



Alex Evans, Pastor

From Alex's Study

Dear Church Family,

A New Year often brings new resolutions.

As we move into 2012 at Second Presbyterian Church, I hope we can launch anew into our

wonderful mission emphasis –

“We are called to be witnesses to and for the new reality made available to all people in Jesus Christ. We seek to know Christ and make Christ known in downtown Richmond and across the world.”

We celebrate the recent refurbishing efforts around the first floor, atrium, dining room, and more. Paint, carpet, upholstery, and more will help reflect the vibrancy of our church and our mission. How can we use our space better to “know Christ and make Christ known?”

We have some exciting adult classes during the Sunday Church School hour in the month of January (see inside this newsletter). We are suspending all the familiar classes, mixing up our classes, and looking for fresh engagement in important topics. How can these discussions and insights inspire our hearts, minds, and lives in knowing and serving Christ?

In the middle of this month, on January 16 – MLK Day – our church will be buzzing with activity. With the help of other churches, and AmeriCorps students from VCU, we will host our Monday Walk-In guests with a fabulous meal. We will also have a worship service in our Sanctuary, with preacher, Dr. Levy Armwood, Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, our partners in downtown Richmond. This event depicts our ministry at its best – worship and mission, praise of God in word and music and compassion for those less fortunate. Come and share in it and “know Christ and help to make Christ known.”

As we move through January, there will be several opportunities to be involved in justice ministry, especially through RISC (Richmonders Involved in Strengthening Communities). With our RISC partners, we are speaking to the important subjects of poverty and jobs in our city. Watch for announcements and discussions that connect us to God's work for a better world.

In every season, various ones of us find ourselves in difficult circumstances with illness, transition, heartache, loss, and more. In those trying times, we need to be reminded of Christ's love and presence, peace and purposes. We also seek to reach out to be instruments of God's care and hope. Through various teams of our Deacons, through other efforts, each of us will have opportunities to convey God's light and care in large and small ways. May this new year challenge us to be ever ready and open to receiving and sharing God's love in Christian community.

January also brings us into a new budget year for the church. Each Council, in finalizing these budgets, in making plans for 2012, can be asking more directly – in what ways do our efforts, and how does our energy, help us “know Christ and make Christ known?” How can every decision of every Council fit into the larger and hopeful purposes of our ministry in Christ's name? How can we look afresh at all that we are doing and align our lives with more faithful and effective work?

We will continue to worship on Sunday mornings, have fellowship opportunities, strive to deepen our faith and increase our love and service for God. We will also continue to welcome new people into our midst, and build on the VCU ministry, and expand our programs and outreach in various ways. In each of those moments, we want to find new ways to “know Christ and make Christ known.” May God's love and zeal, light and peace call all of us afresh to faith and life. And may we keep moving from membership to discipleship, exhibiting the new reality made available to all in Jesus Christ.

Blessings and God's love to each of you.

Alex



YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

January term of the Youth Group at Second Presbyterian Church will kick-off on
Jan. 15th from 5pm - 7pm.

Monday, January 16th, 11:00am

MLK Celebration: Once again youth will help serve our Walk-In neighbors a special meal and attend the worship service with them.

Sunday, January 22nd, 5pm - 7pm

Sunday, January 29th, 5pm - 7pm

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR YOUTH - JANUARY

During the month of January, youth will be attending with their leaders either Jeff Gallagher's class on Christian Persecution or Charles Young's class on World Religions.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

January 1 - No Church School

PreSchool Class - Katie and Elisabeth King

1st & 2nd Grade - Chris Madigan and Treva Thomas

3rd - 5th Grade - Helen Adams and Nancy Foltz

JANUARY CLASSES FOR ADULTS



This January we are suspending all our regular Adult Church School Classes and all taking a "January term course." This is an attempt to help us mix and mingle and get to know each other better and to offer some exciting classes. Here are your January term options:

What does the Lord Require of us? God's call to both charity and justice.

In Micah 6:8, we learn what it is God requires of us: "...to do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with our God." Join us for four Sunday mornings in January as we explore God's Biblical call/mandate to "do justice." This course will be led by *Gail Monsma and Marge Shaw* and will also involve the Advocacy Committee of the Mission Council. We explore how God calls us to hold our community systems accountable on issues of fairness and justice, and we'll also look at our membership and involvement with RISC (Richmonders Involved in Strengthening our Community).

Christian Persecution - This class will examine the persecution of Christians for their faith worldwide which is occurring at this very moment. We will use handouts, video and internet resources. The course will look at several individual cases in different nations/cultures to get a feel for the human side of the story. A historical perspective will put today's persecution in the context of the past. The study will also explore the effects of the current worldwide explosion of Christianity. It will seek to discern common paradigms and look for root causes. It will also look at adversities individuals and groups face worldwide, and ask when they become persecution. We will identify organizations worldwide trying to address the problem, see what they are attempting to do, and locate resources to learn more and respond. We will review Scripture to ask what place Christian persecution has in God's plan for the world, and also look at how Jesus calls us to respond. High school students as well as adults are welcome!

Jeff Gallagher will facilitate this course.

Helping Relationships Thrive. January 8th: The Lost Art of Listening. January 15th: So what's this GOLDEN RULE thing? January 22: Living With Your Adolescent and MAYBE Liking It. January 29th: Life as Love-making. This class will be facilitated by *Dodie Rossell*.

Dodie is a PC(USA) minister and the owner/sole Pastoral Psychotherapist of the Dialogue Pastoral Counseling Center in Richmond. She has been an Affiliate of Second since 1978. Several times in her journey with Second, she has taught Adult Education...always on topics related to the interface of theology and psychology. She is active in the Adult Choir and Hand Bell Choir. As a Licensed Professional Counselor and Fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, she provided individual, couples and group psychotherapy.

World Religions - About 1/3 of the world's population claim to be followers of Christ, or Christian, which means 2 out of 3 people are followers of another religious tradition. We are called to relate to people of other faiths in full humility, openness, and honesty, and are called to respect others' God-given humanity as well as the seriousness of their spiritual quests and commitments. Through this class, we will begin to seek new opportunities for conversation and understanding with non-Christian religious bodies and traditions by discussing the origins and development, central teachings, devotional practices, institutions and cultural expressions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, and Islam. This class will be facilitated by *Charles Young*.


MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

**A Celebration Service in Honor
of The Life & Legacy of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Place: Second Presbyterian Church
5 North Fifth Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Theme: "Beloved Community"
Worship Service

Date: Monday January 16th, 2012
Time: 11:30am-12:15pm
Light Refreshments to Follow Service



For More Information Call (804) 649-9148

Last year this was an extraordinary celebration! Please join us to celebrate and reflect on the legacy of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr, and to welcome our Walk-In and VCU neighbors. **The Rev. Dr. Levy Armwood, from Ebenezer Baptist church, will be preaching.**

Our Walk-In Ministry is partnering with VCU Ameri-Corps to offer a special worship service and lunch for our Walk-In neighbors. Worship will be in the sanctuary and lunch for Walk-In in the chapel.

WALK-IN WARMTH MINISTRY WARMS THE HEART OF OUR NEIGHBORS

On the Monday before Christmas members of Second Presbyterian and the visiting VCU Americorp team gave gift bags to our neighbors filled with warm socks, hats, gloves, scarves, and toiletry items.

One happy recipient opened his bag immediately and exclaimed "Wow, something I can really use!" His new hat was on his head before he left the sanctuary.

Thanks be to God for everyone who contributed in any way to this heartwarming holiday ministry.



Our own 6th grader, Thomas Alvarado was one of the youth handing out gift bags.

ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES—January

Advocacy Sunday School Class in January:

“What Does the Lord Require of Us? God’s Call to Both Charity and Justice.” Come explore this challenging question during the four Sundays in January beginning January 8th. This Sunday school class will focus on the biblical mandate to “do justice” and will explore Second’s three areas of focus for advocacy—RISC, the state budget, and gun violence. This will not be a lecture series, but will include some panel discussions and time for interaction and reflection. Please plan to attend!



RISC Events

- ♣ Tuesday 1/17 6:30 research committee meeting on the affordable housing trust fund issue.
- ♣ Monday 1/23 at 6:30 research committee meetings on the jobs and poverty issue.

People are currently researching questions and statistics around problems concerning the difficulty of ex-offenders finding jobs as well as the lack of job training/job readiness in general. The 1/23 meeting will present the research and begin the task of finding a reasonable partial solution which RISC can take on.

State Budget and Better Choices for Virginia

The General Assembly begins January 11th and the state budget will be in the forefront of our concerns. We will work with Better Choices for Virginia to advocate a balanced approach to balancing the budget through revenue enhancements as well as budget cuts. There will be two particular opportunities for you to voice your concerns about the state budget or about other bills before the General Assembly.

- ♣ On Tuesday January 17th, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy will host a “Day for All Peoples” at the General Assembly.
- ♣ On Tuesday February 7th, Second will host a Presbyterian Day at the General Assembly. Each event will include pointers on how to be an effective advocate at the General Assembly and will offer an opportunity to voice your concerns by joining with others to visit your legislators.

We will meet at church for briefing and update on advocacy issues active in the GA, then visit GA legislators and sit in on part of the session before returning to Second. Registration details can be found on the Presbytery of the James website or at the link from below:

https://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/7352/p/salsa/event/common/public?event_KEY=45997.

Gun Violence

- ♣ Monday January 16th at 2:00—the Virginia Center for Public Safety, a group that advocates better gun laws, will hold a rally at the Bell Tower in Capitol Square.

Other Events:

- ♣ Virginia Union is hosting a class on Faith in the City, led by Ben Campbell and John Kinney and including a talk by our own John Moeser, January 3rd through 6th. Watch the bulletin and Second notices for more details.

As we enter 2012, may we each resolve to respond--in some specific intentional way--to God’s call to work for a more just and compassionate society.

HAPPENINGS...

LITERARY CIRCLE

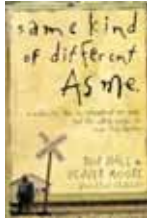
Tuesday, January 10th, 7:30 p.m.

Book: *Same Kind Of Different As Me*

by Ron Hall and Denver Moore

Hostess: Kay Herrell, 3511 Warsaw Terrace, 23060

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



DAY BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, January 17th at 10:00 am

Room 303, Virginia Building

Book: *Shop Class As Soulcraft*

by Matthew B. Crawford



All are welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY AT SECOND

Join your church family for good food and fellowship on **Sunday, January 8th** immediately following worship.

Menu

Brunswick stew in a bowl or over rice

Tossed salad

Cornbread

Assorted Desserts



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

ALL THE RENOVATIONS!!

We are excited about the great improvements all around the church!

Walls have been painted, floors have been updated, and new carpet has been installed. The reupholstered furniture will be back soon. Thank you to everyone for putting up with all the challenges during these days of renovation and renewal. Our hope is that after it is all finished, our building will reflect the health and vibrancy of Second Presbyterian Church!



Our Bible Study for the year on "The Beatitudes" will continue the first Tuesday of each month through 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 - Meeting place to be determined.

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 NEWS

Many thanks to all who contributed to the coats, socks, and underwear drive for Chimborazo students. We delivered 43 coats, and over 300 pairs each of socks and



underwear, plus many hats and gloves. A special thanks to Amy Thompson's Girl Scout troop for their donation of 43 decorated gift bags filled with socks, gloves, and hats – a lovely and very unexpected bonus.

Our next project at the school will be a luncheon for the teachers on their mid-winter work day, Friday, Feb. 3rd. Participation by congregation members in preparing the meal at church on Feb. 2nd is needed. Please contact Ele Bigger at 323-5803 or embigger@verizon.net if you can help with preparation on Feb. 2nd or set-up and serving on Feb. 3rd.

OLDER ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

(4th Thursday of the month)

When: **Thursday, January 26 at 11:30 am**

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

Each fourth Thursday of the month, Associate Pastor Gail Monsma 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.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS



On **Sunday January 8** right after Second Sunday Lunch, we will have the first of several training sessions for all those who volunteer to work with our children and youth. It will be about a 45 minute session that will be informative and helpful as we seek to keep our church a safe place for all. Please contact Ginger Evans with questions.

Second Press Deadline for February! Please submit all items for the February issue of *Second Press* by **January 16, 2012**.

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.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - Choir 11am - WORSHIP @ 12:15pm - Coffee	2 Office closed 10:30am - Walk-in	3 7:30pm - VCU	4 5pm - CE Council 6pm - Mission 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir	5 12pm - Yoga	6	7 Assisting Families of
8 9:30am - Church 10am - Choir 11am - WORSHIP @ 12:15pm - Second 1pm - Youth Groups	9 10:30am - Walk-in 12pm - AA	10 4:30pm - Property 5pm - Worship 7:30pm - Literary 7:30pm - VCU	11 11:45am - 2PCCC 12:30pm - Kerygma 4:30pm - Budget 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir	12 12pm - Yoga 6pm - Deacons	13	14 Assisting Families of
15 9:30am - Church 10am - Choir 11am - WORSHIP @ 12:15pm - Coffee 5pm - Youth Groups	16 Newsletter Office closed 10:30am - Walk-in	17 10am - Day Book 5:30pm - Council 6pm - Session 7:30pm - VCU	18 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir	19 9am - Third 12pm - Yoga 6pm - Young Adults	20	21 Assisting Families of
22 9:30am - Church 10am - Choir 11am - WORSHIP @ 12:15pm - Coffee 5pm - Youth Groups	23 10:30am - Walk-in 12pm - AA	24 7:30pm - VCU	25 11:45am - 2PCCC 12:30pm - Kerygma 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir	26 12pm - WC Bible 12pm - Yoga	27	28 Assisting Families of
29 9:30am - Church 10am - Choir 11am - WORSHIP @ 12:15pm - Coffee	30 10:30am - Walk-in 12pm - AA	31 7:30pm - VCU	1 5pm - CE Council 6pm - Mission 6:15pm - Handbell 7:30pm - Choir	2 12pm - Yoga	3	4 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

Non-Profit Organization
United States Postage
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Dated Material

Do not delay delivery

MLK Day Service!

Monday, January 16th, 11:30am - 12:15pm

Happy
New Year
2012