



Alex Evans, Pastor

From Alex's Study

Dear Church Family,

Here is a thoughtful devotion that I try to read with some frequency:

If you fill your calendar with important appointments you will have no time for God. If you fill your spare time with essential reading

you will starve your soul.

If you fill your mind with budgets and anxieties, the pains in your chest and the ache in your shoulders will betray you.

If you try to conform to the expectations of those around you, you will be forever their slave.

Work a modest day, seek to serve God in all things, then step back and rest.

This will keep you close to God.

(Contemplative Reflections, by William Martin)

God keeps inviting each of us on a path of living in God's presence and serving God with our lives. If you look at your calendar, if you think afresh about your life, how are you doing along that journey?

This journey of living in God's presence and serving God with our lives is constant. In this month of October, let me remind you of some opportunities that might help us go deeper in this journey.

We have CHURCH SCHOOL every Sunday morning at 9:30 in which we have for adults some wonderful classes and important fellowship to encourage us on this path with God:

- ♣ Gail Monsma and Sue Munro are leading a discussion on the Great Themes of the Bible. How well do you know those themes? How much would your life be enhanced by this study and conversation?
- ♣ Jim Brashler is the lead teacher this fall, along with myself and Doug Hicks, in "Theology Guys." Jim is excited to offer some fresh perspectives on John Calvin and our Presbyterian traditions. It is a fine chance for us to move from "I know a little about that" toward transformative

faithfulness.

- ♣ The "Faith and Literature Class" is not just a title but a description. We gain insights about faith from reading good books. Come and participate and grow.
- ♣ The "Artistic Expressions Class" draws on our gifts and creativity to help us love God and serve God. There is contagious joy and fun in this class.
- ♣ The "Forum Class" continues its thorough and engaging discussion of pertinent topics where faith intersects with life in the city and world.

These are all opportunities to deepen our lives in the important journey with God through conversations and fellowship. These are places to connect with the church family and grow in love and service.

We also have areas of MISSION where we can each give our lives in faithful service. Many of us tutor once a week at Chimborazo Elementary School in Church Hill. We continue to serve meals each Monday to the needy in our neighborhood. Other ministries through the church call forth our time and efforts. We also have some exciting events with RISC – Richmonders Involved in Strengthening Communities - an advocacy effort with many other congregations in downtown Richmond. See inside for more details. Our partnership with Ebenezer is finding traction too. In all this and more, we seek to stay focused on this journey with God and for God's reign. Get involved!

May God continue to guide us and bless us on this path of faith and service.

Alex

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION MEETING

At its September meeting the session

- ♣ Received a progress report on the restoration of the Tiffany Window and noted that the window is scheduled to be reinstalled and rededicated in November.
- ♣ Discussed a proposed child protection policy statement and asked the committee to re-work some of the details.
- ♣ Approved the recommendation of the mission council that 25% of the peacemaking offering to be received on World Communion Sunday be given to Reconcile, a Sudanese peace organization.
- ♣ Elected Cherry Peters, John Moeser, and Bill Schutt to be delegates to the October meeting of the Presbytery of the James.
- ♣ Elected Tom Edmonds to be the session representative on the nominating committee.



CELEBRATING UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

We rejoice with UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY as they kick-off their Bicentennial Celebration! 200 Years of preparing pastors and educators for service in the church. Second Presbyterian Church continues to be blessed by Union students as we have been throughout the past 200 years!

To recognize this extraordinary milestone and to encourage this wonderful institution in meeting tomorrow's challenges, Second Church is making a gift to the Seminary's Bicentennial Fundraising Gala in early November. This gift was not foreseen in last years' church budget, so Session has authorized an appeal to individual members who would like to support the Seminary in this way on this special occasion. Already, current and past Session members have led the way and amassed about \$5,000 toward a Bicentennial gift from the church.

If you would like to join with others in the church to help celebrate this wonderful institution and honor the special relationship the church has enjoyed with the Seminary, please make your check payable to the church with a note on the memo line "Seminary Bicentennial Gift," send it to the church and we will include it in the church's gift to the Seminary. Call Jeff Gallagher with questions at 358-1119.



WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY CORNER

The program called "Seminary Mondays" will feature Dr. P. James Flammig in October, speaking on *Essential Discoveries for Later Life*. Mark your calendars for October 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 10:30 a.m., Montague Chapel. For more than 23 years, Dr.

Flammig served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, and currently serves as a visiting professor at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Also, the Chaplain's Lecture Series is happy to announce a presentation by Dr. James G. Somerville, titled *The Entire Bible in Four Lectures*, to be given on Tuesdays, October 4, 11, 18, and 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sara Belle November Theater. Dr. Somerville says, "Too often, we look at only one passage of Scripture at a time, without considering the way it relates to the rest of the book or the rest of the Bible." During this four-part study, Dr. Somerville will guide a journey through the whole Bible - from Genesis to Revelation - drawing attention to the way the many pieces fit together to tell the story of God's creative, redemptive, and sustaining work. Dr. Somerville is the Pastor of Richmond's First Baptist Church. He holds a Ph.D. in New Testament from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, but loves to teach and preach the Old Testament as well.

Both lecture series give the opportunity of attending not only to Westminster Canterbury residents, but also to you, Second Church members. I hope you can go!

Your Advocate,
Sue Clewell, 330-7828

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE—Upcoming Events

There are a number of events coming up in the next few weeks which offer opportunities to learn more about the three issues the Advocacy Committee has chosen to focus on over the next year (working for a just and moral state budget, gun violence, and involvement through RISC to work on local issues). We hope many of you will plan to attend one or more of these events to learn about the issues and about how we can become effective advocates of change.

- ♣ **"Waging a Living,"** a documentary film about working American families struggling to lift themselves out of poverty. Film followed by a short discussion about reducing poverty in Virginia and how we can help. **Sunday September 25th 4-6 p.m.** at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church
- ♣ **October 2nd 9:30 a.m.** at Second—**Lori Haas**, whose daughter was a victim of the Tech shootings and who is working with a group "Heeding God's Call" to seek a more moral approach to gun access, will be speaking at the Forum Class.
- ♣ **Social Justice University**—Sunday October 16th 4-6 p.m. at St. James's Episcopal Church, 1205 W. Franklin Street. The Virginia Interfaith Center will present an educational program about the legislative process,, policy issues the General Assembly will be facing in the 2012 session related to poverty and the budget, and how we can be effective advocates on these issues.
- ♣ **Rethinking Justice Workshop**—**Saturday morning 8:30 to 12:00 noon** tentatively scheduled for **October 29th** at Second. This is a workshop offered by RISC (Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Communities) for new members of RISC to help us examine the Biblical call to hold systems in our communities accountable to what God created them to be and to think about our vision of justice; to look at how RISC attempts to answer the call and how congregations working together can build the power to hold systems accountable on issues of justice.
- ♣ **November 7th** Meeting of RISC where decisions are made about what issue or issues will be addressed in the coming months.
- ♣ We also encourage you to check out the websites for Better Choices for Virginia (www.betterchoicesva.org); RISC (www.riscrichmond.org); and for the Virginia Interfaith Center (www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org).

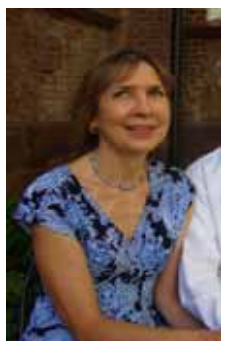
MARY C. PAYNE LEADERSHIP AWARD



This new award for 2011 is in honor of Mrs. Mary C. Payne, one of the founding leaders of the Capital Area Agency on Aging. Mrs. Payne, a trailblazer and long-time advocate in the field of aging, is highly recognized for her advocacy and leadership at state and local levels. Mrs. Payne served the Commonwealth of Virginia as an early leader of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, an initiative that she also led during her long and successful tenure with Senior Connections.

This award recognizes Mrs. Payne's distinguished legacy as a visionary advocate, innovative practitioner and exceptional leader.

JOANIE LATIMER — FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE LEADERSHIP AWARD



The first recipient of the Mary C. Payne Leadership Award is Joanie Latimer, Director of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Ms. Latimer has a distinguished record of service, leadership and advocacy that exemplifies Mrs. Payne's admired qualities. She has served in her current position for more than 10 years and has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life and care for residents of Virginia's nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She is an effective advocate on legislation, policies and programs. She has led the state Coalition on Culture Change and has inspired local program staff to address quality assurance as a priority in their work. Among her numerous noteworthy accomplishments is being one of the first graduates of the Gerontology Program at VCU in 1978.

Ms. Latimer is congratulated for being one of the Commonwealth's most recognized "advocate for advocates" and leader of causes in support of seniors, caregivers and families.

DEACONS' CARE TEAM Invites the Congregation's Involvement

A big part of the Deacons' mission is to care for the needs of church members – nurturing them in times of joy and times of crisis. After years of organizing this effort based on a system of neighborhoods, this summer we instituted a change and are now working as Care Teams. We're confident this new model will allow us to respond to more people in more effective ways, but its success also requires broader participation from the congregation at large. So we are seeking your help in how we minister to each other.

What can you do? Can you mail a card to a sick member? Can you give someone who no longer drives a ride to church? Can you bring a meal to a homebound member? Can you call someone to check on them after surgery? Can you take flowers to the hospital?

These are the types of assistance we're asking for – small tasks that can make a meaningful difference in someone's life while building our connections as a church family.

You can start to see how these simple acts of faith fit into our new structure. There's a care team for members who are homebound or those who have extended needs. There's a care team for short-term situations – perhaps an illness, a hospital stay, or some other unforeseen difficulty. There's a care team focused on "life after loss," which reaches out to people coping with death or divorce. There's a celebrations team that plans social events to gather the community for fellowship. And there are teams for transportation, flowers, and special needs.

I've known for a long time that Second Church is a community of compassionate people. And as a community, we are able to accomplish remarkable things. If you have questions about the Deacons' new Care Team approach or want to help, please contact me or any of the following: Marian English, Long-Term Care; Sharon Moeser, Short-Term Care; Midge Cooke, Life After Loss; Kathy McDaniel, Celebrations; Mark Askin, Transportation; Charles Young, Special Needs; Taylor Sprengle, Vice-Moderator; Barbara Batson, Secretary/Treasurer; or Gail Monsma, Associate Pastor.

Vernon Mays, Moderator
272-2802 / vernon.mays@verizon.net

VCU PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP—it's happening!



Tuesday evenings, 7:30pm at Second Presbyterian Church

This new outreach ministry and mission had an exciting first meeting with a number of enthusiastic students! At our first meeting we had eleven students, nine from VCU and two from J Sargeant Reynolds CC. Students plan to meet weekly for discussion, sharing, and study and are also planning to get involved in service projects throughout the city.

We need help with weekly food/meals for the students and for people interested in helping with our advisory committee. Interested in helping?

Contact Howard Dudley at howard.dudley@gmail.com.

OLDER ADULT RETREAT



"Your Legacy of Faith: Pass it On!" is the theme for an older adult retreat set for **Thursday, October 13, from 9:50 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Camp Hanover**. Janet James and Marian English will lead this event sponsored by the presbytery. We'll consider ways of sharing our faith with future generations in workshops that include creating spiritual memoirs, planning your funeral, leaving your financial legacy, distinguishing those "things" to pass on, and expressing your faith through art.

Brochures are on the credenza or contact Hal King or Marian English. **Deadline: September 30.**

NEW CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE

With the help of Google Apps, we are now able to provide you more information about ongoing events in the life of Second and of our downtown neighborhood. Check out our new calendar on the website (www.2presrichmond.org)! By clicking on an event on the calendar, you'll see a pop-up window come up on your screen, offering more details about the particular event, like the date, location, and the description of the program. Our hope is that this new function of the calendar will contribute to more effective communication within our church family; and also, that it will help make the exciting opportunities for ministry and fellowship at Second more accessible for our broader community.

Second church, together with a number of local churches is part of the pilot program spearheaded by Union Presbyterian Seminary. UNION SOLUTIONS is an initiative that showcases best practices and assists churches in adopting Goggle Apps as they strive to develop more efficient ministries. With the help of the tools offered by Google Apps, communication within the different groups of a congregation (like various committees, councils and interest groups) can become more effective. Our new calendar is just one example of the new possibilities this technology offers for presenting the ministry of churches to a wider constituency. If you would like to learn more about how we may use Google Apps at Second, contact Ginger Evans (gevans@2presrichmond.org) or Eniko Ferenczy (eferenczy@2presrichmond.org). Look out for further news as the project develops!



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND RELAXATION ...



FRIDAY FILMS

Mark your calendars for **Friday, October 28th**. That's the date of the second gathering of the new movie group at church—FRIDAY FILMS. If you like movies, and enjoy talking about them with friends, this is an event you won't want to miss!

It's informal. It's adult. It's for men and women and friends. It's once a month (usually on the 4th Friday). There's no cost. There's no membership requirement (come when you can). You don't need to be a movie guru (though gurus are welcome). There will be a variety of films (your suggestions are welcome). It'll be fun, serious, educational, and inspiring—IF you are there.

Plan on a couple hours for the film and about a half hour for discussion. The parking deck will be closed, but there is plenty of on-street parking after 6pm. **Doors are open from 6:45 - 7:00pm. We'll be at the door to let you in, but at 7pm will go upstairs to the second floor theater to view the film.**

Invite a friend, and come join us!



SOFT YOGA CLASS

Each Thursday join us for the **Soft Yoga Class** in the Chapel at noon.

This class is for all ages and everyone.

\$10 per class and the peaceful benefits are amazing!

The Richmond Folk Festival October 14-16, 2011

Plan now to walk with your Church Family down to the **RICHMOND FOLK FESTIVAL** on **Sunday, October 16**. You can leave your car in the parking deck and walk down the hill to join the fellowship, food, fun, and folk music! Plan to wear comfortable clothes and shoes and let's enjoy being a DOWNTOWN church in Richmond!

For more information see http://www.richmondfolkfestival.org/docs/event_schedule.html.

HAPPENINGS...

LITERARY CIRCLE

Tuesday, October 11th at 7:30 pm
 Book: *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok
 Hostess: Hostess: Em Key, 5 Bisley Ct,
 23238



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

DAY BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, October 18th at 10:00 am
 Room 303 of the Virginia Building
 Book: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*
 by Mohsin Hamid



All are welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY AT SECOND

Join your church family for good food and fellowship on **Sunday, Oct. 9**, immediately following worship.

Menu

Meatloaf
 Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
 Green Beans and Tomatoes
 Pear Crisp



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

CONFERENCE ON SPIRITUALITY

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church on Monument Avenue is hosting a GaySpirits Conference November 11 and 12. David Hoover, MDiv, LCSW will be facilitating this conference encouraging all people to embrace themselves as spiritual beings. Go to www.gayspirits.com for more information and registration.

OLDER ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

4th Thursday of each month

When: **Thursday, October 27 at 11:30 am**

Where: **Westminster Canterbury** (bring a brown bag lunch or purchase one there)

Each fourth Thursday of the month, Gail Monsma, Associate Pastor, leads a Bible Study for older adults at Westminster Canterbury. All church members and guests are invited to attend. Come out and join us for a look at scripture and a lively discussion.



Our Bible Study for the year on "The Beatitudes" begins on Tuesday, October 4 and will continue the first Tuesday of each month, October-May.

Circle One - will meet in the Tower 6th floor lounge at Westminster Canterbury at 11:00a.m. Please bring your Bible and a sandwich to share.

Circle Two - will meet at Diane Carter's Home at 11:00a.m. 5102 Harlan Circle Oct. 4 and in different homes throughout the year. Please bring your Bible.

Circle Three - will meet at times and places determined by the group.

We hope you will each find your home in one of these circles as we study and grow together in our faith and discipleship.

MICAH PROJECT/ CHIMBORAZO ELE- MENTARY



Children are currently being tested for placement with math and reading tutors for the school year, and tutors will be assigned to begin at Chimborazo Elementary mid-October.

Additional tutors are needed at Chimborazo this school year, so please consider this opportunity to help kids succeed in school. 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. Contact Ele Bigger: (embigger@verizon.net or 323-5803).

Help earn money for Chimborazo by participating in Martin's Foods A+ School Rewards, earning points for the school for every dollar spent at Martin's Oct. 9 – March 31. Register your card on the Martin's website MartinsFoods.com/aplus. Click on Chimborazo Elementary.

Thanks to the Second Pres. congregation for supplying **83** school uniforms in addition to the many school supplies for the current year.

Second Press Deadline for November! Please submit all items for the November issue of *Second Press* by **October 17, 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.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 Mission Fair @ Chapel 9:30am - Church School 10am - Choir rehearsal 11am - WORSHIP @ 5 North 12:15pm - Coffee Hour	26 10:30am - Walk-in 12pm - AA	27 6pm - Youth Ministrv 7:30pm - VCU Presbyterian	28 11:45am - 2PCCC Chapel 12:30pm - Kerygma @ 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir rehearsal	29 12pm - Yoga 6:30pm - Micah Kick-off @	30 6pm - Wedding rehearsal	1 Assistino Families of 5pm - Wedding
2 9:30am - Church School 10am - Choir rehearsal 11am - WORSHIP @ 5 North 12:15pm - Coffee Hour 12:15pm - Deacon Care 5pm - Youth Groups @ at	3 10:30am - Walk-in 12pm - AA	4 7:30pm - VCU Presbyterian	5 6pm - CE Council @ 310 6pm - Mission Council 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir rehearsal	6 12pm - Yoga	7	8 Assisting Families of 9am - Youth Service Event
9 9:30am - Church School 10am - Choir rehearsal 11am - WORSHIP @ 5 North 12:15pm - Second Sunday	10 Office closed 10:30am - Walk-in 5:30pm - Worshio Council 6pm - VCU Ministry	11 4:30pm - Property Council 7:30pm - Literary Circle 7:30pm - VCU Presbvtarian	12 11:45am - 2PCCC Chapel 4:30pm - Budoet and 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir rehearsal	13 10am - Older Adult Retreat 12pm - Yoga 6pm - Deacons 6pm - Young Adults	14 FOLK FESTIVAL @ Downtown Festival	15 Assistino Families of 8:30am - POJ Stated
16 FOLK FESTIVAL @ 9:30am - Church School 10am - Choir rehearsal 11am - WORSHIP @ 5 North 12:15pm - Coffee Hour 5pm - Youth Groups @ at	17 Newsletter submission 10:30am - Walk-in 12pm - AA	18 10am - Day Book Group 5:30pm - Council Chairs 6pm - Session 7:30pm - VCU Presbyterian	19 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir rehearsal	20 9am - Third Thursday Team 12pm - Yoga 6pm - Youno Adults	21	22
23 9:30am - Church School 10am - Choir rehearsal 11am - WORSHIP @ 5 North 12:15pm - Coffee Hour 5pm - Youth Groups @ at	24 10:30am - Walk-in 12pm - AA	25 7:30pm - VCU Presbyterian	26 11:45am - 2PCCC Chapel 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir rehearsal	27 12pm - WC Bible Studv @ 12pm - Yoga 6pm - Young Adults	28	29 8:30am - RISC Workshoo
30 9:30am - Church School 10am - Choir rehearsal 11am - WORSHIP @ 5 North 12:15pm - Coffee Hour 6am - Comfort & Care	31 10:30am - Walk-in 12pm - AA	1 5:30pm - Advocacy Cte 7:30pm - VCU Presbyterian	2 5pm - CE Council 6pm - Mission Council 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir rehearsal	3 12pm - Yoga	4 6pm - Youth Lock In @ at the church	5 Assisting Families of



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

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Dated Material

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Come out to the Folk Festival!
Sunday, October 16th after worship

Peacemaking Offering

Sunday, October 4th

Soft Yoga Class

Thursdays at 12:00 noon

Come join the class!