



# Second Press

Volume 34 Issue 12 December 2016



Alex Evans, Pastor

Dear Church Family,  
December launches us into Advent. Advent, for Christians, intends to be a season—the four weeks leading up to Christmas—of watching, waiting, praying, striving for deeper faith and sincere devotion as disciples of Jesus.

We will light the Advent wreath each week in worship and pray for the coming of God's love, hope, joy and peace into our hearts and world.

The "Advent Conspiracy" is a growing Christian movement around the world that seeks to counter our culture's rush toward Christmas and our emphasis on commercialism. See their website [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org) for some wonderful and helpful ideas for a renewing Advent season.

Here is a fine summary:

**WORSHIP FULLY** *It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.*

**SPEND LESS** *Quick question for you: What was the one gift you remember getting for Christmas last year? Next question: What about the fourth gift? Do you remember that one? Truth is many of us don't because it wasn't something we necessarily wanted or needed. Spending Less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts we won't remember in less than a year. America spends around \$600 billion dollars during*

*the Christmas season, and much of that is joyless and goes right onto a credit card. By spending wisely on gifts we free ourselves from the anxiety associated with debt so we can take in the season with a full heart.*

**GIVE MORE** *We know what you're thinking. "Wait, didn't they just say I should spend less, and yet here they are telling me to give more? What gives?" The most powerful, memorable gift you can give to someone else is yourself. And nobody modeled this more than Jesus. So what does this look like for you? Tickets to a ball game or the theater? A movie night? The main point is simple: When it comes to spending time with those you love, it's all about quality, not quantity.*

**LOVE ALL** *It all boils down to love. Love from a savior. Love to a neighbor in need. By spending just a little less on gifts we free up our resources to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help. This is the conspiracy three churches began a few years ago, and has since grown to an international movement where thousands of churches have raised millions of dollars to love others in life-changing ways. It's not that there's something wrong with the shopping mall—it's that the better story is about loving all.*

Perhaps now more than ever, our lives, our city, our nation, and our world needs an advent conspiracy. And we have the great joy and privilege of approaching this season with one another—together—in a dynamic community of faith in downtown RVA. May God bless us and make us a blessing in these Advent days. See you in worship and around.

Sincerely,

*Alex*

## Thanksgiving and Stewardship

In the days following Thanksgiving and into December, the Stewardship Council tries to finish its work so the Budget Council can make effective and solid plans for God's work through our church for 2017.

**Thank you** to all who have made generous commitments through your pledges for 2016. Thank you to all who felt called to increase your giving so we can continue to increase our service in Christ's name in Richmond and across the globe.

If you have not yet returned your commitment card, thank you as well, for giving prayerful and diligent attention to this task so the church can move forward with good plans. We need everyone's participation in order to set our ministry budget for 2017.

Early indications reveal that the Session's efforts and plans, led by the Stewardship Council's communications and celebrations in worship across recent weeks, have served God well. Once we can estimate anticipated income from pledges and others sources, and finish up 2016 on strong financial ground, we can finalize our church's budget priorities for ministry for 2017. We strive to move into the New Year with stronger worship, more faithful education, sincere connections that build fellowship and community, and life-changing outreach to the city and world.

**Advent Prayers of Healing and Wholeness:** This Advent, we are trying to offer a different worshipful experience. We will NOT be holding an evening service of Healing and Wholeness this year.

Instead, on MONDAY MORNINGS throughout Advent, join us in the sanctuary from 10:00-10:25 a.m. for Prayers of Healing & Wholeness. Our sanctuary doors will be open to the street. All our Walk-In guests and volunteers are invited. We will welcome anyone else who might wander past. There will be music and time for reflection, as well as prayers for our selves and the world. If you're interested in participating, we could use one or two people each Monday who would be willing to be greeters. If you have any questions, talk to Kathryn Lester-Bacon or Molly Spangler.

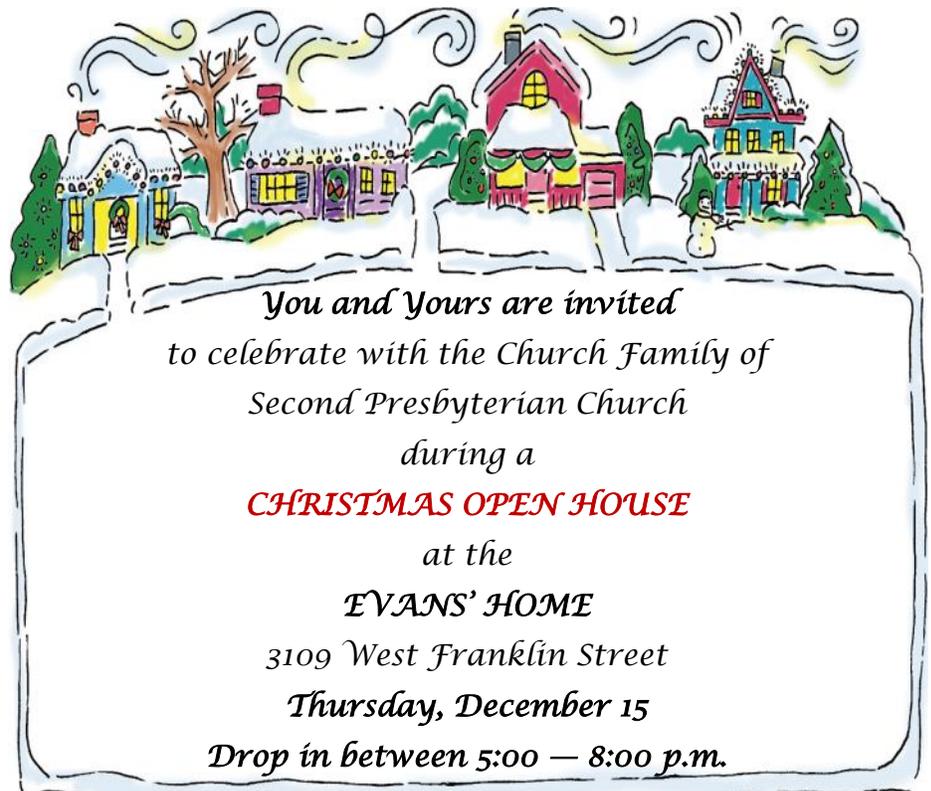
### Men's Ministry Opportunity

All men of the church are invited to enjoy an evening of refreshment, fellowship, and faith on **Monday, December 5**, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Greg Dickie (9404 Michelle Place, Henrico).

Casual conversation, faithful interactions, and sincere reflections about life and faith will encourage this community.

Come and participate.  
Contact Bryan Carr for more info  
([bryancarr@comcast.net](mailto:bryancarr@comcast.net)).

**MEN'S  
MINISTRY**



## Adult Education in December



**December 4 ~**

**Parents of Young Children**  
Nursery

Led by Kathryn Lester-Bacon

**December 4, 11, 18 ~**

**Old and New Advent & Christmas Hymns**  
Chapel

Led by Annette Sparks

**Bible Class**  
Room 308

Led by Franklin Reding

**Faith and Literature**  
Suite 301

Facilitator: Marjorie Clark

**Sunday, December 25 & Sunday, January 1 ~ Worship at 11:00 am**  
(no Church School classes)



*December 18*

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent the Choir will lead a Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols during the morning worship hour in the tradition of the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols broadcast annually from King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. The service will begin in the usual manner with the singing of "Once in Royal David's City," after which a series of seven Bible readings will recount the loving purposes of God from Adam's fall and Isaiah's prophecy of Christ's birth, through the nativity of Christ, the arrival of the Magi and St. John's unfolding of the great mystery of the incarnation. Following each lesson, anthems by the choir and Christmas carols sung by all will amplify and reflect upon the spoken word. Additional music by the organ, the Adult Handbell Choir, and a brass quintet will set a festive atmosphere for our worship as we "go heart and mind even unto Bethlehem to see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger." ~Jeff Riehl

### Following Worship on December 18 ~ Deacons' Holiday Reception

The Deacons invite members of the congregation to bring a sweet or savory tidbit to share at the reception to celebrate this joyous season.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Debbie Powers at [thepowers75@gmail.com](mailto:thepowers75@gmail.com). *Thank you!*



### Christmas Eve Worship

**5:00 pm** *Pageant, Candlelight, Communion*

**10:00 pm** *Adult Choir, Candlelight, Communion*

### 2016 Pledges

To receive credit in the current year, pledge payments for **2016** must be postmarked by **December 31**, or delivered to the church office by noon on **Friday, December 30**.

Please note that the church office closes at noon that day. Contact Dorothy DeJong with any questions.

## *Highlights from the Session Meeting*

At the November meeting, the Session:

- ◆ Reported that 107 pledges for 2017 were received on Dedication Sunday, and encouraged all members to complete their pledges of money, time and talents;
- ◆ Is investigating participation in the program of historic tax credits in Virginia for property renovations planned in the Capital Campaign;
- ◆ Anticipates building improvements in early December on the choir room and also the installation of new HVAC condensers;
- ◆ Heard about continuing work to improved the safety and operation of the parking deck;
- ◆ Prayed for members of the congregation and community.

## *Art Events*

### **Advent Crèche Display:**



Share your favorite crèche with the congregation for a one-day display on **Sunday, December 4**. This is a popular annual event so come early! Bring your crèche to the chapel prior to Sunday worship or earlier in the week. Please identify your art and retrieve it following the coffee hour display.

### **Winter Art Show:**

In January we are seeking artwork for an exhibit entitled “People, Places and Passions.” This show will open on **Sunday, January 8**. All Second Pres artists are encouraged to participate. Entry sheets will be available at the Deacon’s Desk or on the credenza in the hallway. Plan ahead and begin creating or selecting your art now! Contact Mary Millet ([marycmillet@gmail.com](mailto:marycmillet@gmail.com)) or Anne Jefferson ([maryacj@aol.com](mailto:maryacj@aol.com)) with questions.

## *Walk-In Warmth Ministry Requests*



**Dear Friends:** As winter approaches it is time for our annual warmth ministry. We are collecting new warm gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for our neighbors. We serve a hot meal to 150-200 persons each Monday.

Since the closing of the breakfast and dinner program at the Salvation Army this year, and the recent closing of Monroe Park for renovation, many of our guests have lost regular access to meals they counted on as well as food on the weekends. Some have also lost their few extra clothing items making this year’s warmth ministry even more important. In response to these closings we have begun giving out a snack supper with Nabs style peanut butter or cheese crackers, individual fruit or applesauce packs, chips, granola or fruit bars such as NutriGrain, and 8-oz. bottles of water. We can use donations of these items any time to supplement the ones members of our partner churches provide, as well as no. 10 cans of vegetables for our soup. Also, if you enjoy baking and would like to make some extra banana bread or cookies for our lunch guests to enjoy with their coffee we would be grateful. FeedMore, which oversees the Food Bank where we purchase much of our food for the program, no longer has consistent donations of these types of items.

Finally, if anyone is interested and available, we can always use more receptionists, dining room coordinators, and drink servers, if your schedule permits. Do you have a morning or even an hour once a month or more? Please let me know. We are open to all types of volunteers. Thank you for your loving hearts.

~Elva Mapp, Walk-In Coordinator

## Second Sunday Lunch ~ December II



### Menu

*Choice of U.S. Senate Navy Bean Soup*

*or*

*Tomato/Corn Chowder*

*Tossed Salad*

*Ham or Buttered Roll*

*Mary Corley's Apple Crisp*

## Save the Date! Childcare Center Silent Auction Gala

*Saturday, February 4, 2017*

*2500 Grove Avenue*

*5:30-8:00 pm*

*The Second Presbyterian Child Care Center, a mission of our church, is pleased to invite our members, family and friends to its gala at the recently renovated historic home of Katherine and Jack Berry.*

The silent auction, featuring donated items including artwork, catering, vacation homes and gift certificates, will include beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Tickets: \$25.00/person.

For more information, contact Cherry Peters. Please consider donating an item for the auction!

## Second Seniors Plan Winter Activities

*Join other Second Seniors for some of the activities being planned for the winter months!*

- \* **Friday, December 16 at 9:00 am**—Breakfast at McLeans Restaurant on Broad Street
- \* **Matinee performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., traveling by train** (average roundtrip ticket from Richmond is \$52). Lunch at the Kennedy Center's KC Café either before or after performance.

### **Possibilities:**

- \* Wednesday, January 4 at 2:00 pm: *Into the Woods* (musical theatre)
- \* Saturday, January 7 at 1:30 pm: *Wicked* (musical theatre)
- \* Wednesday, January 14 at 2:00 pm: *Bud, Not Buddy* (world premiere of jazz musical)
- \* Wednesday, January 25 at 1:30 pm: *Open Rehearsal: American Ballet Theatre*
- \* Saturday, January 28 at 1:30 pm: *American Ballet Theatre: Swan Lake*
- \* Tuesday, February 7 *or*
- \* Saturday, February 11 at 1:30 pm: *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater*

Be on the lookout for an email from Second Seniors with more Kennedy Center details, and reply to Judy Turk [jvturk@vcu.edu](mailto:jvturk@vcu.edu) with your first and second choices. For more information on individual performances, visit the Kennedy Center website: [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)

## 2PCCC Helping Hands Tree



As in past years, the Second Presbyterian Childcare Center Helping Hands tree will be up and decorated this Advent with children's hand prints that offer suggestions of some items the Center could use. These items include snack foods, paper towels, any size batteries, and tissues—as well as cash to purchase needed supplies. Please take a hand from the tree and return it along with your purchase before Christmas. Everyone at the Center will enjoy your thoughtful gift!

**UKirk at VCU** *November was another great month for UKirk Campus Ministries!*



We had a variety of programs during our U Fellowships on Thursday nights and we appreciated all of the meals that were prepared for us. One particular highlight was our “Friends-Giving” which we celebrated the week before Thanksgiving Break. Each student prepared a favorite dish to share and we had a feast among friends before everyone went home for the holiday. As our semester draws to a close we would like to extend our gratitude to everyone at Second Presbyterian who has supported our group. We are so grateful for everything this congregation has given us and we look forward to another great semester this spring!



**New Members** ...more to come in January newsletter!



**Jay Morgan** grew up in Richmond and is glad to have moved back, after attending college at Sewanee and spending several years living and working in Denver, Colorado; Baltimore, Maryland; and Princeton, New Jersey. He works in business development for a healthcare technology company called Pulse8. When he isn't traveling for work, Jay enjoys hiking, fishing, sailing, attempting to cook, and spending time with his family and friends.

**Luke Spangler** is a third year medical student at MCV. Originally from North Carolina, Luke is a lifelong Presbyterian and has lived in Richmond for over four years now. He is married to Molly Spangler (UKirk Campus Minister), and they have a dog named Porthos. When he isn't studying, Luke likes to mountain bike and walk Porthos to the dog park.



**Margaret Pence** moved to Westminster Canterbury from Brandermill in August, having lived there for 36 years. She enjoyed playing golf and bridge during those years. She has a daughter and a granddaughter who live in Richmond, and a son, Mac Pence, who is a member of Second with his spouse Jeff Wells.

**Erika Wheeler** is happy to be back at Second Presbyterian Church. She was previously a member and soloist in the choir. She has been active in community leadership and pursuing ways to empower and encourage individuals to seek a healthy lifestyle. Some of her favorite pastimes are embroidering and gardening.

(not pictured)



**Literary Circle's Christmas Celebration ~ Tuesday, December 11 ~ 7:00 pm**

All Literary Circle members and other women of the congregation who are interested in possibly joining the group are invited to Literary Circle's Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm. Dot Apperson will be our hostess in Westminster Canterbury's Courtyard Apartments fifth floor balcony room. As has become a tradition, there is no book assigned for December. This year Dot will be sharing one of her favorite Christmas stories and we all will be bringing a sweet or savory treat. We will be starting a half-hour earlier than usual (at 7:00 pm) to enjoy all of the treats. Please call Dot at 264-6784 if you plan to attend.



<b>December 4</b>	Church School and Worship Dinner and Program	9:30 am 5:00-7:00 pm
<b>December 11</b>	Church School and Worship Youth Holiday Party at the Mays' House	9:30 am 5:00 pm
<b>Saturday, December 17</b>	Special Holiday Youth Event	TBD
<b>Sunday, December 18</b>	Church School and Worship	9:30 am No evening meeting
<b>December 25</b>	No Church School or Youth Group	

### Presbyterian Women Circle 1

All women are invited to the Bible study on *Who is Jesus?*

They will meet at **10:30 a.m.** on **Tuesday, December 6** at Westminster Canterbury in the 6th floor lounge, Tower building. Mary Jane Winter is leading the study. Bring your Bible.

Those who can are invited to stay for lunch in the cafe.

### Presbyterian Women Circle 2

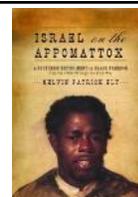
Circle #2 will meet **Tuesday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m.** at the home of Elaine Nagy, 4103 Dover Road. Em Key will continue leading us as we discuss "Who is Jesus?" according to Luke.

Background scripture is from the Gospel of Luke, chapters 1-4; 14:12-24 and 16:19-31. The key scripture is Luke 4:16-21 and Acts 2:22-24.

Come for study and fellowship.

### Day Book Group

**Tuesday, December 20, 10:00 am**  
**Suite 301 Virginia Building**



The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am, Tuesday December 20, in Room 301 Virginia Building. The book for discussion is *Israel on the Appomattox* by Melvin Patrick Ely.

All are welcome.

### AFOI Update

Recently, Alex preached on our learning to find joy in generous giving. It seems to me that one aspect of this joy is found in learning about results—what good things have happened because we made these decisions about time and money. Angie Strickland is the Director of Programs and Development of Assisting Families of Inmates. This organization was founded here at Second and has been supported by us for 38 years. Here is one story that Angie shared that is worth rejoicing and celebrating, and is the result of the generous giving of so many.



The Milk & Cookies Children's Program, or MAC as we call it, operates in four area elementary schools (Chimborazo, Fairfield Court, Swansboro, and Woodville) and is designed for children who have an incarcerated parent. This small-group support program provides trained co-facilitators to work with children by grade level during the school day. Through the year-long curriculum, a variety of topics are covered; everything from responsibility and feelings identification to grief and loss. One week focuses on family and the importance of identifying people on a family tree that you consider part of your family. One child identified family members on her tree, including her incarcerated dad. Although her dad hasn't physically been part of the family for many years, he will be returning home soon and she is very excited. She illustrated her family tree to show all of the things that her family would be doing together to celebrate his return home. She said they will be "eating cake and ice cream, taking pictures, talking, watching movies together, and lots of other fun things." Through the eyes of this young girl, we see hope for a bright and happy future for this family. This hope is often the reason we feel compelled to get involved in a cause and to do something that we feel can make a difference in the lives of others.

This holiday season I am going to be looking for stories of hope for the future. I invite you to join me in looking for ways to find joy in generous giving!

~Emilie Webb

## 2016 Memorial Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettias



Do you have a family member or friend you'd like to remember during the Christmas season? Consider giving a wreath or poinsettia in their memory or honor. Your wreath/poinsettia will be part of the beautiful Christmas decorations that add to the warmth and celebration of the Advent season.

Please fill out the form below and mail it with a donation of \$30 to the church by Friday, **December 9**. Additional forms are available on the credenza in the south vestibule.

Thank you to all who have helped decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season, both past and present. If you would like to take a poinsettia home, **you may do so after the service on December 25. Please do not donate a plant unless you can leave it until December 25.**

**RETURN BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9**



**To: Dorothy DeJong  
Second Presbyterian Church  
5 N. Fifth Street  
Richmond, VA 23219**

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**I / We give a 2016 Christmas Wreath/Poinsettia  
(please circle) *in memory of* OR *in honor of***

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**Please PRINT name(s) of loved ones on lines above**

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**Please PRINT your name here**

**Enclosed is a check for \$30 to Second Presbyterian Church**



# Second Presbyterian Church

OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

5 NORTH FIFTH STREET | RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

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



The community is invited to come together to learn, share, and show support this **Sunday, December 4, at 3:30 p.m.** at Third Street Bethel A.M.E. Church (614 N 3rd Street, Richmond). This gathering is an opportunity to stand together with those who have increasingly been targeted and marginalized, and to demonstrate concern about the recent rise in hate speech, bias, and division.

The program will include speakers, sharing, and small group dialogues. Note that this is not a political or partisan event, but will focus on our common values and commitment to standing together. Event capacity is 400 and seating will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Organizers of this effort include representatives from Bon Secours Richmond Health System, the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, Richmond Hill, Richmond Peace Education Center, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, Temple Beth El, Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, Virginia Council of Churches, the **Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy**, and the Virginia Muslim Coalition for Public Affairs.

## *A Gift of Faith. A Message of Hope. Please support the Christmas Joy Offering.*



When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor the wondrous gift of Jesus by nurturing the faith we have in God and one another. The Christmas Joy Offering supports the development of the future racial ethnic leadership of our church and aids church workers and their families in times of need, answering a faithful call to enrich lives and ease burdens. *Received Sunday, December 18.*



December 18

Special  
Music



Christmas Joy Offering Received

Deacons' Holiday Reception  
Following Worship

Saturday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Worship



5 pm

Pageant, Candlelight, Communion



10 pm

Choir, Candlelight, Communion