



Second Presbyterian Church 2011

Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit

“Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.”

1 Cor 16:33; 11 Timothy 2:1, Ephesians 6:10; 1 Thess 5:13-22; 1 Peter 2:17

Worship. Sunday morning worship centers our lives individually and as a community of faith. Our pastors Alex Evans and Gail Monsma and Parish Associate Doug Hicks lead our worship and study of the Word. We look for ways to supplement our traditional Sunday worship with fresh approaches offering members and inquirers different ways, such as contemplative services, to encounter God. This year, we celebrated the faithful and inspired service to the Music Ministry of organist Bruce Stevens on his retirement. His music was a golden thread woven through our worship for years. By Fall we welcomed our new Organist, Michael Simpson. Jeffrey Riehl continues as Director of Music, and leads the 25 member choir as it inspires, comforts and challenges us in worship. The Sanctuary sound system was greatly improved.



Chimborazo School. Forty members of Second Church volunteer weekly to tutor students in math and reading and to support teachers at this Church Hill elementary school. This year church members logged over 1,000 hours of tutoring with 50 students, gathered bountiful supplies for classrooms, donated nearly 100 school uniforms, and helped fund a volunteer coordinator on site. Ours is one of many congregations united through the Micah Project to provide hands on support to local schools in special need and their students.



Child Care Center. Every day year round in our Hawes Building basement 30 children play and learn in a secure, enriching, diverse and faithful child care program. As a result, their parents can work and meet other family responsibilities. We support the Center in countless ways. Members volunteer to read to the children and serve on the Board. Ginger Evans leads Chapel Time with the children twice a month. We provide multiple scholarships and contribute to the teacher retirement fund. For 35 years the Child Care Center has been a beacon of hope to families downtown. In recent years Director Eboni Brickhouse has brought her passions for early education and ministry.

Walk-In Ministries. Every Monday noon for nearly 35 years Second Church has opened its doors to welcome those in need downtown of a healthy meal, a welcoming smile, respite from the weather, and an opportunity to pray. Over the last year, under the guidance of Walk-In Coordinator Elva Mapp, 20 congregations and organizations from across Greater Richmond lent a hand in our kitchen and dining room, along with 70 church members, all with the generous support of the Central Virginia Food Bank. We saw increased need this year over last: 200+ guests visited some days, and by year's end over 9,000 meals had been served. One special day VCU students and AmeriCorps members helped stage a national holiday tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King for our guests in the Sanctuary.



Downtown Ecumenical Ministries.

This year marked the beginning of a partnership with Ebenezer Baptist Church on Leigh Street. Hundreds of members of our two congregations have attended lectures reflecting upon the differences and similarities of our 150+ year histories witnessing to Christ in downtown Richmond, and the history of the city. The Men's Groups of our two churches have consumed many hundreds of pancakes at fellowship breakfasts. Our two churches together have joined RISC - Richmonders Involved in Strengthening Communities, an ecumenical, multiracial, local grass roots effort to advocate for justice and systemic change in areas which now we serve through our many ministries. Plans abound.

Also this year we hosted the joyful Palm Sunday combined service for downtown churches. Fifty church members visited the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Shockoe Bottom after Church, and received a personal tour of that extraordinary institution, witnessing tolerance to us all. As a supporting church of the Shoe Ministry, we collected





500 pairs of shoes and on the day before school joined other downtown churches in distributing some 4,000 pairs to school children under the leadership of Bethel AME church.

Assisting Families of Inmates. Every Saturday, families from across Greater Richmond gather at the church to board busses to visit their loved ones who are incarcerated at state correctional facilities, attempting to keep the ties of family and friendship alive. On their return, they are greeted with a hot meal and expert resource referral services. What began as a ministry of this church 30 years ago has grown into a freestanding non-profit that this church, and some ten others, continue to support with volunteers and funds. Last year AFOI provided 3,100 transportation visits and another 250 video visits via a video link from the Hawes Building.



CARITAS. Again this year, for the twentieth year, Second Church joined faith congregations across Greater Richmond in hosting CARITAS. One cold week in February, some 50 church members volunteered over 500 hours to welcome, provide shelter and meals for 28 homeless women, fellow Richmonders who had no other place to stay. Again this year church members collected gloves, hats and socks in a special Warmth Drive for our guests.

Christian Education. Before Worship every Sunday visitors and members have the choice of five very different adult Sunday School classes: Great Themes of the Bible, Faith and Literature, Conversations with the Theology Guys, Artistic Faith Expression and the Forum Class, which offers speakers on topics of current events where faith intersects with life in the city and the world. After much study, this year the CE Council initiated a new curriculum for the children's classes. Other opportunities include weekday Kerygma Bible Study and Presbyterian Women Circles monthly evening gatherings.

Acts of Faith Theatre Festival. For the seventh straight year, the Festival offered live theatre productions raising themes and questions of faith and supported forums for discussion. This one-of-a kind collaboration brought together 15 theatres and 17 faith communities, and featured 14 different plays in over 200 productions from January to March. As Convening Sponsor, our church provided volunteers and financial assistance. The Festival kicked off with a Standing Room Only Preview night at Theatre IV's Empire Theatre downtown, and by year's end 6 of the plays were nominees for Best of Season by the Richmond Theatre Critic Circle.



VCU Presbyterian Fellowship. After years of hopes and dreams, this year we began an outreach ministry to VCU students. The Presbytery of the James has provided support for a part time Seminary student to lead the effort. This is the seed. We faithfully work and hope for what God has in store.

World Pediatric Project. A dozen church children, their families and other members provided hospitality and support to children and families visiting Richmond from overseas for life saving surgery at one of the area's hospitals. We visited at nearby Hospital Hospitality House and Ronald McDonald House, worshiped with them in church, invited them into our homes, and went into the city for good times.

Youth Ministries. The middle and high school youth groups offer our young people a chance to actively participate in the Christian faith. Youth groups met weekly for fellowship, Bible study and prayer, and led our congregation in Worship. Their service projects helped many including Boaz and Ruth, a mission partner of the Church. The year included retreats to Montreat, Massanetta and Camp Hanover.



Fellowship and Support. On the Second Sunday every month hundreds of us gather for a delicious festive lunch in the Chapel after Worship. Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men meet regularly, and enjoy periodic retreats. The Young Adults set aside one week night for fellowship and Bible study. The Day Book Group and Literary Circle provide an opportunity to learn, reflect and discuss a wide range of literature. Church members knit beautiful prayer shawls for those in need of their comfort. We've enjoyed small group dinners in homes, and outings to the Flying Squirrels and Folk Festival. The Deacons support and care for members in temporary or long term difficulty. Hospitality volunteers ready the church for special events. The Youth Council provided fresh intentionality for inter-generational opportunities.



Union Presbyterian Seminary. We rejoice this year with the Seminary on its 200 Year Anniversary, blessed that our special relationship continues. Our membership includes many Seminary staff and faculty, who take an active role in church life and Christian Education, and President Brian Blount has preached from our pulpit. Seminary students provide dynamic leadership to our Youth groups, head up the emerging VCU Presbyterian Fellowship, and share their passion with us through pastoral internships.

International Mission. The church enjoys faithful and active relationships with partners overseas. In Malawi our efforts support orphans, food for the hungry and hospitals for the sick. In Guatemala, working closely with CEDEPCA, we support the strengthening of church life, empowering women and education. Individual church members volunteer time and energy to these missions, and plans are being made for a mission trip next year.

Buildings and Grounds. We rejoiced this Fall when the Dorcas (Tabitha) Window, created in 1897 by Tiffany Studios in Memory of Martha C. Hawes, was reinstalled in the Chapel after a three year absence for restoration, thanks to the careful attention and generosity of many people. The normal aches and pains of our 150 year old home were lovingly and skillfully attended to by Building Administrator David Barnett, long time Sextons Kerry Randolph and Cliff Anderson, and dozens volunteers who fix plumbing, polish silver, tend the garden and do whatever is needed. A History and Archive Room is being established in the Hawes Building, and plans are beginning to refresh our common first floor areas.

For more and updated information on any of the church's ministries or activities and on how to become involved in the life of the church, please visit our website at www.2presrichmond.org. Or call us at 649-9148.
Second Presbyterian Church 5 North 5th Street, Richmond, VA 23219