



FROM ALEX'S STUDY...

Dear Church Family and Friends –

Growing in Real Faith

Someone once asked William Faulkner how he went about writing a book. He answered: “It’s like building a chicken coop in a high wind. You grab any board or shingle flying by or loose on the ground and nail it down fast.”

Perhaps that is something like becoming a sincere Christian too.

Alex Evans, Pastor

Our growth in Christian faith is so much more than saying we are Christians. It is much more than reciting the words that “Jesus is our Lord and Savior.” It is more than simply coming to church and participating in congregational life. It is more than reading the Bible or even devouring other books that nurture our faith. And sometimes it may truly feel like building a chicken coop in a high wind, grabbing any board fast, nailing quickly, seeking to put something together that honors God and serves God.

We are all on the journey of growing in faith, seeking to become sincere Christians. This journey involves trust – and Whom we trust through the ups and downs of life. This journey involves learning – who we are, what God is like, what Jesus calls us to do. This journey also involves integrating our daily lives with the ways of discipleship – moving from membership to discipleship, from doubt to faith, from floundering to following. All aspects of this journey can feel frazzled and uncertain – like building a chicken coop in a high wind - and, by God’s grace and Spirit it can also feel so pertinent and purposeful.

Recently, in discussion with some other pastors, I read a book entitled [Theology for a Troubled Believer](#), by Diogenes Allen, who is emeritus professor of theology at Princeton Seminary. Allen writes the book as if he is writing to a particular person who “has only a few pieces of a jigsaw puzzle and is trying to fit them together to make a coherent picture that is on the top of the box.” This person with the few pieces has a heart in the right place, and has been moved by God’s Spirit to respond in prayer and faithfulness for her life, yet she struggles as a modern person to put together what she knows from life and experience and what she understands about God, the Bible, and faith. [Theology for a Troubled Believer](#) is Allen’s attempt to provide more puzzle pieces (information, insight, faith, light) so that many of us can make more sense of Christian faith and live lives that honor God and serve God. While there is no way to fully understand or explain God, Allen strives to offer faithful insights and encouragement for “building a chicken coop in a high wind.”

More specifically, among other things, Allen seeks to move us from “notional” to “real” faith. It is one thing to know that a tiger is a dangerous and powerful animal. It is another thing to be awakened from sleep in a tent by a powerful roar of a prowling tiger. It is one thing to know that cancer is a complex and terrible disease, and another to be told by your doctor that you have cancer. In each of these cases, we have notional apprehension in contrast to real apprehension. In the latter, that which is apprehended affects everything about the situation. Likewise, real faith, sincere faith that affects our lives, keeps directing all things about us – what we do, how we think and feel, where we go, how we live, etc. This is the kind of Christian journey we seek to be on.

In these days of summer, what are you doing to nurture your real faith? Are there books, experiences, moments of solitude or groups that might move you deeper and further along the journey to sincere growth?

Think on that with me, and may God continue to guide us toward more trust, more devotion, more commitment, more purpose as disciples of Christ our Lord.

Alex

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Carmen Martinez ~

Carmen, a native of Long Island, NY, moved to Richmond to start the next phase in her life. She enjoys bicycling, the beautiful parks in Virginia, and is bilingual. She has spent

time mentoring high risk high school and elementary school children with workplace affiliation through Newsday, her former employer. Carmen is delighted to find a church and community to call home; and she is our neighbor with her home on Sixth Street.



Aileen Rivera, Tyler & Olivia Moulds ~

Aileen homeschools her two great children who are now in the 10th (Olivia) and 11th (Tyler) grades. She serves as a Spanish interpreter for an Early Intervention Program and volunteers with environmental and social issues. Aileen moved to Virginia from Puerto Rico to go to Virginia Tech. Her husband is James Moulds.



Jaci Cocks ~

Jaci and her husband, Joel, moved to Richmond from Matthews, VA. They have two grown sons. Two of Jaci's favorite life experiences are her time spent

at Hampton University as an archival research assistant and her participation in a mission trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She looks forward to many memorable and joy-filled experiences with her new church family.



Ginger Hudson ~

Ginger grew up at Bon Air Presbyterian and was active in North Carolina State's Presbyterian Campus Ministry. She served one year in Belfast, Northern Ireland, through the Young Adult Volunteer program and shared her experience around the States on the Mission Interpretation Team. Ginger teaches kindergarten in Henrico County and lives with her two dogs in Church Hill.



Marge Shaw & Bill Charles ~

Marge is a retired Christian Educator in the Presbyterian Church, including one year as an interim educator here at Second.



Traci Leipold and Georgia ~

Tracy and her family moved to Richmond from New York City six years ago. She has a ten year old daughter, Georgia, and her husband teaches in the Fine Arts Department at Virginia Commonwealth University. Traci currently volunteers at H.I.S. (Horses in Service), a therapeutic riding facility in Richmond.

Marge is first generation Scots-Irish; her parents having emigrated from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Bill is an ordained Presbyterian pastor who has moved in retirement to Richmond from serving two churches in Smyth County, VA. He is a native of Fresno, California, but his Virginia roots trace back to the early 18th century. Bill is a member of the Presbytery of the James, and Marge is happy to be back at home at Second! Bill played the trumpet on Easter Sunday morning during worship!

A LETTER FROM BRUCE STEVENS

Dear Second Pres Congregation,

It is with mixed feelings that I take the step to retire from being at the church organ every Sunday morning and the choir room piano every Wednesday evening. As I look forward to having fewer week-to-week responsibilities, I also realize that I'll be leaving a part of myself behind and will feel the loss. These past 16 years with you have been happy ones. It's been a privilege to work with excellent staff the entire time, and I've been particularly blessed to have served alongside two first-rate music directors and friends, Jeff Riehl and John Guthmiller. Our wonderful choir singers have given me countless moments of musical gratification and personal joy and have become good friends. The church's beautiful Noack organ has become a beloved companion. I've been fortunate, indeed.

Yet, beyond all these many blessings, it is you, the many members of the congregation, who have made me feel so deeply appreciated. Scarcely a Sunday has gone by without people telling me how much they enjoyed and valued the music I made. Other gestures of appreciation and kindness have been frequent. Thinking back over all these years causes me to rejoice in my good fortune to have landed in your midst. How grateful I am for the time we've had together! Thanks be to God.

I plan to continue praising God through playing the organ and making music as long as he allows. I look forward to doing so again for you sometime as an organist substitute. Meanwhile, may God continue to bestow blessings on Second Presbyterian Church—on your life together and various ministries, on the clergy and other staff, on the choir singers, and on each and every one of you.

Peace and love, Bruce



Dr. John Moeser at Ebenezer

After the powerful evening we had at Ebenezer Baptist Church, our partner church, where John Moeser shared his study of race, poverty, and the City of Richmond, many have asked especially for a copy of his closing remarks. We could not fit them here, but go to our website at www.2presrichmond.org and click on *Membership to Discipleship Moments* and you will find his remarks.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2011

Congratulations and Welcome!

Briana Scripture, Mack Southworth, Rex Crom, Marshall Dendy, Henry Stillwell, Duncan Sims, Lucas Harris, Laura Dickie



Thank you to our awesome teachers - Andy Morgan, Whitney Caswell, Gail Monsma, and Yainkain Kallon, assistant!



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS!

Watch your mail, email, text messages and Facebook, etc, etc, for various events that will take place throughout the summer.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIPS

Massanetta Springs Conference

Three middle school students attended the 2011 Massanetta Springs Conference, near Harrisonburg, Virginia, from **June 21st until June 24th**. They participated in recreational events, worship, and various workshops. This year's theme was entitled, "*I of the Storm*", and dealt with the way followers of Christ face many storms in life, but must keep their focus on God, the great I AM. The youth who attended were: **Lucas Harris, Marshall Dendy, and Peter Johnson**. They were led by **Andy Morgan**, the summer intern and part-time youth minister.



HIGH SCHOOL TRIPS – Montreat Youth Conference

The high school youth group will be attending the Montreat Youth Conference near Asheville, North Carolina from **July 9 until July 16**. This year's theme is "Searching for a Signal." The conference promises to be an amazing experience in the truly beautiful mountains of North Carolina as former PC(USA) Moderator, Bruce Reyes-Chow, will be preaching all week. The youth will also be participating in a service project through partnership with Asheville Youth Mission Organization, a highly reputable service organization which serves the needs of the Asheville area. The youth planning to attend are: **Lucy Rose Bartges, Caroline Blades, Molly Crom, Noah Maphis, Olivia Moulds, Camille Peeples, Alex Sims, Brianna Walls, Marshall Dendy, Morgan Edwards, Joseph Gallagher, Lucas Harris, Alpha Kallon, Tyler Moulds, Duncan Sims, Ian Scott, and Thomas Purcell**. The trip is being led by **Andy Morgan, the Rev. Robert Johnson, Charles Kelly, Whitney Caswell, the Rev. Gail Monsma, and Alison Mays**.

Andy Morgan Summer Seminary Intern



We're excited that Andy Morgan has begun his summer internship with us during which he'll be working in various ministries throughout the church. This will be part of his practical theological training at Union Seminary where he will be entering his third year as a dual degree student in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education programs.

Andy will be heavily involved in Youth Ministry this summer. He'll lead the Massanetta Springs middle school trip and the Montreat Youth Conference High School trip. Andy will also be working on schedules, themes, and plans for next year's youth ministry when he'll be our lead

High School Youth Minister and involved in the Confirmation process.

Other areas of this internship will involve worship on Sunday mornings, working with our Walk-In Ministry, Pastoral Care visits, Young Adults, and our Deacon ministry. He'll also be out and about visiting folks in our church family. So plan on seeing Andy in worship and around church more often this summer.

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

Bailey McKelway from Trinity High School

Laura Merchant from Maggie Walker Governor's School

William Merchant from Maggie Walker Governor's School

Thomas Purcell from The New Community School

Ian Scott from Douglas Freeman High School

Dillon Siff from St. Christopher's School

Erica Vogler from Douglas Freeman High School

Simon Wilson from James River High School

**We are so
proud of you!**



WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY CORNER

SUE CLEWELL, YOUR ADVOCATE



Want a fun volunteer job? Join the wonderful team at Westminster Canterbury's Galleria Gift Shops. Volunteers receive a 20% discount after completing 18 hours of service. Time slots are available Mon. - Fri. from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 1 - 4p.m. Retail experience is preferred but not required. Training is provided. Other volunteer opportunities include: Activity Pals, Sara Belle November Theater Ushers, Resident Visitors, Recreation Assistants, Office Support, Musicians, and Pet Visitors. To apply, go to the website, www.wcrichmond.org, click on "Volunteer" and download an application. For more information, contact the

Volunteer Resource Development Office: Beth Clifton at 264-6258 or Kathy Morton at 261-5201.

VCU CAMPUS MINISTRY AT SECOND!

In May, Gail Monsma and Howard Dudley presented the Presbytery of the James' Purpose Group for Collegiate Ministries with a proposal to begin a new campus ministry initiative at VCU. We are excited to report that the proposal was enthusiastically approved! Second Presbyterian will run this ministry along with input and oversight from the POJ Collegiate Ministries Purpose Group.

One of the main goals of this Student Fellowship Group is to be a *Presbyterian* group, in the sense that it would represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the VCU community. The ministry of this fellowship will seek to evangelize and to foster discipleship in Jesus Christ. It will be targeting undergraduate students on the VCU Monroe Park Campus, but will also welcome graduate students along with students from the nearby J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College-Downtown Campus.

Howard Dudley, who is entering his last year in seminary, will be working 10-12 hours a week with this new ministry. For the past two years, Howard led our High School Ministry; he also has previous experience in campus ministry at East Carolina State. Howard will be working closely with a hands-on Campus Ministry Committee made up of people from Second and other area churches. Gail Monsma, our associate pastor will also work closely with this new ministry. If you're interested in becoming involved in this new and exciting ministry, or if you're curious and want more details—contact Howard Dudley at howard.dudley@gmail.com.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its June meeting the session

- ❖ Received an encouraging report from treasurer Carolyn Brandt regarding the operating budget. \$22,275 has been received for restoration of the Tiffany window leaving approximately \$25,000 still to be raised.
- ❖ Welcomed with gratitude the thorough report of Charles Knighton regarding the diligent work of the Deacons.
- ❖ Began the process of implementing the new form of government recently approved by our denomination.
- ❖ Heard a report from our delegates to the June 21st meeting of the Presbytery of the James, where among other things, the presbytery voted for the addition of the Belhar Confession to our Book of Confessions. Our representatives were Jim Brashler, Jeff Gallagher, Sue Munro, Alex Evans, and Gail Monsma.
- ❖ Applauded Ginger Evans for improvements to our church website.

CELEBRATE THE FOURTH ON THE THIRD AT SECOND!



Bring your favorite entree or salad to share at the Deacon-sponsored Potluck Lunch after worship on July 3. Invite a friend for some old-fashioned fun over great food, fellowship, and patriotic songs. Make new and rekindle acquaintances with fellow "staycationers" while building your

own dessert at Second's Sundae Ice Cream Bar. Questions? Call Kathy McDaniel at 272-1948.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your efforts to keep your pledges up to date. When pledges are kept current, we can continue the various ministries of our church throughout the year!



Join our fun, interactive Bible Study Class! We meet the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 12:30 - 2p.m. in the library. We all have to miss some classes, but when we come, we learn a lot from each other!

THE LITERARY CIRCLE

will meet on

Tuesday, July 12th at 7:30 pm

Hostesses: Betsy Waring & Robin Davison, Westminster-Canterbury

Book: *Still Alice*

by Lisa Genova



SUNSHINE MINISTRY FOR OUR WALK-IN NEIGHBORS—THANK YOU!!!

The Walk In Ministry would like to thank the members for their generous donations to the Sunshine Ministry project. Special thanks go to Lockie Duggins, Anne and Rich Crom for helping organize and fill the bags and to Anna Spyhalski, Eric Pryor, and RJ Jeffries for distributing them. Ninety-five of our neighbors received tote bags filled with hats, toothbrushes and four more assorted toiletry items such as sunscreen, razors, body lotion, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and shaving cream. Thanks be to God for this loving and generous congregation!!

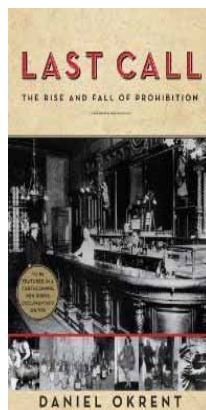
THE DAY BOOK GROUP

will meet at 10:00 a.m. on

Tuesday, July 19

in Room 303,
Virginia Building

The book for discussion is



Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition
by Daniel Okrent

Second Press Deadline for August!

Please submit all items for the August issue of *Second Press* to Eniko Ferenczy by **July 19, 2011**. Please email submissions to newsletter@2presrichmond.org.

JULY CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Assiting Families of Inmates
3 Worship 10:00 am Potluck Picnic 11:15 am	4 Independence Day Church office closed Walk-In Ministry - bagged lunches served 10:30 am	5	6 Mission Council 6:00 pm	7 Young Adults 6:00 pm	8	9 Assisting Families of Inmates High Schoolers at Montreat through July 16
10 Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am	11 Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm Worship Council 5:30 pm	12 Property Council 4:30 pm Literary Circle 7:30 pm	13 2PCCC Chapel Time 11:45 am Kerygma Bible Study 12:30 pm Budget & Finance 4:30 pm	14	15	16 Assisting Families of Inmates
17 Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am	18 Newsletter submission deadline Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm	19 Day Book Group 10:00 am	20	21 Third Thursday Team 2PCCC Board 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:00 pm	22	23
24 Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am	25 Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm	26	27 2PCCC Chapel Time 11:45 am Kerygma Bible Study 12:30 pm	28	29	30
31 Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am						



Stay current, check out the Second Church Event Calendar on our website www.2presrichmond.org



Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA



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**Summer Worship Schedule
for July and August
10 A.M.**