



Alex Evans, Pastor

From Alex's Study

Dear Church Family,

Two historic downtown Richmond churches.

Two disparate paths distinct from one another because of race and heritage.

One new and emerging partnership for Christ in care and commitment:

Ebenezer Baptist Church, on Leigh Street in Jackson Ward, and Second Presbyterian Church. God continues to call us to know one another better, to overcome our segregated histories, and to form a partnership that creates new possibilities for each congregation and for our important work in ministry in downtown Richmond.

Second Presbyterian was formed in 1845. Ebenezer was organized in 1858. Both churches remain on the same spot of land since their founding with only some modifications to their current buildings. Both churches, located in downtown neighborhoods, have their identities and ministries tied directly to their downtown locations with both seeking to bear Christ's light and hope in the city. Both congregations have a rich history of worship and music in their present sanctuaries. Both were led or founded by distinguished and long-serving pastors. I am only the 12th pastor in the history of Second Presbyterian, and Levy Armwood, current pastor at Ebenezer, is the 9th pastor there. Both congregations have maintained long and faithful ministries of feeding the hungry, helping the hurting, serving and educating children, and caring for God's people in the city.

While each congregation values its history and traditions in worship and life, these two congregations know that a better way forward remains through a caring partnership. Building on pulpit exchanges, small group conversations, large forums, and fellowship events, we will look forward to how God's Spirit leads us in this partnership. We will explore joint ministry ventures of both mercy and justice. Each congregation will continue

with its own important tutoring and feeding ministries. Each will carry on in worship and music ministry rooted in the respective traditions. But there will be combined energy to address looming opportunities and new ministries. Both congregations find themselves called to new ministry ventures with the expansion of VCU, whose campus approaches both churches. Both congregations see continuing needs from those on the city streets for food and shelter, by the ever-changing nature of neighborhoods around the church, and by the cultural shifts that are challenging all churches. Our two churches want to stand together and serve together, reconciling past distinctions and pointing the way toward a more wholesome and hopeful future. Other discussions in this partnership involve new ways to speak truth to power in the city and state, to advocate for more justice and hope for those most struggling, and for an open-ness to how God might use these two congregations out of those disparate paths for a more unified and effective partnership. Moreover, for a city with such a divided past, these two churches seek to model reconciliation and unity for a brighter future.

As we continue in these summer months, thank you for your prayers and devotion for the church's work. May God continue to bless us and guide us as disciples of Christ in the city and around the world.

Hope to see you in worship soon, and around the community. Faithfully,

Alex

EXCITING PROGRAMS COMING THIS FALL!!!!

August 28 – Deadline for Shoes and School Supplies to be brought to Church

September 4 – Worship returns to 11:00 a.m.

- Michael Simpson's first Sunday as Organist

September 5 – Shoe Give Away

September 11 – RALLY DAY – First day of Church School Classes for all ages

- Second Sunday Lunch after worship – YUM!

September 25 – Mission Fair after Worship

I just wanted to thank the people of Second Presbyterian Church for their love, prayers and support during this challenging time in my life. I deeply appreciate all your kind words, cards, emails, meals, and rides. Thank you from the depths of my heart. You have demonstrated amazing Christian fellowship.

Sincerely, Elva A. Mapp

A Special
THANK YOU

ORGANIST APPOINTED



It is with great excitement and joy that we welcome Michael Simpson as the Organist and Handbell Director of Second Church. Michael is a gifted organist and a seasoned church musician who brings a rich variety of gifts to Second Church, including boundless energy and a wonderful sense of humor. Mike is a Richmond native who attended the University of Richmond, from which he earned the BA degree with honors in music. While attending UR, he studied with several members of the music faculty who have strong ties to Second Church: Suzanne Bunting, Bruce Stevens, and Catharine Kirby.

Mike was Organist and Minister of Music at Ginter Park Baptist Church for thirty-six years before being appointed Associate Director of Music at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in 2006. At St. Stephen's Church he served as the primary organist/pianist for four weekly services, directed the youth and adult handbell choirs, directed a choir for children in the fourth and fifth grades, assisted in leading the Adult Choir, and developed the music repertoire for St. Stephen's very popular evening Celtic worship services.

In addition to his work in the church, Mike is Accompanist and Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony Chorus and is the conductor of the Richmond Renaissance Singers. He was an adjunct faculty member at Virginia State University and the University of Richmond and worked part-time as an organ technician for the Lewis & Hitchcock Pipe Organ Company.

Michael was the unanimous choice of the Organist Search Committee, which included Kathy Erhardt (chairperson), Marjorie Clarke, Cherry Peters, Bill Schutt, Alex Evans, and Jeff Riehl. Mike is eager to join the Second Church staff and to begin the transition from full-time to part-time employment that will allow him a slower pace of life and more time to devote to his mother. He will begin his ministry at Second Church on September 1st.

A Resolution Honoring Bruce B. Stevens

WHEREAS, Bruce Stevens has been dedicated and faithful in his service to Second Presbyterian Church for sixteen years – proving himself:

- gifted and inspirational in playing preludes, postludes, offertories, and accompaniments for all singing in worship;
- diligent in all aspects of planning and preparation for his role in worship;
and

WHEREAS, Bruce's contributions to the program of Second Presbyterian Church have gone far beyond playing for countless rehearsals and worship services; his contributions have included:

- guiding and leading in the selection and purchase of a new pipe organ for the sanctuary, and caring for the instrument;
- acting as choir director, as well as organist, when called upon;
- preparing material for and editing church bulletins;
- planning and participating in special events such as weddings, funerals, organ recitals, concerts, and Yuletide Renaissance "feastes," all in pleasant collaboration with others and with good humor and wry wit; *and*

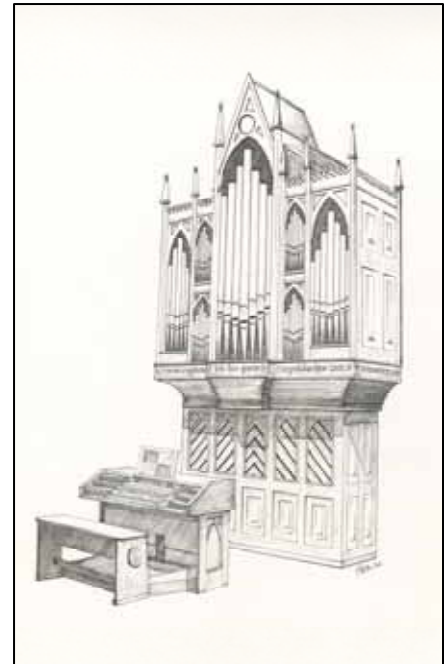
WHEREAS, by his musicianship and professionalism in statewide, national and international organizations, and by his recordings, performances, and educational organ trips, Bruce has greatly advanced the recognition and standing of the music program of Second Presbyterian Church;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all the people of Second Presbyterian Church express their heartfelt thanks for the many gifts Bruce Stevens has brought to this church, and to God, and the people join in wishing Bruce Godspeed and abundant blessings following his retirement as a full-time church organist.

Alexander W. Evans, Pastor

James A. Brashler, Clerk of Session

24 July 2011



A Special
THANK YOU

Dear Second Pres Congregation,

Words cannot express the depth of my feelings of gratitude for the kindness and generosity you expressed to me last Sunday. The Resolution means more than you might imagine and the unexpected gift is quite overwhelming. All I can say is Thank You, from the bottom of my heart. I've felt a great deal of support and appreciation from you over these many years, and I shall treasure all the wonderful memories that I have from our time together. As I move into a new chapter, I'll look back on this one with great fondness. May God keep you and enable your continued worship and ministry together on Fifth Street and elsewhere.

Yours in Christ,

Bruce

GRACIOUS GIFT to GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In these summer days, Second Presbyterian has received word about the liquidation of the Glasgow Trust. This Trust was established in 1944 by Arthur Graham Glasgow, who was born in Richmond in May, 1865, just days after the conclusion of the Civil War.

Since the 1950's, this church has received income for the operating budget, most recently \$6000- \$8000/year, from the Glasgow Trust. In recent weeks, this Trust was terminated due to the death of the Trust's so-called "measuring life," Mr Ambrose Christian Congreve, who resided in County Waterford, Ireland and who was 104 years old. With Mr Congreve's death, the Trust is distributed to all 15 beneficiaries. Second Presbyterian is one of those charitable beneficiaries and our share of the distribution, which goes to our General Endowment Fund approximates \$400,000.

Some Major Points about this GOOD NEWS:

- the legacy of our faith and commitment can long serve God and God's purposes, even well beyond our lifetimes. We are grateful and well inspired by the faith and thoughtfulness of Mr Glasgow, who loved God and Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond. Is Second Church in your will?
- We all live by grace and with gratitude. This gift offers another important boost to our General Endowment Fund which serves the ministry and mission of this church for perpetuity.
- The General Endowment Fund, in addition to supporting the ministry of the church, is currently addressing the debts from the church's major renovations and building projects. The church still owes approximately \$900,000 on the brownstone project and renovations to the VA Building, two projects that stretch back 10 years.
- The church's Trustees continue to monitor faithfully the church's General Endowment Fund (approximately \$5 million), seeking to balance both growth of the endowment and attention to the church's debt.
- While this gift enhances our financial health, it offers little impact to the daily ministry or annual budget of the church.
- The church remains dependent upon the faithful contributions, weekly offerings, and annual pledges of church members as we seek to know Christ and make Christ known in downtown Richmond and across the globe.
- Does my weekly offering, monthly pledge, and sacrifice matter? Absolutely!! We are a vibrant church only as we each offer our lives in faithful service and continue our giving, even past our death. Mr Glasgow and his generosity inspire our lives and our work at Second.

If you have questions or would like more information about this gift or our General Endowment Fund, speak to Webb Moore or another of our elected Trustees: Tom Jefferson, Alan McDaniel, Nan Miller, Major Reynolds, Carl Sehen,



HOSPITALITY AT SECOND....

Here at Second, we know that most members travel from neighborhoods to downtown Richmond to attend church surrounded by the signs and noises of the city. Yet, here in the heart of Richmond, in a very real sense we all come home—home to a place where we can encounter God in worship, catch up with each other at coffee time, and reunite at various times throughout the week when we gather as Christ's body to bring about God's reign in the world.

I've been thinking about this lately, how we come home at church and how we also show hospitality to those looking for a home, a place of "grounding" in God. How do newcomers view us when they visit? What do we look like to others who are looking for a church home? For I truly believe we are called to be a place where people can find hope and purpose for their lives and a place to grow in their Christian faith as they also serve God's world. We, as children of God, are called to welcome others, to welcome others who are created in the image of God and then to grow and learn together and from each other.

Why have I been thinking about hospitality? Because lately when I've encountered visitors and have gotten to know our new members, they tell me how hospitable and welcoming Second Presbyterian is. And I'm happy to say that over and over again I observe members, young and old, reaching out to visitors and welcoming them. This was so evident at the July 3 luncheon when a number of guests stayed for our potluck picnic. It was so cool to walk around and visit the tables and realize that visitors felt comfortable enough to stay even though they hadn't been aware of the potluck or brought food—our own loaves and fishes so to speak.

Over and over again in the Old Testament there are instructions to welcome the stranger because the Israelites themselves were once strangers in the land of Egypt. And in the New Testament church, hospitality was an essential Christian practice at the heart of Christianity's growth. Interestingly, the Greek New Testament *xenos* for "stranger" can also mean "guest" and "host."* This word signals the important mutuality that is at the essence of hospitality. How we treat visitors determines if they will feel like a stranger or a guest, and signals to them our acceptance and willingness to learn with and from them—to be a guest and eventually a host by also sharing with us. Throughout the Bible, God instructs us to welcome others because God welcomes us. We do so out of gratitude, and practicing hospitality is at the heart of the gospel message.

Hospitality! Let it continue to be so in both big and small ways.

Gail

* Ana Maria Pineda, Dorothy C. Bass Ed, *Practicing our Faith*, (San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 1997) 33



"New Shoes for Back to School" Ministry

Second Presbyterian is joining with 16 other Richmond churches in providing "new shoes for back to school" for area children. Please bring new, in-box shoes to Second any Sunday until **August 28th**.

You may also volunteer to help distribute the shoes on:

Monday, September 5th (Labor Day).

Sign up for a volunteer shift at the Deacon's Desk. The morning shift is 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and the afternoon shift is 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Lunch will be provided for both shifts.

Questions? Contact Sheri Highfill, shersam47@verizon.net, (804) 658-4740.

The Richmond Partnership of Churches

HAPPENINGS...

LITERARY CIRCLE

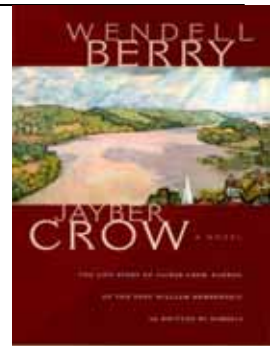
Tuesday, August 9th at 6:30 pm
 Hostess: Eliza Eskin
 1519 Westwood Avenue, 23227

Please join us for a potluck dinner and help select next year's books! If you have a book to suggest, contact Melissa Schutt: mcschutt@gmail.com

DAY BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, August 16th at 10:00 am
 Room 303 of the Virginia Building
 Book: *Jaber Crow* by Wendell Berry

All are welcome.



SECOND SUNDAY AT SECOND

will resume on Sunday, **September 11**, immediately following worship. Wild blackberries have been picked and are tucked away in the church freezer for a delicious blackberry cobbler dessert. Join your church family for fellowship and good food.



PEW UPHOLSTERY REPAIR

Plan to join the *Third Thursday Crew* on Thursday, **August 18th**, at **9 A.M.** to repair braid on sanctuary seat backs and replace buttons on pew cushions. Please contact Ele Bigger (323-5803 or embigger@verizon.net) if you can help with this project.

MICAH PROJECT AT CHIMBORAZO

The Second Church congregation will again participate in furnishing school supplies for Chimborazo Elementary. In addition, we have also been asked to help furnish school uniforms for students at the school. Supplies will be delivered to the school the last week in August, so the deadline for bringing donations to the church is **Sunday, August 28th**. The State of Virginia provides a "Tax Free Weekend" for school supplies and clothes the first weekend in August, **8/5 – 7**, so take advantage of the extra savings at a time when school supplies are already on sale. Collection boxes will be in the South Vestibule, near the credenza.

Thank you for your continued support of "our" school, Chimborazo.
 Ele Bigger

Below is the list of items desired:

- Extra large (40 – 64 oz.) containers of Hand Sanitizer (available at WalMart, Costco, Sam's etc., for about \$6 – \$8)
- Tissues
- Glue Sticks
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Zip-lock bags – gallon, quart, and sandwich size
- Two-pocket folders – the plain color kind (nothing fancy, please!)
- Pencil top and hand-held erasers
- Sticky notes
- Sharpie markers

- Dry Erase Markers
- Tape – Masking and Transparent
- Printer/copy paper
- Ballpoint pens – black or blue
- Disinfecting hand wipes
- Highlighters
- Composition notebook (black & white style, wide rule only)
- Cash for supplies (make checks payable to "Second Presbyterian Church," with "School Supplies" in the memo line)
- School uniform items
 - Navy or khaki pants or skirts
 - White or navy, long or short sleeved shirts or blouses (Fourth and fifth grade sizes especially needed—ages 9-11—Uniforms may be purchase at Sears, Target, WalMart, JC Penney, etc.)

Second Press Deadline for September! Please submit all items for the September issue of *Second Press* by **August 22, 2011**. Please send email submissions to newsletter@2presrichmond.org or you may leave a printed copy at the desk. Please make sure print copy submissions are a readable format, please print if possible.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm	2	3 Mission Council 6:00 pm	4 Young Adults 6:00 pm	5	6 Assisting Families of Inmates
7 Worship ~ Communion 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am PW Circle 3 11:30 am	8 Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm Worship Council 5:30 pm	9 Property Council 4:30 pm Advocacy Group 5:30 pm Literary Circle 7:30 pm	10 2PCCC Chapel Time 11:45 am Kerygma Bible Study 12:30 pm Budget & Finance 4:30 pm	11 Deacons 6:00 pm	12 Wedding rehearsal 4:30 pm	13 Assisting Families of Inmates Wedding - Howard Dudley 4:30 pm
14 Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am	15 Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm	16 Day Book Group 10:00 am	17 Young Adults 6:00 pm	18 Third Thursday Team 2PCCC Board 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:00 pm	19	20 Assisting Families of Inmates
21 Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Thoughtful Women 11:15 am	22 Newsletter submission deadline Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm	23 Council Chairs 5:30 pm Session 6:00 pm	24 2PCCC Chapel Time 11:45 am Kerygma Bible Study 12:30 pm	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am	29 Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm	30	31			



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





Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

5 NORTH FIFTH STREET | RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

Non-Profit Organization
United States Postage
PAID
Richmond, Virginia
Permit Number 1739

Address Service Requested

Dated Material

Do not delay delivery

New Shoes for Back to School

Date: Monday, September 5, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Place: Third Street Bethel A.M.E.

614 N. 3rd Street, Richmond, VA 23219