



Second Press

Volume 35 Issue 2 February 2017



Alex Evans, Pastor

Dear Church Family,

In the 13th century, there lived a German theologian, philosopher, and mystic by the name of Meister Eckhart. Here is a paraphrase of one of his famous sayings:

*“If all you ever say is
**THANK YOU, that will be
enough.**”*

THANK YOU for the faithfulness and wonderful responsiveness to the recent Stewardship Campaign that provides the resources for loving and serving God in downtown Richmond and throughout the world. **THANK YOU**—the church family—for your generous commitments and care, which allow us to expand our mission efforts and enable us to be a beacon of light for Christ.

At the January Session meeting, we adopted a Budget for our Mission and Ministry for this year—2017. That budget grows our mission and outreach, provides for our worship, strengthens our Christian Education, maintains our wonderful facility, supports our staff, and more. We continue to strive to be a beacon of light and love, joy and justice in this city and throughout the region. We look forward to worshiping and serving together.

THANK YOU too for the congregation’s continuing faithfulness in support of our “SHINING THE LIGHT OF GOD’S GRACE” Campaign. You can read an update in this newsletter about our progress toward our \$5 million goal. We can all be encouraged that we are moving forward very well.

As we strive to SHINE THE LIGHT OF GOD’S GRACE brighter in Richmond, THIS MONTH we will begin to see and experience some of the inconvenience of this work on our worship and ministry. As you may recall, a key piece of this

campaign is the refreshment of our wonderful and historic Sanctuary. Across the coming Sundays, workers will be installing new HVAC equipment in our Chapel and Sanctuary. This is a major effort requiring cranes to install large equipment. Last summer’s problems, when the air conditioning was lost, remain a fresh memory. This initial work on the HVAC system will be done in two steps—first the Chapel and then the Sanctuary. In each step, there will be no heat available. So we are making arrangements to hold Chapel activities in the Dining Room, and then shift our worship into the Chapel for the first two Sundays in February—February 5 and 12, which will be YOUTH SUNDAY. Thanks for your patience and understanding. As the familiar signs confirm: “Pardon the inconvenience, we are making improvements for our future.” The HVAC is just the first step toward wonderful refreshment of our historic Sanctuary.

Most of the work on the Sanctuary will begin in May, and last, we hope, for 3-4 months. During this time, we will worship in the Chapel. Scaffolding will fill the Sanctuary space. The sprinkler system has to be re-furbished. The walls will be painted. The hammer beams will be cleaned. New lighting will be installed. New upholstery will be added to the pews, and more. We are lining up all of this work in these days.

Again, **THANK YOU** for your support of this project, the first visible piece as we strive to shine the light of God’s grace in and from Second Presbyterian Church, RVA. Thank you for your prayers, gifts, and patience.

Alex

Highlights from the Session Meeting

At the January meeting, the Session:

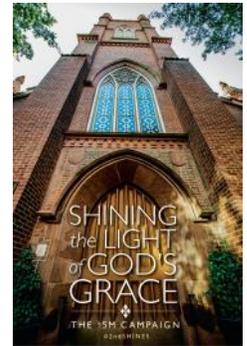
- ◆ Approved a proposed budget for 2017 and rejoiced that our congregation are faithful stewards in their support of the church;
- ◆ Moved forward on planning for necessary replacement of outdated HVAC systems;
- ◆ Appointed ad hoc committee chairs to begin planning for the 2020 celebration of the 175th anniversary of Second Presbyterian;
- ◆ Called a congregational annual meeting for February 19, 2017, to elect church officers and to receive the annual report;
- ◆ Heard committee reports and celebrated with thanksgiving the hard work and talents of many members for the work of the church—from parking deck repairs and Property Council decisions to work with UKirk and in Worship.

Shining the Light of God's Grace Capital Campaign Update

As this newsletter goes to press, we have a total of \$3,774,228 in pledges and donations to our "Shining the Light of God's Grace" capital campaign from 136 donors. Praise God! This means we have raised over 75% of our \$5 million goal in just eight months after launching the campaign!

The capital campaign committee expresses sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who has already pledged to the campaign for this incredibly generous response in such a short period of time. Thank you, thank you, thank you! We begin 2017 well on our way to meeting—or even surpassing!—our ambitious goal. We still have a ways to go to reach our goal for the three-year campaign, however. We welcome contributions of any amount. Our goal is for full participation by the congregation. **ALL** gifts are valuable and essential to sharing the light of God's Grace within our walls, in the City of Richmond, and beyond. Results of the campaign are already manifest around our church building. Campaign funds will support much needed updates to our HVAC system and continued enhancements to our choir room. This is just the beginning of work that includes important and much needed enhancements to the sanctuary and other areas of the church that will be unfolding across the coming year and beyond. The capital campaign committee is co-chaired by Allison and Vernon Mays and Jeff Wells and Mac Pence. Members of the committee include Julia Carr, Don Falls, Greg Dickie, Marjorie Clark, Mary Sue Donahue, Tom Holland, and Tom Jefferson.

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee for questions or further information.



*Please
Note*

- ◆ *Worship on **February 5** and **February 12** will be held in the Chapel due to HVAC upgrades in the Sanctuary.*
- ◆ *There will be no **Second Sunday Lunch** in February.*
- ◆ *Annual Congregational Meeting on **February 19**.*



Youth Sunday ~ February 12!

Sunday, February 5	Church School (Planning) + Worship (Souper Bowl collection at Worship)	9:30 am No evening meeting
Saturday, February 11	Final rehearsal for Youth Sunday	10:00am—12 noon
Sunday, February 12	YOUTH SUNDAY! Lunch out together after worship	9:30 am
Sunday, February 19	Church School + Worship Bowling and Fun!	9:30 am 5-7pm
Sunday, February 26	Church School + Worship Dinner and Program	9:30 am 5-7 pm

Adult Education in February



February 5
Dining Room

Corridors of the Kingdom ~ final Sunday class on this topic

February 5
Nursery

Parents of Young Children led by Becca Cummings
Using a variety of texts, blogs, etc. this class will encourage young families to share the joys and challenges of raising children in the faith. *Meets on the first Sunday of every month.*

February 12, 19, and 26
Dining Room

Bruce Miller from Virginia Repertory Theatre **NEW TOPIC**
Leads discussion of Acts of Faith Plays of the 2017 Season

February 5, 12, 19, and 26
Room 308

Bible Class with Franklin Reding

February 5, 12, 19, and 26
Suite 301

Faith and Literature Class ~ facilitated by Marjorie Clark
The 40s: The Story of a Decade—outstanding literary selections, all of which were published in the New Yorker magazine during the 1940's and which addressed major happenings of the time, from World War II to adjusting to post-war life.



Saturday, February 4th, 5:30-8:00 pm

Childcare Center Silent Auction

At the Berrys' Home ~ \$25/person ~ RSVP by January 31 to Midge Cooke 804-569-4273



2017 Officer Election Nominees For Class of 2020



Elders:

Tom Flynn (2) and his wife have been members of Second for over 30 years, where Tom has served as Deacon, Elder, Capital Campaign Chair, Childcare Center Board President, Chair of APNC, and Usher Coordinator. Their adult children, Kelly and Tommy Jr., grew up in Second. Tom is the retired City Transportation Engineer for Richmond city and enjoys watching Duke football and basketball, walking their dog, Jinx, and visiting their two grandsons.

Elva Mapp (2) Elva has been a member of Second for several years. She has served on the Session, the Diaconate, the Mission Council, the Nominating Committee, the Second Presbyterian Childcare Center Board, and the Arts Committee, and she sings in the choir. She was ordained as an elder at a sister congregation. She is the coordinator of the Walk-In program at Second, and she also works as a teacher in various private schools.

Sloan White (2) joined the church in 2012 and was elected as an elder in 2014. She has been the head of the Membership Council and is active with the "20/30 Somethings" group. She loves spending time with her family: husband John, a periodontics resident at VCU, her 10 month old daughter Adkins, and Becky the German shorthaired pointer. Sloan is an advertising manager for Capital One. She enjoys greeting visitors and meeting new people, and of course, cheering on the Richmond Spiders and Ohio State Buckeyes.

Cathy Howard has been a member of Second Presbyterian for 25 years. As a member she has served as a deacon, taught Sunday School, and been a long-term member of Mission Council. For a couple of years, she co-led the CARITAS week at the church. She is also a Trustee at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Cathy is the Vice Provost for Community Engagement at VCU and has been at the university for 29 years. She is married to Jeff Gallagher and the mother of Joseph and Nan Gallagher.

Lucretia McCulley has been a member of Second Presbyterian since 2009. She has participated on the Membership Council since she joined the church and she served on the Session from 2012-2015. Lucretia has also taught church school for both children and adults and provided leadership for faith-based advocacy efforts. An academic librarian since 1981, Lucretia is Head of Scholarly Communications at the University of Richmond Libraries and she is married to Dan Ream.

Katherine Weisiger and her husband, Minor, have been members of Second since 2014. Katherine is a member of the Childcare Center board, tutors at Chimborazo Elementary, and is captain of one of the Second Sunday lunch serving teams. She has deep roots in the Presbyterian Church, including her grandfather, Dr. William E. Hill, who was the third pastor at Second, and she is also the sister of Ele Bigger. Katherine is the Retirement Manager for Hunton & Williams law firm, where she has worked for 33 years. She and Minor live in the Fan and have two adult sons.

Henry Tenser was baptized at Second Presbyterian Church in 1946 when Charles Tenser, his father, was a tenor in the quartet. Henry joined in June of 1985. He has been a deacon, youth group advisor, volunteer receptionist for Walk-In Ministry, and he currently serves on the Property Council, Sanctuary Renovation Committee, and the Wayfinding Committee. Henry is an architect by trade and has been in private practice since 1972. He works mostly in adaptive reuse. Henry married Missy in 2004 and they have four married children and eight grandchildren.

Katherine Goodpasture has been a member of Second since 1980. Over the last 37 years she has served as a member of the property council, education council, business luncheon committee, pastor search committees, and nominating committee, taught Sunday School, and chaired the Diaconate and the Session's membership council. For the last 21 years Katherine has taught 4th grade at the Steward School. She also likes to knit.

Deacons:

Kevin Divins (2) is a native of Florida who has lived in Virginia for 9 years. He and his husband Bob Diller have been members of Second for 4 years. He is a member of the choir and Mission Council. He and Bob have coordinated our CARITAS week in recent years. He is a frequent visitor to the Virginia State Parks and is a travel blogger and photographer for them. He is also in training to become a Virginia Master Naturalist.

Deacons: (continued)

Ginger Hudson (2) grew up at Bon Air Presbyterian and was active in North Carolina State's Presbyterian Campus Ministry. She served one year in Belfast, Northern Ireland, through the Young Adult Volunteer program and shared her experience around the States on the Mission Interpretation Team. She served on the recent APNC at Second. Ginger teaches kindergarten in Henrico County. She enjoys yoga, family trips to West Virginia, skiing and biking with her boyfriend, Stephen, and snuggling with her cat, Gabby, in her Church Hill home.

Patrick McDonnell (2) and his wife Anne are currently in their fifth year as members of Second. They were former long-time members of New Covenant Presbyterian in Chesterfield where Patrick sang in the choir, served on Administration and Stewardship, including two terms as an Elder, one term each as Treasurer and Clerk of Session. He repairs wheelchairs and other equipment for the disabled. He and Anne enjoy five grandchildren.

Debbie Powers (2) grew up in Tennessee and was married at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis. Before moving to Richmond, she and her family also lived in Baton Rouge; Oak Ridge; and Morristown, Tennessee. She is a proud parent of son, Brad, and daughter Emily, who is a member here at Second as well. She loves spending time with family and grandchildren, cooking, knitting, quilting, and interior design. She is an active member of the Richmond Ole Miss Alumni Club and Chapter M PEO.

Mary Millet (2) is a lifelong Presbyterian and has been a member at Second since 2009. During that time she has worked on several art projects and served as co-coordinator for CARITAS. She is on a Second Sunday serving team and co-chair of the Arts Council and is finishing her first term as Deacon. Besides working part-time, Mary paints, plays tennis and spends time with her four grandchildren.

Amy Thompson (2) grew up at Second and is the daughter of Tom and Martha Edmonds. She rejoined Second along with her husband, Scott, several years ago when they returned to live in the Richmond area. They have two children, Thomas and Mary, both of whom are seniors at Patrick Henry High School. Amy works for Hanover County Public Schools.

Richard Reynolds is the father of three grown children. He is former President of Alcoa and Reynolds Metals Flexible Packaging Division. He has served on the boards of Leadership Metro Richmond, Virginia Counsel of CEOs, and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and is President of the board of Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond. A graduate of St. Christopher's School and Davidson College, he serves as a trustee of St. Christopher's and St. Catherine's Schools and is on the Board of Visitors of Davidson College. He enjoys snow skiing, horseback riding, and salt water fishing.

Stacey Dendy and her family have been members of the church since about 1991. She has been a longtime supporter of Youth ministries at the church and has actively supported a variety of programs over the years. Stacey has served as a youth Sunday school teacher, served on the Families of Youth committee and prepared dinners for youth and UKirk. She enjoys golf, skiing, walking and spending time outdoors. She is currently attending the Faith and Literature class.

Kate Nash (filling remaining 2 years of Beth Stewart's term) joined Second Presbyterian in 2015 with her daughter, Frances Coats. She was ordained as a deacon at a young age, in 1990, at Westminster Presbyterian in Dayton, Ohio. She is a tenured English professor and assistant dean for academic affairs at VCU. She serves as deacon in loving honor of Claudia Emerson.

Trustees:

Ken Powell is a Wealth Advisor with Wells Fargo Private Bank. He has served as an Elder and on Mission Council. Ken and Cicely, his wife, have been involved in many Second Presbyterian Church fund raising activities and helped lead a youth mission trip to Malawi.

Phil Hart is an investment attorney with Genworth here in Richmond. He has been a member of Second Presbyterian for six years and before joining he attended the church regularly for many years with his wife, Dot Hart, and their two children, Anne Larimer and Philip. Phil serves on the Session as an Elder, is a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, and sings in the Adult choir.

UKirk at VCU

UKirk started 2017 off by going to the College Conference at Montreat January 2-5. The theme this year was *Beyond Babel: Unity Through Diversity*. Worship centered around stories in scripture that teach us about the diversity of God's kingdom and what amazing things humans can accomplish when we are unified. Our preacher for the week was the Rev. Paul Roberts Sr. who is the president of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He led us in worship each day and built upon the theme by emphasizing that unity does not mean "sameness," but unity means embracing each person's uniqueness as we work together as the body of Christ. We also had two amazing keynoters: The Rev. Dr. Betty Deas Clark and Valarie Kaur.

Clark shared her experiences as the pastor at Mother Emmanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina. She encouraged us to listen for where and how God is calling us to serve, and to answer that call no matter who attempts to stand in our way. Valarie Kaur is a civil rights lawyer, Sikh activist, award winning filmmaker, and interfaith leader. She is the founder of the "Revolutionary Love Movement" and works to transform the injustice around her through courageous love.

We were all so moved by her artful story telling and by the words she shared that we ran out of time to ask her all the questions we had. Our students here at VCU loved her message so much, that we are going to watch several of her films this spring as well. Overall this conference was powerful, challenging, and comforting. Our students and I had hard conversations together about race, gender, and how our faith informs the way we interact with people we encounter. We were very grateful to start the year off together at Montreat and what we learned will continue to shape our conversations this spring.

Looking forward to the spring semester, we are again in full swing now that classes are back in session. We are continuing our Thursday night programs and we would love to have more volunteers come to bring us dinner! There are still plenty of spaces this semester! Here is the sign up if you are interested in preparing a meal for us: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a45acab22a4fd0-spring>

I want to personally thank you all for your continued prayer and support. I am looking forward to another amazing semester with our students.

Grace and Peace,
Molly R. Spangler



A big **thank you** to the good people of Second Presbyterian, VCU and CARITAS AmeriCorps, Blacksburg Presbyterian, King William Raiders football team and others who helped provide a meaningful worship service and wonderful luncheon on Martin Luther King Day for our Walk-In guests. Thank you also for the generous gifts of socks, hats, scarves and other clothing and toiletries for MLK Day and for Christmas gifts. Thanks as

well for providing packing services and materials for the snack suppers which we pass out after lunch every Monday. Our neighbors appreciated it all!

Walk-In Collection Sunday ~ February 12

Our Walk-In Ministry continues to find ways to support our homeless brothers and sisters. In addition to a hot meal, we provide travel size toiletries and clothing. Warm socks, gloves, hats, and scarves are needed during these cold winter months as well as any other new or gently used, clean clothing. Tote bags and backpacks are very much needed as well.

We have designated Sunday, February 12 as a church wide collection day for these items. Please consider donating any of the items mentioned. With your generous donations, we can continue to provide love and care to those in our city who need our support.

Plant Trees in Guatemala!

Join others in the Presbytery of the James and travel to Guatemala on a mission trip, August 14-21.

An important component of this trip is the opportunity to plant trees with a Mayan community in a reforestation project as part of the trip's focus on the care of creation.



The trip is hosted by our Presbyterian Church (USA) mission partner CEDEPCA (the Protestant Center for Pastoral Education), that has a relationship with Second Church and also with Peaks Presbytery, which is co-sponsoring this trip.



Friends from CEDEPCA (Emerson Morales and Leslie Vogel) have visited Second. Now they are inviting us to come to Guatemala and see what God is doing!

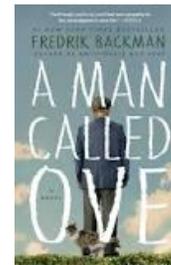
The weather is cool (in the 70s), lodging is in small hotels (with private bath), and the trip is senior friendly. Total cost is estimated at \$1800 (includes international airfare).

For further information, contact Mary Jane Winter, one of the leaders, at mjwinter@comcast.net.

Literary Circle Tuesday, February 14

Literary Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:30 pm at the home of Lillian Rhudy, 1801 Murdoch Road. Lillian will lead the discussion of Fredrik Backman's *A Man Called Ove*.

Please contact Carolyn Brandt at 804-288-2511 or crbrandt1412@gmail.com; or Page Wagner at 804-323-7038 if you would like to attend.



Day Book Group

Tuesday, February 21, 10:00 am
Suite 301 Virginia Building

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am Tuesday, February 21, in Room 301 The Virginia Building.

The book for discussion is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. All are welcome.

Memorial Service for Mike Jones ~ Monday, January 30 at 10:00 am



Dedicated Walk-In associate for over 20 years, Russell Morgan (Mike) Jones, died on Thursday, January 12, battling liver and stomach cancer. He leaves to cherish his memory three daughters, two sons, nineteen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, sister, sister-in-law, and a host of other relatives and friends. This community certainly will miss Mike, and the void that his loss leaves will be hard to fill. Many from Second remember him fondly. A memorial service will be conducted at Second Presbyterian on **Monday, January 30**, at 10:00 a.m.



Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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	Sunday, February 5
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Sunday, February 19
