



Alex Evans, Pastor

From Alex's Study

Dear Church Family,

Like many of you, I am sure, I often hear the voice of my father saying certain things in my mind's ear. As the son of a Presbyterian minister, among other things, there is a certain phrase that my father so very often recited when he prayed:

"Your grace is new every morning and fresh every evening."

For some years, those words were simply the opening of another of his public prayers, and someone else's prayers, even my Dad's, can often seem too long. But at another point, those words took on great depth and meaning as I realized God's amazing fresh and new grace in my own life. So when those powerful words of faith and hope emerge from my memory, they make an impression on my present life.

"Your grace is new every morning and fresh every evening."

I really sense the power and zeal of God's new and fresh grace in these days in our church. God's Spirit and grace are truly at work.

- ♣ Following a week with an earthquake and a hurricane in Richmond, we continue to RALLY, support one another, and embody God's faithful presence and purposes in this city and across the globe.
- ♣ **On September 3**, our Sunday morning worship moves back to 11:00am. Our new organist Michael Simpson joins our worship leadership.
- ♣ **On September 11**, we will have a day of celebration. We call it RALLY DAY – as our Church School program begins afresh at 9:30am for all ages. New teachers and classes, even with new curriculum, get underway for CHILDREN and YOUTH. We have enhanced our program seeking to deepen faith and engage our young people in the journey of discipleship.
- ♣ **RALLY DAY** also encourages ADULTS. We have expanded our program of adult classes, adding a new discussion on the Bible, and giving attention to the breadth of our program as we all seek to grow in the knowledge and love of God. I urge each of you to find a class for every member of your household.

The connections, growth, and faith will be worth it!

- ♣ September 11 marks a tragic anniversary and we will give that attention in our worship with a litany of prayers.
- ♣ We might also call September 11 "Back to Church Sunday" as we conclude our summer respite and re-engage our lives. The CHOIR will be back in full force. We will stay after worship for SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH. Our vitality shifts to another level.

This summer, we celebrate and give thanks for the faithful attendance each week in worship and the generous giving in the offering plate – we have seen almost no noticeable drop-off this year! But September always launches us afresh into new programs and vitality; we seek to pick up our passion and increase our devotion.

This is also a good time to think anew about your commitments. Would you be able to assist with our Walk-In Ministry on Mondays as we seek to feed hungry people on our streets? Would tutoring a child once a week at Chimborazo Elementary School enrich your life? Does your faith lead you to advocacy work with our new Advocacy Team? What about helping out on Tuesdays with maintenance and upkeep of our church building? Or is a committee of the church's mission a place where you can offer your best for God?

God's "grace is new every morning and fresh every evening," and God's grace continues to bring about faithful and effective ministry all around your church.

We also kick off a fresh ministry with VCU, build on our partnership with Ebenezer, solidify our Men's Group, and offer Small Group initiatives. We also have new energy among our Youth group, and a solid core of young adults. The Tiffany window is soon to be returned; the care of our historic building continues.

God's grace – indeed – it is new every morning and fresh every evening.

I look forward to seeing you and all of us together building on this fresh grace as we move through September and beyond.

Alex

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION MEETING

At its August meeting the session

- ♣ Approved participation in Union Presbyterian Seminary's 200th anniversary gala by soliciting individual financial commitments.
- ♣ Enthusiastically endorsed Andy Morgan's application to be enrolled as an inquirer under the auspices of the Presbytery of the James, the first step toward ordination to the ministry.
- ♣ Received a progress report on the restoration of the Tiffany window for which approximately \$25,000 must yet be raised.
- ♣ Accepted a report of the Christian Education council outlining the church school classes that will begin with Rally Day on Sunday, Sept. 11th.
- ♣ Approved a proposal from the mission council that Second Presbyterian Church join RISC, an ecumenical and interfaith organization of Richmonders Involved in Strengthening our Communities.
- ♣ Approved the offering of a mid-day yoga class at our church to be taught by Mary Jo Lowery.



WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY CORNER

Several very interesting lectures are on the horizon at Westminster Canterbury. The Chaplain's Lecture Series welcomes Mayor Dwight C. Jones to speak on September 13, 7:30 p.m. in the Sara Belle November Theater. He will discuss his faith, and how it has influenced his work as Mayor.

Seminary Mondays will feature Michael A. Gillette, Ph.D. on the Mondays, September 19 and November 28, 10:30 a.m., Montague Chapel. Dr. Gillette will examine ethical issues that develop toward the end of life and give participants the opportunity to learn practical mechanisms for advance planning of their healthcare futures. Dr. Gillette has taught philosophy at several colleges and universities, received tenure at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and is presently a Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He also works full time as President of Bioethical Services of Virginia, Inc.

Additionally, William Deng, originally from Sudan, will speak on Monday, September 26, 10:30, Montague Chapel, on *The Story of a Lost Boy from Sudan*. He will talk about personal experiences, his accomplishments, and the role of his faith and helping individuals. His stirring life story has led him to a very productive new life as an American citizen devoted to education.

Westminster Canterbury's bywords of "Live Life Well" have been enhanced by the addition this summer of executive chef Frits Huntjens to the culinary team of 50 staff members. Residents are so happy to have Frits' expertise in creation of healthy and attractive options that include fresh, local ingredients whenever possible. Regular dining has now moved up several notches in the menu specials and dining events to include international flavors. His most recent experience has been with the Richmond restaurant 1 North Belmont, which boasted a AAA Four Diamond rating for five years.

Residents who are Second Presbyterian Church members will resume their monthly Bible study and lunch meeting on the 4th Thursdays with Gail Monsma leading the group. Be sure to mark your calendar for September 22, 11:30 a.m. in the Jacqueline Room.

Your Advocate,
Sue Clewell, 330-7828

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE—Working toward Justice, Peace and Freedom

As followers of Christ, we are called to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, visit the prisoner, and care for the sick. Second Presbyterian has long been engaged in ministries of compassion through such mission efforts as Walk-In, Assisting Families of Inmates, the Child Care Center, Micah Project, and CARITAS. As followers of Christ, we are also called to work in the public realm to build a more just society, seeking to eliminate the root causes of poverty, violence, injustice and inequality. To find new ways to engage members of Second in the public policy forum, the Mission Council has formed a new Advocacy Committee. This committee began its work in July and has selected three issues we hope to focus on over the coming year. First, Second plans to join RISC (Richmonders Involved in Strengthening our Community) to work with members of many other congregations around Richmond on local issues of concern to the faith community. You will be hearing much more about RISC and the opportunities RISC offers for advocacy. Another concern we'd like to struggle with as a congregation is the problem of gun violence, a concern rising directly out of Alex's ministry in Blacksburg with the police and families and victims of the Tech murders. Finally, we hope to find ways to be faithful advocates of the vulnerable with regard to our state budget—working in these difficult economic times to ensure that the budget isn't balanced by slashing the safety net for our children, the poor, and the elderly and disabled, and encouraging our legislators to find ways to enhance revenues as an alternative to deep budget cuts.

There are many resources already available to educate ourselves about these and other public policy issues and effective methods to address those issues. One of the jobs of the Advocacy Committee will be to find ways to find and share some of these resources. Here's one example:

Presbyterian Office Of Public Witness: Advocating Justice, Peace and Freedom

Did you know that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) maintains an office in Washington D.C. that is dedicated to public policy information and advocacy?

Its purpose is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the PC(USA) General Assembly. Our reformed theology teaches us that because a sovereign God is at work in all the world, the church and Christian citizens should be concerned about public policy. One of the most important roles of the Public Witness Office is to provide ways for all Presbyterians to express their concerns to people in government in a timely and effective manner. Presbyterians can sign up for email alerts, receive educational reports on various issues, or join or "follow" the Office on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube. To read more about the Public Witness programs and to sign up for email alerts, visit the website at: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/washington/>

Over the coming months, the Advocacy Committee will be looking for engaging ways for our congregation to learn about how we can become effective advocates and offering opportunities to educate ourselves on these difficult policy issues. We also will be exploring ways to join our voices with those of other congregations and other groups to express our concerns on behalf of those who are vulnerable and often voiceless. We know that these are complicated issues on which people of faith can—and will—disagree, so we want to be sure that we offer opportunities for serious reflection and respectful discussion. Please watch for more information about how you can be involved and how each of us individually-- and Second as a congregation-- can be a more faithful witness in downtown Richmond.

ALEX EVANS TO GIVE ROYSTER LECTURES IN NC

On September 18-19, Alex will be at First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, NC as the Royster Lecturer for 2011. The Royster Lecture Series was established by faithful members of that congregation to bring "the best presentations of the claims of the Christian Faith to lay people who are serious about seeking to be disciples at the start of the 21st century. The Series is intended to be ecumenical in nature, and to be a time and a place where all interested people in the area may come together in a very special kind of worship." Alex's topic will be "Living with Faith Amidst Fear, Frenzy, and the Fullness of Life." Previous preachers and teachers in this series include the following: Tom Long, Robert Farrar Capon, Michael Lindvahl, Fleming Rutledge, Will Willimon, Tony Campolo, Walter Brueggemann, and also, just last year, our own Sam Adams. We will keep Alex in our prayers during this venture.



YOUTH SCHEDULE:

Sunday Mornings Church School for High School and Middle School Classes

Waffles at 9:30 am - Each Sunday in the third floor youth room, both classes will gather at 9:30 am to prepare their own homemade waffles with the able assistance of Allison Mays. Come for fun, fellowship, a delicious breakfast and then a time of learning and growth in faith. Both groups meet in the Youth Suite on the third floor of the Virginia Building.

Each month will follow the same pattern and times for both middle and high school youth groups.

First, Third, and Fourth Sundays - 5:00 - 7:00 pm at church with a meal provided by parents

Second Sundays - directly after church youth will attend Second Sunday lunch (\$5) together and then participate in mission/ service activities which will usually last until 3:00 pm.

Fifth Sundays - No Youth Meeting

Adult Christian Education Offerings

The Forum Class

Our reformed tradition calls us to live responsibly as Christians. Through the perspective of the Reformed faith, the Forum Class selects issues that impact our community and world and invites speakers with knowledge of those issues. Presentations are followed by class discussion and dialogue. This class meets in the Dining Room.

Let's Talk About It - Conversations with Theology Guys -

Jim Brashler will join Doug Hicks and Alex Evans for this class. Jim Brashler will lead a study of the Reformed Tradition this Fall. We will all seek to grow in faith and understand more fully a call to live as Jesus' disciples. This Class will meet in Room 308.

Faith and Literature Class

The Faith and Literature class reads and discusses literary selections in terms of what they say about our lives, "matters of life and death," and the faith questions and answers that each selection suggests. . Other class facilitators are Marjorie Clark, Betty Dickie, and Lollie Hoel and Daniel Moore.

Artistic Faith Expressions

Janice McMurray and Dottie Thomason will coordinate this class of creativity and artistic expression. They have several projects lined up for the class to accomplish, which will enhance our church and the members of this creative, meaningful group. This class will meet in Room 301. Come share your creative gifts and grow in your faith!



Themes of the Bible

Sue Munro and Gail Monsma will lead this class. It will be a study and discussion looking at how the Bible was developed, what themes flow throughout the Bible, and what these themes convey about God's revelation to humankind.

Small Groups

Several small groups are being formed around Spirituality, Theology in Movies, Exploring God's Creation, etc. If you are interested in forming or joining a small group, please contact Ginger Evans or Gail Monsma.

January Term

For the month of January beginning on January 8 we will suspend all Adult Classes to enable us all to choose a special January Course. Our hope is that these courses will help us mix and mingle and get to know each other and also spur us to new and exciting studies. Watch for more details and choose which course you want to attend!

HAPPENINGS...

LITERARY CIRCLE

Tuesday, September 13th at 7:30 pm

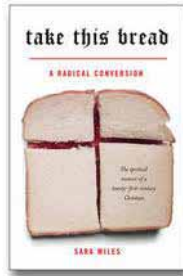
Book: *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*

by Sara Miles

Hostess: Ele Bigger

4000 Cheyenne Road, 23235

If you have any questions, contact
Melissa Schutt: mcschutt@gmail.com,
tel.: 929-3231.



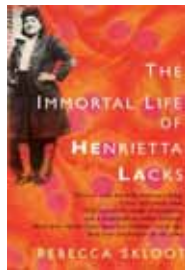
DAY BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, September 20th at 10:00 am

Room 303 of the Virginia Building
Book: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

by Rebecca Skloot

All are welcome.



SECOND SUNDAY AT SECOND

Join your church family for good food and fellowship on **Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 11**, immediately following worship.

Our table décor team is pulling together a Western "Back in the Saddle" theme for this fun BBQ lunch at church.

Tickets may be purchased at the Deacons' Desk – \$7 adults, \$5 youth, \$4 kids 10 & under.

This year there will be no special kids' menu. Children may choose any or all of the regular menu. Also available will be the makings for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. We hope all will find something to their liking.

Menu

Pulled Pork with Texas (red) or NC (vinegar-base) BBQ sauce
Choice of two of the following sides:

- Coleslaw
- Baked Beans
- Chunky Applesauce
- Dessert – Homemade Blackberry Cobbler



Presbyterian Women

CIRCLES 1 AND 2 — will have a joint meeting and lunch **Tuesday September 13th** at Westminster Canterbury in the Courtyard lounge (5th floor) at **11 AM**.

The Rev. Judith Sutherland will introduce us to our year-long study of "The Beatitudes." Please bring a sandwich and encourage new members to join.

CIRCLES 3 — will meet at the Panera Bread Willow Lawn on **Tuesday, September 6th** at **7 PM**.

Our study this year is Beatitudes. All are welcome to join us.



MICAH PROJECT/

CHIMBORAZO ELEMENTARY – Many thanks to all who contributed to the wonderful school supply and uniform drive for Chimborazo. What a fabulous success for "our" school! Many smiles will be on children's faces as they sport spanking new school uniforms and have all the supplies they need to embark on a new school year. Thanks for giving these children your love and support.

If you would like to join the troop of faithful tutors at Chimborazo this school year, please contact Ele Bigger (embigger@verizon.net or 323-5803). Our tutors spend one hour per week at the school during lunchtime (on the day of their choice), as Math Buddies for 3rd – 5th graders or Book Pals for 1st graders. Please consider this wonderful mission project of our church.

AL WINN TURNS 90

Al Winn, who served as Pastor at Second (1974—1981) recently celebrated his 90th birthday at his home in Winston-Salem, NC surrounded by his family. We give thanks for Al's life and witness, and continue to pray God's blessings on him and his family.

Second Press Deadline for October! Please submit all items for the October issue of *Second Press* by **September 19, 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.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Young Adults 6:00 pm	2	3 Assisting Families of Inmates
4 Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour 12:15 pm	5 Labor Day Church office closed Shoe Give Away Event Walk-In Ministry (bag lunches served) 10:30 am	6	7 Mission Council 6:00 pm	8 Deacons 6:00 pm	9	10 Assisting Families of Inmates
11 RALLY DAY Choir rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Second Sunday Lunch 12:15 pm	12 Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm Worship Council 5:30 pm	13 Property Council 4:30 pm Literary Circle 7:30 pm	14 2PCCC Chapel Time 11:45 am Kerygma Bible Study 12:30 pm Budget & Finance 4:30 pm CE Council 5:00 pm	15 Third Thursday Team Yoga Class 12:00 pm 2PCCC Board 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:00 pm	16	17 Assisting Families of Inmates
18 Choir rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour 12:15 pm Thoughtful Women 12:15 pm	19 Newsletter submission deadline Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm	20 Day Book Group 10:00 am Council Chairs 5:30 pm Session 6:00 pm	21	22	23	24
25 Choir rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour 12:15 pm Mission Fair 12:15 pm	26 Walk-In Ministry 10:30 am AA 12:00 pm	27	28 2PCCC Chapel Time 11:45 am Kerygma Bible Study 12:30 pm	29 Micah Kickoff 6:30 pm	30	

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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WORSHIP at 11 AM
From September 4th!!!!

RALLY DAY
September 11th

New Gentle Yoga Class

Thursdays at 12:00 noon
Beginning on September 15th

Come join the class!