Second Press

Volume 35 Issue 10 October 2017

Alex Evans, Pastor

Dear Church Family,

You have probably heard about the left brain/right brain stuff, right?

It is thought that the left brain, which governs the right side of the body, is the part that thinks quite logically. It is ordered, mathematical, analytical, good at thinking and formulating an argument.

The right sphere of the brain, on the other hand, is said to be more creative, more artistic, more imaginative, more open to fantasy.

In one of his essays, John Bell, Scottish hymn writer and theologian, says that "you decide *whom* you'll marry with your right brain. It is never a logical choice. It is not a matter of going through an address book (or a dating website) and eliminating or choosing a candidate according to pre-determined criteria."

"But you decide *when* you'll get married with your left brain. You have to be certain it is a suitable day. You'll want to be sure you are not booked to have open-heart surgery that afternoon."

We use both sides of our brains to make various decisions. And some of us may be more inclined to lean toward one side or the other with many of those decisions.

The Apostle Paul seems to be mostly a left-brain thinker. His writings tend to be quite logical as he teaches Christians in the early church about discipleship. His words and directions are clear as he explains the gospel, even the resurrection of Jesus. He urges the church with specific details about many things. The words are affectionate, clear, firm, and unswerving in the promises of God.

But then, every few chapters, he bursts into words that reflect right-brain messages.

I Corinthians 4:7 says this: *"What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it was not a gift?"*

When it comes to faith and living faithfully, Paul is calling forth our logic and our creativity. Faith and living faithfully engages our sense of order as well as our imaginations and impulsive responsiveness. Faith and living faithfully involves the rational and the romantic, the calculating and the grandiose.

What do we have that we did not receive?

Why were we born where we were born? Why did we receive what we have received in terms of education, experiences, wealth, advantages, and more? That does not mean it has always been easy, or that we did not use well what has been given to us. But Paul reminds us that the blessings of life intend to lead to blessings for others, for the world. With every gift comes great responsibility. With every grace comes the expectation to live graciously, to share that grace generously with others.

I remain so grateful for this community of faith—so many faithful people who aspire to respond generously and graciously for all that we have received.

In the coming months, with Stewardship season, we have another opportunity to think about Paul's questions and re-commit our lives to gracious living with both sides of our brains. We seek to respond—with our pledges and commitments in this church—with passion and logic, with compassion and committed giving, with grandiose generosity and calculated devotion.

I love a line used daily in worship at Iona: "We will not offer to God offerings that cost us nothing." May we each keep stepping up in faithfulness with our whole selves. Amen.

Alex

Highlights from the Session Meeting

At the September meeting, the Session:

- Challenged everyone to examine their contributions report and to continue faithful pledge-giving;
- Rejoiced over the return to the beautifully refurbished sanctuary;
- Gave heartfelt thanks and acclamation to all involved in completing the sanctuary project on schedule and under budget;
- Looked forward to begin moving into a second phase of the Campaign, focusing on Mission;
- Approved church school teachers and curricula for 2017-2018;
- Approved hosting RVA Street Singers, a new VCU program to develop a singing group made up of some of our Walk-In guests as well as church members and VCU students interested in singing together;
- Prayed for many church and congregational concerns.

A Friendly Word from our Membership Council

Did you know that over 60% of new members learned about Second Presbyterian Church from a friend or family member? And that, on average, someone who joins our church has visited six to ten times before deciding to join? A survey of our new members over the past year discloses that both are true! In addition, a personal invitation is the most effective way to encourage worship attendance. So contemplate inviting a neighbor, friend, relative, or associate to join you in worship this Sunday.

Is there a member whom you have not seen in a while? Maybe someone who usually sits near you in worship or someone you used to see in Sunday School? If so, consider dropping that person a short note or perhaps giving them a call to invite them to join us in worship.

Finally, try practicing the "Circle of Ten" in worship every Sunday by personally greeting everyone, whether a member or a visitor, who sits with ten feet of you. This might be a great way to enhance your own worship experience and at the same time, welcome those around you. Visitors typically leave the building within three minutes after the worship service. Consider devoting the first three minutes after the benediction to speaking with people you do not know before speaking to family and friends. These are ways we can enhance our fellowship at Second and convey a warm welcome to everyone in our midst.

A note from Ginger Hudson

As I settle into my role as Director of the Child Care Center, I want to thank the congregation and staff of Second Presbyterian for your warm welcome to my new role.

I am so excited about this position and appreciative for the outpouring of love and support I've received as I take on this new venture. Another huge thanks goes out to the Child Care Board members for their support during the transition between directors. The former and present Board members provided many, many hours of work to keep the Center running smoothly during the interim time. This is certainly a larger call than any of our volunteer Board members were expecting when they assumed the position, and I am truly grateful for their dedication.

Now, I would like to ask for your help with staffing and enrollment. We have spaces available in our classes, as well as open staff positions, including part-time, full-time and substitute positions, and a Spanish immersion teacher, that we are looking to fill. If you know anyone interested, please have them contact me at ghudson@2presrichmond.org or 804-649-0152. *Thank you!*

Adult Education in October

Dining Room Class
October 1, 8, 15

"The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple…"
Led by Michael Bacon

October 22, 29
November 5, 12, 19, & 26

The Pulpit Leads the World: Four Centuries of Preaching in America

Led by Beverly Zink-Sawyer,
Professor Emerita of Preaching and Worship,
Union Presbyterian Seminary

Beverly Zink-Sawyer

The American church has a strong and unique tradition of preaching that has influenced the nation for more than four hundred years and created a dynamic interaction between church and culture.
From "A City upon a Hill" to "I Have a Dream," particular preachers and sermons have both shaped and been shaped by historical, ecclesiastical, and cultural trends. This series will look at many of the movements and voices of the American pulpit and the ways in which they reflect the history of the United States.

Parents of Young Children
October 1

Led by Kathryn Lester-Bacon ~ Meets in the Nursery

Bible Study
Room 308 (Pastor's Classroom)

Led by Franklin Reding

Faith and Literature
Suite 301

Facilitated by Marjorie Clark ~ *The 40s: The Story of a Decade*

Friday, September 29-Sunday, October 1	FALL RETREAT to Lake Gaston	
Sunday, October 8	Church School for High School Confirmation Class in the Cinema w/Alex Evans 5th and 6th Grade Class w/Allison Mays	9:30 am (no evening youth)
Sunday, October 15	WORSHIP NITE—5 pm Worship; 5:45 Youth Group; 6:30 Dinner	5-7 pm (no morning youth)
Sunday, October 22	All Youth Classes meet with CEDEPCA representatives	9:30 am (no evening youth)
Sunday, October 29	Dinner and Youth Group	5-7 pm (no morning youth)

Meet Our New Members

Sharon and Edson Pederson are lifelong Presbyterians. Edson taught World History and Earth Science at Tucker High School in Henrico County. He is an ordained PC(USA) pastor and has served as a stated supply pastor at various churches in the Presbytery since 1980. He also serves as a tour guide for The Valentine.

Sharon spent her professional life raising money for nonprofits including United Way, Duke, and MCV. In retirement she stays very active with the Council of the VMFA and with grandchildren.

Sally and Keith Johnston A graduate of PSCE, Sally has enjoyed a fulfilling vocation in educational ministry. She continues to teach for Yale Divinity School each summer, and happily can enjoy retirement with Keith nine months of the year. Eco-spirituality and earth care are her passion. She hopes to find others at Second to grow with in these essential faith practices.

Keith is a retired PC(USA) pastor with 40 years of pastoral ministry. He and Sally served as Volunteers in Mission in Korea in 1979, and together served a native Alaskan Mission Church north of the Arctic Circle from 2008-2012.

They have two married sons and four grandchildren.

Nick and Lori Lape have been married for 35 years. Nick served two tours in Vietnam in the Air Force, teaching English as a second language for doctors and nurses. He is a retired audiologist who ran a speech and hearing clinic for people with severe disabilities. He practices tai chi, enjoys painting, and is an ardent Alabama fan. Lori is a cradle Presbyterian originally from Danville, Virginia. She has worked as a mental health nurse for almost 40 years and is currently at the VA Hospital. She enjoys reading, walking, the Richmond Folk Festival, and is obsessed with Game of Thrones and the musical *Hamilton*. Nick and Lori have three grown children and three grandchildren.

Tell Carlson moved to Richmond from New York City to be closer to his parents who were relocating from Connecticut. His work history has been in Retail Management and Customer/Service Training. He recently started working at VCU training students in the Recreational Sports Division.

His partner, Chris Reina, is also a member at Second.

Jarl Jackson has recently moved back to Richmond from Tallahassee, Florida, where he lived for almost two decades. He is currently looking for work in town; meanwhile, he enjoys writing, reading, hiking, bicycling, and getting reacquainted with RVA.

He served as the Tallahassee Autism Support Co-Founder/Coordinator and also served as the Church Historian at First Church in Tallahassee.

Deacons' Loving Care Cards

The Deacons are striving to connect and care for the congregation members with loving care. In order to be aware when needs arise, we have developed a request card for ***Deacons' Loving Care***. These cards will soon be located in the pews and by the Deacons' desk. With your help and communication we can better serve our church family.

Mission Council News

HOLY DISCONTENT: FAITH AND ADVOCACY IN ACTION, a workshop sponsored by the Presbytery of the James, will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2:00-4:00 pm at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Explore faith-based advocacy with the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness. Learn about local advocacy efforts with immigrant/refugee issues. We hope to have a good representation from Second Presbyterian. Register at: http://tinyurl.com/holy-disc17

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is received on World Communion Sunday, **October 1**. This special PC(USA) offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. This year, 25% of the offering will be donated to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) with whom we collaborated to resettle the Rahmaty family in Richmond. The Presbytery of the James will use another 25% to support peacemaking initiatives in central Virginia, and the remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

FAITH MOVEMENT FOR RVA TRANSIT UPDATE

Progress continues on building a metro transit system in the Richmond area to improve access to jobs, food and housing. On October 12, faith communities are invited to attend a program at the Science Museum on "Richmond Transit: What's Happening and What's Next?" from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Connect to www.rvarapidtransit.org for more information and events.

Second Seniors Activities

All older adults are warmly welcomed to join the activities of Second Seniors. For more information, please contact Lillian Rhudy (rhudys2@verizon.net, 804-270-0871) or Mary Spain (mspain230@gmail.com , 804-359-2524). Members and ideas always welcome.

Sunday, October 1	**Anniversary Celebration honoring Second's Seniors.** Seniors are invited to enjoy a luncheon immediately following worship. To sign up, please call the front desk during the week or sign up at the Deacon's Desk on Sunday.
Friday, October 20	**3rd Friday Breakfast** at McLean's on Broad Street. 9:00 am
Sunday, October 29	**5th Sunday Brunch** at Carini Italian Restaurant, 3718 Williamsburg Road. Please sign up at the Deacon's Desk.
Thursday, November 2	**Tour of Tuckahoe Plantation,** 12061 River Road. Meet at the Plantation at 10:00 am for a 45-minute tour (tickets $15; $10 if we have 10 people), followed by time to roam the gardens and grounds. We will lunch together at 12:30 pm at Portico Restaurant, 12506 River Road. Please sign up on the sheet at the Deacon's Desk.

Second Sunday Lunch! October 8

Menu

Pulled Pork with Vinegar or Tomato BBQ sauce

Creamy Coleslaw

Chunky Applesauce

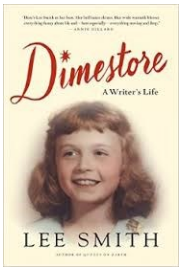
Carrot Cake

Adults and Youth $8; Kids (10 and under) $5

Literary Circle

Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 pm

Literary Circle will meet on October 10 at 7:00 pm at the home of Elsa Falls, 2180 Cedarfield Lane. Elsa will lead the discussion of *Dimestore* by Lee Smith.



Please contact Carolyn Brandt (804-288-2511, crbrandt1412@gmail.com) or Page Wagner (804-323-7038) for more information.

A Note from Elizabeth Baril

I was born in Richmond and went to St. Catherine's. Then I attended Christopher Newport University where I majored in social work. Now I am in my third and final year at Union Presbyterian Seminary. I will be working this year at Second as a youth minister and also as a seminary intern. I look forward to being active with our youth as well as working with our downtown ministry, pastoral care, and worship leadership.

Presbyterian Women Circle 2

Tuesday, October 1, 11:00 am

Circle #2 will meet Tuesday, October 1, at the home of Genie Schutt, 3320 Loxley Rd. at 11:00 am. Our Bible Moderator Em Key will lead us in our study this year on the theme "Community."

The first lesson is "in community with Jesus Christ" taken from Hebrews 1:1-4 and 7:26-28. Please join us for good fellowship and lively discussion.

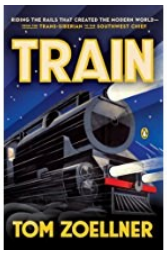
UKirk had an amazing September together!

In addition to our regular Thursday night programs, we had our second annual fall retreat! We went to Lake Gaston, on the border of North Carolina, for the week-end of September 15th-17th. Our theme this year was "Jesus Flipping Tables: How the Gospel Informs our Faithful Responses to the World Around Us." We examined stories of Jesus at his most human moments, when he wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus, when he flipped over tables of the money changers in the temple, when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane while his disciples fell asleep. We discovered that these moments connect us to God because Christ has experienced the emotions we feel as human beings. We closed Saturday night with an evening of worship right on the water as the sun set. It was a meaningful weekend where we were able to make connections with God, as well as with one another, and this shared experience will allow us to move forward this fall having a better understanding of who we are as a community of faith. I cannot say enough how formative this fall retreat is for our students, and it would not be possible without you. Thank you all so much for your prayers and for your continued support. ~Molly Spangler

Day Book Group

Tuesday, October 17, 10:00 am
Room 308 Virginia Building

The book for discussion is *Train* by Tom Zoellner.



All are welcome.

Golf Tournament Thursday, October 12

Centenary United Methodist Church, one of our partners in Downtown Church Ministry, invites all who are interested to join them in playing in a golf tournament that raises money for *Rise Against Hunger,* on Thursday, October 12, at The Hollows Golf Course in Montpelier.

On Saturday, **October 28** at 8:45 am, anyone interested in helping Centenary pack the meals are invited to help! For more information on the tournament or the packaging event, please call Centenary's church office at: 804-648-8319. Ask for Doug Wilson, Ann David or Nancy Cook.

Mission Partners from Guatemala Coming in October

Judith Casteñada

Second Presbyterian has enjoyed a long relationship with CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Education) and supports their important ministry in Guatemala. This summer, six from Second took part in a mission trip hosted by CEDEPCA and returned with much enthusiasm. CEDEPCA is a validated mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Emerson Morales

We are excited to welcome Emerson Morales and Judith Casteñada from CEDEPCA October 16-23. Plan to greet them and hear from them on Wednesday night, October 18. Mission Council is hosting an evening with them for the congregation.

Date: Wednesday, October 18
Time: 7:00-8:30 pm
Place: Westminster Canterbury, Courtyard Lounge on the 5th Floor

There are other opportunities for church members to connect with Emerson and Judith and/or to help with their visit. For more details, contact Mary Jane Winter at mjwinter@comcast.net or 359-5599.

OCTOBER 1 at 5:00 pm

Faith, fellowship, and food for all men of the church!

Bryan Carr's House
109 N. Plum

Contact bryancarr@comcast.net for more information

Looking Ahead ~

Stewardship Sunday —November 12

Art Exhibit: Celebrating the Season of Advent and the Winter Solstice

Our winter congregational art exhibit will feature mixed media art works including paintings, photography, textiles and poems. We invite you to share your artistic gifts. Art works will be accepted before December 1st. The show will hang from December 3rd through February. Information and entry forms are on the credenza or contact Mary Millet at marycmillet@gmail.com.

Save the Date ~ Assisting Families of Inmates Celebrates 40 Years of Ministry ~ April 10, 2018

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Thank you for the wonderful surprise party. I am so grateful for all of you!

Alex

Sunday, October 15

9:30 am **Church School**

11:00 am **Worship**

Richmond Folk Festival—walk down from church after morning worship!

5:00 pm **Worship in the Chapel**

5:45 pm **Youth & Adult Programs**

6:30 pm **Dinner**