



Alex Evans, Pastor

Dear Church Family,

We as Presbyterians have always been a confessional, or creedal, church. Through the years, we have found it beneficial to state our faith and bear witness to God's grace in written statements, called creeds or confessions. In these statements the church declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it

believes, and what it resolves to do. We seek to be a community known by our convictions as well as our actions. These statements intend to summarize the essence of our faith, encourage us in life, and equip us for God's work.

Both in my devotional time, and also recently in some teaching moments, my own heart, mind, and faith have been encouraged from the Study Catechism, which was approved in 1998 by the PCUSA. As we move toward Holy Week and Easter, these words help me; perhaps they help you.

Q. 42. What do you affirm when you say that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate"?

First, that our Lord was humiliated, rejected, and abused by the temporal authorities of his day, both religious and political. Christ thus aligned himself with all human beings who are oppressed, tortured, or otherwise shamefully treated by those with worldly power.

Second, and even more importantly, that our Lord, though innocent, submitted himself to condemnation by an earthly judge so that through him we ourselves, though guilty, might be acquitted before our heavenly Judge.

Q. 43. What do you affirm when you say that he was "crucified, dead, and buried"?

That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he is unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.

Q. 44. What do you affirm when you say that he "descended into hell"?

That our Lord took upon himself the full consequence of our sinfulness, even the agony of abandonment by God, in order that we might be spared.

Q. 45. Why did Jesus have to suffer as he did?

Because grace is more abundant—and sin more serious—than we suppose. However cruelly we may treat one another, all sin is primarily against God. God condemns sin, yet never judges apart from grace. In giving Jesus to die for us, God took the burdens of our sin into God's own self to remove it once and for all. The cross in all its severity reveals an abyss of sin swallowed up by the suffering of divine love.

Q. 46. What do you affirm when your say that "on the third day he rose again from the dead"?

That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.

Some reflection and prayer on these words that speak about the events of Holy Week can give depth and inspiration to our faith and life in these days.

Here is a quote that might inspire us all as we live into this season: "Live intensively in the expectation of the Lord! He who does not wait for the Lord in every aspect of his life does not wait at all. I ask myself every evening, have I really loved enough, hoped enough, fought enough, worked enough? The expectation of the kingdom must lead to deeds." (J. Heinrich Arnold)

Grace and peace to you,

Alex

Highlights from the Session Meeting

At the March meeting, the Session:

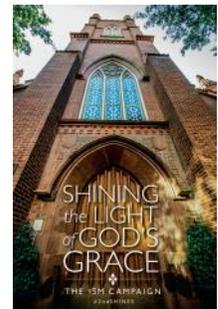
- ◆ Was inspired by statements of faith and answers to ordination questions from newly elected church officers: Stacey Dendy, Kate Nash, Richard Reynolds, Katherine Goodpasture, Cathy Howard, Lucretia McCulley, Henry Tenser, and Katherine Weisiger.
- ◆ Thanked outgoing elders for their exemplary leadership: Sharon Blount, Ben Dendy, Greg Dickie, Sheri Highfill, and Sue Munro;
- ◆ Heard a report on *Vision 2020*, a Presbytery team that is listening to members throughout the POJ to discern how we see God working His purpose out in our presbytery;
- ◆ Welcomed reports on new mission projects—joining with others to support a Syrian refugee family, and beginning an Open Table program;
- ◆ Continued in prayer and support for many other ongoing programs and efforts—from parking deck and sanctuary improvements to UKirk and VALEAP, and always from individuals and families.

Capital Campaign Update

Thank you, thank you to everyone who has pledged to the "Sharing the Light of God's Grace" capital campaign. We currently have raised \$3,858,343 from 149 donors. This represents 77% of our \$5,000,000 goal raised in less than one year from launching the campaign! This is a three-year campaign, and all pledges and donations of any amount are valued and welcomed.

The campaign committee continues to meet monthly to refine plans for supporting building improvements and mission opportunities. \$1.5 million is designated for long deferred refurbishments to our historic sanctuary. Another \$1.5 million is designated for improvements to other community spaces such as points of entry, restrooms, the Heritage Room, and the choir room; and \$2 million is specifically designated for international and local mission endeavors, mission and theological education, and a mission endowment.

Members of the campaign committee include Tom Jefferson, Marjorie Clark, Julia Carr, Don Falls, Greg Dickie, and Tom Holland. The committee is co-chaired by Allison and Vernon Mays and Mac Pence and Jeff Wells. Please feel free to contact any member of the campaign committee for any questions or additional information.



Volunteers Needed—Walk-In Ministry



Are you interested in volunteering with a program that makes a difference in the lives of those who live on the margins in Richmond?

Help the Walk-In lunch program for a few hours on Mondays once a month or more. We need soup cooks, receptionists, dining room coordinators, clothing assistants, and folks to pack and distribute snack suppers. We also need volunteers a few times a year to help prepare and serve the lunches.

Only have an hour to spare? We need drink servers and general helpers as well, from 11:45-12:45.

Please contact Elva Mapp or Nancy Updegrave for more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Adult Education in April

- April 2**
Nursery
Parents of Young Children ~ Led by Kathryn Lester-Bacon
- April 2**
Dining Room
Final class on *Lenten Wisdom from the Desert Fathers and Mothers* ~ Led by Dr. Christine Luckritz Marquis
- April 9**
No Church School (Palm Sunday DCM Service at Third Street AME at 10:15)
- April 16 & 23**
Dining Room
Special Easter Conversations ~ Led by Alex and Kathryn
- April 30**
Dining Room
All adult classes will gather in the Dining Room to welcome Dr. David Coogan, Associate Professor of English at VCU, and author of the book *Writing Our Way Out: Memoirs from Jail*.
This book is a memoir of teaching ten men at the Richmond City Jail (now the Justice Center) to write their ways out of the cycle of crime. The writing workshop starts at the jail, evolves into a pen pal program when the men are sent to prison, and ends when they are released to begin their new lives.



David Coogan

New Members

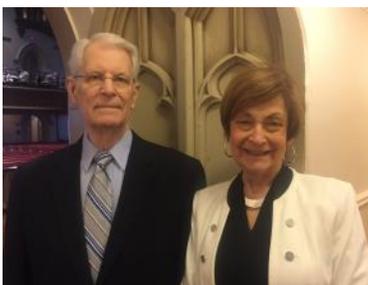


Lauren and Reid Powell have been married since June 2015 and have a 5-month-old son named James. Reid is in sales and Lauren is a high school teacher. They love spending time with family and playing music together. Reid grew up at Second Presbyterian Church and is excited to be back here with Lauren and their son.



Welcome!

Marion “Dusty” Pritchett has three children and eight grandchildren. She loves nature, especially birding, and enjoys hiking and canoeing in the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. She moved to Westminster Canterbury last May from Charlotte, North Carolina and loves it. She also loves music and encouraging young people, and has a deep faith in God.



Hank and Susan Postel moved to Richmond in 2006 after Hank retired having served his last church in Maryland for 24 years. His post retirement career included an enjoyable year as Associate Interim Minister at Second Church. Susan is a retired school teacher. She has enjoyed being a minister’s wife for many years. Their children and grandchildren have kept them traveling to many interesting areas of the world. Now they are enjoying settling into a calmer retirement at Covenant Woods.

Jamie Alexander and Priscilla Powell Jamie and Priscilla are both from Richmond. Jamie is an avid fly fisherman after living out in Jackson Hole for several years. He is a portfolio manager at Redmond Asset Management. Priscilla is a child psychologist at the Children’s Hospital of Richmond and in private practice. Jamie and Priscilla were married here at Second Church in 2015. They have a son, Wyatt Alexander, born in December 2016.



Xel (“Shell”), Kandi, and Alison Sant’Anna After living in New Kent for 24 years, the family recently moved to the City to enjoy the vibrant life it has to offer. Xel enjoys cycling and the outdoors. He is the son of a Presbyterian minister and looks forward to helping better the lives of his new neighbors.



Kandi is a native of Richmond and graduated from VCU.

She entered the financial industry and has worked for BB&T Scott & Stringfellow for the last 22 years. She enjoys being with family and friends, running and traveling.

Alison is a recent graduate of East Carolina University with a degree in Communications. Throughout high school and college she has been involved with the Virginia Department of Alcohol Beverage Control working to prevent underage drinking. Alison loves to be outdoors, working out at CrossFit, and being with her friends and family.

CARITAS is Coming to Second — April 22-29

This year Second Presbyterian Church will provide shelter, food and hospitality to homeless women through our participation in CARITAS during the week of April 22-29. CARITAS has been an integral part of Second’s longtime commitment to making Christ known in the city and we want to make this year a special one for our guests.



Our need for volunteers is great and the tasks are varied. Please look over this list and decide how you might be able to help with this wonderful program. Talk to friends in the church and see what you might do together. **Sign up will begin April 2** at Coffee Hour after worship.

- Key volunteers: one person, four hour shift from 5:00-9:00 pm each night, helping make our guests feel welcome and assisting with the transitions for the evening tasks.
- Overnight volunteers: two people, from 9:00 pm—8:00 am helping make our guests comfortable and putting out the breakfast trays and bag lunches in the morning. This is a two person job—couples encouraged.
- Set-up volunteers: five to ten volunteers to help transform the Hawes Building into a dorm on Saturday, April 22, at noon.
- Breakdown volunteers: five to ten volunteers to help clean up and convert the Hawes Building to its original condition on Saturday, April 29, at 9:00 am.
- Dinner prep teams: teams to prepare and serve dinner and make bag lunches for the following day.
- Entertainment/activities volunteers: need ideas, materials and teams to provide enrichment and fun during the week.

Please contact Kevin Divins (248-8865) ziggyallen4@gmail.com or Bob Diller (248-8122) bobdiller1967@gmail.com with questions and offers to help. *Thank you!*

April Church Lunch

Sunday, April 2



Menu

Ele's Awesome Macaroni & Cheese

Baked Ham

Spinach Salad

Lemon Cake

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

Look Who's Preaching



- April 2** Alex Evans
- April 9** Kathryn Lester-Bacon
- April 16** (Easter) Alex Evans
- April 23** Carter Lester
- April 30** Alex Evans

Sunday Flower Dates Available:

April 9 (Palm Sunday) and July 9

If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by donating flowers on one of these Sundays, please contact Dorothy DeJong (ddejong@2presrichmond.org).

Tuesday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m.

A free, community-wide screening of

13th

the Oscar-nominated documentary about justice, incarceration, and race in America



At St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 6000 Grove Avenue (corner of Three Chopt Road and Grove Avenue, near the University of Richmond) 288-2867



April 9

We will be joining with our Downtown Community Ministry church neighbors for 10:15 am worship at Third Street Bethel AME, located at 614 N. 3rd St. Join our parade from Second Church to Third Street Bethel church (10:00 am) or meet us there for the 10:15 am worship.

We will return to Second for our 11:00 am service.



On Easter Sunday, the children and youth will be flowering the cross in the Sanctuary during Church School.

Bring flowers from your yard to add to the celebration!



Sunday, April 2	Church School + Worship + Lunch Come join us at the Youth table!	9:30 am (No evening group)
Sunday, April 9	PALM SUNDAY—Palm Parade + Worship Dinner + Program	9:30 am 5-7 pm
Sunday, April 16	EASTER—Church School + Worship	9:30 am (No evening group)
Sunday, April 23	Church School + Worship CARITAS: Prepare, Serve, and Eat Dinner	9:30 am 5-7 pm
Friday, April 28- Sunday, April 30	Senior High Retreat at Wintergreen Middle School Retreat at Camp Hanover	



MAUNDY
Thursday

Thursday, April 13

Worship at Ebenezer Baptist at 7:00 pm

216 W. Leigh St., Richmond, VA 23220

Join with us in worship with our brothers and sisters at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Our choirs will sing and we will celebrate communion together.

Give to the One Great Hour of Sharing—Together We Share Resources and Change Lives

When flood destroys communities in West Virginia or when Haiti reels from a hurricane, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is on the ground. When drought and famine strike sub-Saharan Africa, the Presbyterian Hunger Program is there. When women in Bangladesh need income producing projects, Self Development of People responds. Your gifts make a difference. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, your gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help empower the poor and oppressed. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on **Easter Sunday, April 16**. Let's give generously and thankfully! Please make checks out Second Presbyterian, memo line OGHS.



Coming Events for Second Seniors Fellowship

- Third Friday Breakfast at McLean's: **April 21, May 19**
- Fifth Sunday Lunch: **April 30**
- Save the Date for the following: **Lunch and Tour of Capitol and Mansion, Sunday, May 21** (from approximately 1:00-4:00 pm.) Lunch will be at Merriweather's, followed by tour at 2:30. Park on street or walk down from church.
- Potluck Lunch at church: **Wednesday, June 14** with Charley Cooke, speaker: "Medical Advances During the Civil War"
- Fifth Sunday Lunch: **July 30** *Sign-up sheets for these events will be at the Deacon's Desk.*

Greetings Friends,



This spring is flying by fast for our college students in UKirk. There is only about one month left of classes!

Over spring break week in the middle of March our students took some time to engage in the community. Monday, March 6th, we volunteered with our very own Walk-In ministry here at Second. We packed a lot of bagged dinners and we were also able to participate in handing them out as our Walk-In friends left after lunch. Then on Wednesday, March 8th, we went to the Virginia Holocaust museum together. Coming up in April we are helping to participate in a "Peace-to-Go" event at Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church near VCU's campus. On Sunday, April 23rd from 1:00-3:00 pm our students will join with other campus ministries in sharing our interpretation of peace to whoever walks by. We will be in the parking lot behind Grace & Holy, so if you can, please stop by and see our students and receive a gift of Peace after Easter.

We still have one or two dinner spots that need to be filled! Our students love having a home cooked meal every Thursday night and the fellowship we share around the table is a big part of their week. If you haven't brought us a meal or if you want to bring us another one, please click on this link and sign up today! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a45acab22a4fd0-spring> As always, thank you all for your continued prayers and support for our students.

Peace,
Molly

What's New With the Parking Deck ?

The famous red Second Presbyterian parking stamp is no longer accepted as parking validation. Lanier Parking, the new management company, has now issued stickers that go directly onto the parking ticket where it says "Sticker Here." The new scanner will only read the side with bar codes, so it's important that the sticker be placed where designated. If the sticker is not properly placed, in order to exit the deck, you will have to pay to park. During normal office hours, the stickers will be issued by the desk volunteer. At regular night meetings (Session, Diaconate, Councils) stickers will be available for the meetings.

What do you do with your ticket? After properly applying the validation sticker, the new machine has a slot labeled "Insert Ticket Here." Insert your ticket, the arm will rise, and you may exit.

What's not new? If you are attending a non-church-related event (such as meetings nearby or Lenten Lunches at St. Paul's), you may park in any non-reserved space and pay to park. If you are attending a church sponsored event/activity or volunteering for Walk-In, please park in the "Reserved for Second Presbyterian" parking spaces first before parking in the next available space. While there is currently an attendant present, in the near future, the parking deck will be fully automated.

* Please note that if you lose your ticket, you need to obtain a ticket from the "Lost Ticket" slot and you will be required to pay the daily rate of \$18. Credit cards only for payment; no cash accepted.

Presbyterian Women Circle 1

Circle 1 meets **Tuesday, April 11 at 10:30 am** at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave), 6th floor Lounge. Marian English will lead the study on the "Non-canonical Gospels," chapter 7 in *Who Is Jesus*. Although these writings about Jesus did not have the same merit and were not included in the New Testament, they are very interesting. For us they provide a glimpse of the diversity in the early years of Christianity as followers asked, "Who is Jesus?" Come and enjoy an interesting discussion.

Presbyterian Women Circle 2

Circle #2 will meet on **Tuesday, April 4, at 11:00 am** at the home of Anne Jefferson, 1419 Park Avenue.

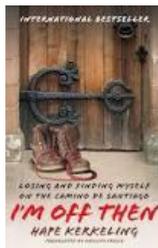
Em Key will continue to lead our study of "Who is Jesus?" according to Hebrews and to the non-canonical gospels.

Please come for study and fellowship.

Literary Circle

Tuesday, April 11

Please join Literary Circle on April 11 at 7:30 pm at the home of Betty Dickie, 9404 Michelle Place. Betty will lead the discussion of *I'm Off Then* by Hape Kerkeling. Please contact Carolyn Brandt (288-2511, crbrandt1412@gmail.com) or Page Wagner (323-7038) for more information.

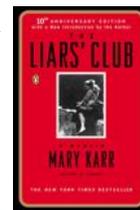


Day Book Group

Tuesday, April 18, 10:00 am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 18, in Room 308, The Virginia Building.

All are welcome.



Guatemala Mission Trip August 14-21

If you are considering this opportunity please contact Mary Jane Winter at mjwinter@comcast.net. What a wonderful opportunity to visit a country of stunning beauty, engage in caring for God's creation, and see God's mission come alive. Hosted by our Presbyterian Mission partners in Guatemala and sponsored by our presbytery.





Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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MAUNDY
Thursday

Thursday, April 13
Worship at Ebenezer
Baptist at 7:00 pm

Heads Up!



Sanctuary Renovation
begins May 1.
Thank you for your
cooperation!

Address Service Requested



Easter Sunday
April 16