session Highlights*

At the October meeting, the Session:

- ◆ Heard a wonderful report from the Church Treasurer about the very healthy finances of the church. Pledges and donations continue to be higher than expected and expenses continue to be lower than anticipated.
- ◆ Elected commissioners to attend the Fall Stated Meeting of Presbytery of the James.
- ◆ Approved the Rev. Dr. Beverly Zink-Sawyer, retired professor of preaching at Union Presbyterian Seminary, as our guest preacher for November 4, 2018.
- ◆ Received an update on the “Shining the Light” Capital Campaign. We have received \$4.8 million in pledges and gifts toward a goal of \$5 million, with still 18 months to go in the campaign. We have allocated \$1.3 million toward the completed sanctuary upgrades. We celebrate the completion of the kitchen, under budget at \$300,000. We have allocated \$1.3 million for improvements in the atrium, all bathrooms, Heritage Room, and more, and anticipate that project in summer 2019. We await further plans for improvements in the Hawes building, mostly for mission (estimated \$500,000) and also in summer 2019. We have already allocated \$481,000 in mission spending to spread God’s light and love in our city and our world to various mission partners. We anticipate a total of approximately \$1.7 million in mission spending from this campaign. We rejoice in God’s goodness and abundance within and through our church.
- ◆ Heard reports from Personnel, Mission, Property, Membership, and Christian Education councils. We also heard reports about UKirk, seminary interns, and efforts at racial justice and equality.
- ◆ Celebrated the health and vitality of Second and shared pastoral concerns.



### *Presbyterian Women Circle 1*

Circle 1 meets **Tuesday, November 13** at 10:30 am at Westminster Canterbury, 6th floor lounge. We are having a combined circle meeting with Ginter Park. Betsy Rice is leading the Bible study discussion. Bring a Bible, bring a friend, and join us.

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### *Presbyterian Women Circle 2*

Circle #2 will meet at Helen Brooke’s home, 8103 University Drive, on **Tuesday, November 6** at 11:00 am. Em Key will lead our study on this year’s theme “God’s Promise: I am With You.”

The topics covered are “God with Us in Our Uncertainty” and “God with Us in Our Discouragement.” Join us for interesting discussion and good fellowship.

## CrossOver Healthcare Ministry

*Volunteers Needed!*

CrossOver Healthcare Ministry, one of our mission partners, is in desperate need of volunteers. Enrollment in Medicaid begins on November 1, 2018 and ends January 1, 2019. Within that short timeframe, CrossOver estimates there are around 40,000 people in Central Virginia alone who need to be enrolled in order to receive coverage. They need help enrolling all these people!

If you're willing and available to go through a 30-minute training session to help patients fill out their online application, please contact Molly Smith at either 804-655-2794, ext.107 or by email at [msmith@crossoverministry.org](mailto:msmith@crossoverministry.org).

Julie Bilodeau, a member here at Second Presbyterian, also has more information.

## Safety at 2PCCC Early Childhood Education Center

October was fire safety month. 2PCCC takes pride in all of the safety measures we take. We work very hard to go above and beyond standard regulations to make 2PCCC a safe learning environment.

To get into the Center, one must enter his or her own personal code, which each of our parents and employees receive (and is deactivated upon withdrawal). Any guest must be "buzzed" in by a staff member, exactly like entering the atrium or parking deck of the church after church services have started or on a weekday.

Thanks to help from Rob Fergusson, we have just gotten phones installed to improve our internal communication throughout the Center and allow teachers an emergency line to call out from their classrooms and the playground. **Note: There is a cordless phone now located inside the sanctuary entrance, if ever needed for any emergencies.**

This spring we were thrilled to learn that 2PCCC's grant application for an AED (heart defibrillator) was accepted by Gwyneth's Gift Foundation. We now have a monitored AED for both children and adults located in the Child Care Center! Our staff is trained to use it, as they keep current First Aid and CPR certification, which includes AED training.

**Are you interested in getting Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED and First Aid certification?** If you did it in the past, chances are it has expired; certification lasts 2 years. (Not to mention, the steps have changed in the last 8 years.) 2PCCC will be offering a 3-hour course at the church for a reduced fee. Please call 649-0152 or email Ginger Hudson [ghudson@2presrichmond.org](mailto:ghudson@2presrichmond.org) if you are interested in participating in the next class.



2PCCC student Hank Franz found the fire truck wasn't so scary with Miss Annie in it.



Exposing children to firefighters in full gear is important, so that children know to come to their rescuers in the case of a fire, rather than hiding from them.



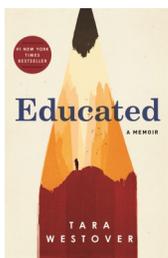
All were mesmerized by the firefighter who dressed in his full suit.

### Literary Circle

**Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm**

Literary Circle will meet on November 13 at 7:00 pm at the home of Lori Lape, 1905 Westover Hills Boulevard. Lori will lead the discussion of *Educated* by Tara Westover.

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



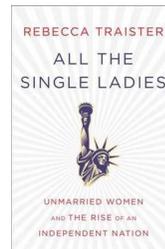
### Day Book Group

**Wednesday, November 14, 10:00 am  
Room 308 Virginia Building**

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 14, in Room 308, Virginia Building.

The book for discussion is *All the Single Ladies* by Rebecca Traister. All are welcome.

Note: this is a week early because of the Thanksgiving holiday.



### Look Who's Preaching

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>November 4</b>  | Beverly Zink-Sawyer |
| <b>November 11</b> | Alex Evans          |
| <b>November 18</b> | Alex Evans          |
| <b>November 25</b> | Ben Brannan         |

*When writing checks to Second Pres.....*



### Blue or Black?

The bank has requested that the church receive checks that are written only in either blue or black ink.

If not, they may not accept the check.



*Second Presbyterian Church*  
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

5 NORTH FIFTH STREET | RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

Non-Profit Organization  
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Richmond, Virginia  
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**Do not delay delivery**

**Address Service Requested**



*Children's Thanksgiving*  
*Offering Received on November 18*

**Benefitting:**

- **Edmarc Hospice for Children**
- **HumanKind**
- **Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands**

**November 18**  
**5:00 pm**

