



Alex Evans, Pastor

Dear Church Family,

The month of May will bring SIGNIFICANT changes to our worship and common life. Beginning with our WORSHIP on May 7, we relocate to the Chapel, and also to the Dining Room where we plan to have live-streaming video for overflow, for the coming months (May-August). During this time, our historic sanctuary will be refurbished and refreshed.

This work on our Sanctuary is the first part of the major Capital Campaign — “Shining the Light of God’s Grace” — as we approach our church’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020.

We are most grateful for the leadership and guidance of the Sanctuary Renovation Committee: Joe Yates, Sloan White, Henry Tenser, Kathy McDaniel, Rob Fergusson, Don Falls, Greg Dickie, Dick Gibbons, and Franklin Graham (chairman).

The overall project contains the following elements:

- ◆ update and replace the sanctuary lighting system
- ◆ replace the fire sprinkler heads in the existing sprinkler system
- ◆ replace HVAC systems for sanctuary and chapel (completed)
- ◆ repair and restoration of front stained glass windows and frame
- ◆ cleaning of sanctuary ceiling
- ◆ replace sanctuary carpeting
- ◆ replacement of pew cushions and upholstery
- ◆ painting
- ◆ replacement of interior doors in connector to parking deck
- ◆ replacement of brass choir loft railing
- ◆ insulation of sanctuary ceiling

- ◆ scaffolding of sanctuary to facilitate various construction elements.

Some important guidelines have also been established for this work. Any and all renovations will conform to the historical nature of the sanctuary and the original designs. All construction should occur between May 1 and August 31 to allow worship services to move more easily to the chapel, when summer attendance is usually lower. Replacement of the sprinkler heads must occur, by law, before 2018, which requires the scaffolding; while the scaffolding is in place, we want to complete the other work as well. The church is consulting with historical, acoustic and video experts for this project.

The total costs for this renovation and refreshment approximates \$1.5 million. To date, for the Shining the Light Campaign, we have almost \$4 million in pledges and gifts toward the \$5 million goal. The Capital Campaign Committee continues to meet and work and give regular updates to the Session. Other pieces of the Campaign, in preparation for 2020, include plans and possibilities in other parts of our historic and wonderful facility, and for outreach and mission in the city and the world. More decisions will be made in the coming months and years related to these parts of this Capital Campaign. We are most grateful for God’s grace and Spirit at work among us.

As we move into this project, the opening words to Psalm 127 speak to us: *“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.”*

As we move into and through May, we look for God’s guidance and care in all things. I look forward to seeing each of you.

Sincerely,

### *Highlights from the Session Meeting*

At the April meeting, the Session:

- ◆ Rejoiced over the generous giving in offerings and pledges during the month of March;
- ◆ Thanked Phil Hart and Sheri Highfill for their work with Mimi Sadler to explore what is involved and to facilitate the use of Historic Tax Credits in the Capital Campaign for the renovation of Second Presbyterian;
- ◆ Heard about recent activities of UKirk (ministry with VCU students), including a Seder meal and attending Bryan Stevenson’s talk;
- ◆ Called attention to upcoming adult Christian Education classes on Worship, and on the writing activities with prison inmates highlighted in the recent AFOI annual meeting;
- ◆ Announced plans for moving to the Chapel for worship during sanctuary renovations—from May through August.

#### *Look Who's Preaching*



<b>May 7</b>	Alex Evans
<b>May 14</b>	Alex Evans
<b>May 21</b>	Alex Evans
<b>May 28</b>	Kathryn Lester-Bacon

### *How to Listen to a Sermon*

This year the Presbyterian Women circles have been studying “Who is Jesus?” in our Bible study meetings. In a recent lesson the author suggested that we ask our minister the question: “How would you like the congregation to listen to a sermon? So I did, and the following are Alex’s helpful suggestions:

- With open hearts and open minds, ready and willing for God’s Spirit to say through my words whatever would be helpful to nurture faith, to increase trust in God’s promise, to deepen loves, and to improve our effectiveness and faithfulness as God’s people;
- With a sincere desire to grow in faith and discipleship;
- With a sense of intrigue as to what God and the Scriptures might call us to do;
- With a desire to align our lives more with God’s purposes so we can promote the in-breaking of God’s reign in the world;
- As partners in faith and fellowship;
- As fellow travelers on the faith journey;
- With a joy and love of God that might grow.

~Dot Apperson

## Adult Education in May

**May 7**  
Nursery

Parents of Young Children *led by Kathryn Lester-Bacon*

**May 7, 14, 21**  
Dining Room

Insights and Reflections on Worship for our Times *led by Richard Voelz*  
The PC(USA)'s Book of Common Worship and Directory for Worship identify the principle of “form and freedom” as a marker of faithful Christian worship. In these three sessions, we will consider some roots of the historic form of common Christian worship and how congregations worship today.



Richard Voelz,  
Assistant Professor of  
Preaching and Worship,  
Union Presbyterian  
Seminary

*Richard W. Voelz is an Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Formerly, he served as Senior Minister of the Johns Creek Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), an Open & Affirming congregation in metro Atlanta, Georgia. He has over a decade of ministry experience in various contexts. A graduate of Vanderbilt University’s Graduate Department of Religion with the PhD in Homiletics and Liturgics, Dr. Voelz brings expertise and scholarly interest in contextual homiletics, contemporary homiletic theory, preaching and youth, pastoral identity, preaching in the Stone-Campbell Movement, and contemporary liturgical theology. As a NC native, he is a huge college basketball fan.*

Room 308

Bible Class *with Franklin Reding*

Suite 301

Faith and Literature Class *with Marjorie Clark*



<b>Sunday, May 7</b>	Church School + Worship Dinner + Youth Meeting	9:30 am 5-7 pm
<b>Sunday, May 14</b>	Church School + Worship Mother’s Day—no evening meeting	9:30 am BNice2Mom!
<b>Sunday, May 21</b>	Church School + Worship End of the Year Cookout and Party at the Gilchrist’s Home	9:30 am 5-7 pm
<b>Sunday, May 28</b>	No Church School or evening meeting	
<b>June 27-30</b>	6th-8th Graders: Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference	
<b>July 8-15</b>	9th-12th Graders: Montreat Youth Conference	



**Faith-Based Advocacy IOI: Learn, Pray, Act**

**Sunday, June 11 after Worship**

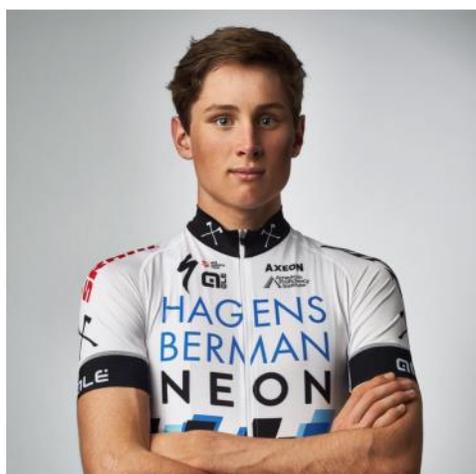
The Mission Council will sponsor a faith-based advocacy workshop on Sunday, June 11, from 11:15 am-12:15 pm, immediately following worship. Join us to learn about faith-based advocacy and the work of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP). Learn how people of faith can interact with the General Assembly on mission priorities. Develop confidence in contacting your representative. Understand when to visit, write, call or email, and which has the most impact. Bring your questions and concerns. VICPP Director Kim Bobo will lead the workshop.



**Mary Thompson** is going to Longwood University in the fall.



**Thomas Alvarado** is going to Hampden-Sydney College in the fall.



**Edward Anderson** will attend UVA in the fall.



**Isabelle Thomas** will attend JMU in the fall.

## Upcoming Second Seniors Events



- Friday, May 19** Third Friday breakfast at McLean's. Sign-up sheets available at the Deacon's Desk.
- Sunday, May 21** Second Seniors will sponsor a tour of the Capitol and Governor's Mansion at 2:00 pm, following a box lunch at the church immediately after worship. A garden tour may be included as well. Participants can walk together from the church or drive, meeting on Bank Street. We will order the box lunches from Sally Belle's. (\$10 per lunch, deadline for ordering is May 17.) A sign-up for lunch and the tour will be available at the Deacon's Desk.
- Wednesday, June 14** Second Seniors will meet for a potluck lunch at the church. Featured speaker will be Charley Cooke on "Advancements in Medicine During the Civil War." Time: 11:30 am. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Deacon's Desk. Please join us for a very enjoyable and enlightening experience!
- Friday, June 16** Third Friday breakfast at McLean's. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Deacon's Desk.



### Best Update Ever!

By the grace of God and many thanks to the generosity of you and our friends at St. Paul's Episcopal and Centenary United Methodist, we met the challenge grant from St. Paul's and our Rally fund raising goal. In only two weeks' time, we raised approximately \$13,000 altogether! We have purchased a six-passenger van, and, thanks to Jonathan Heckel, Nasim Rahmaty begins a job as a Design Engineer with a large company. These are stunning achievements in such a short time.

Thank you once again from the Steering Committee: Jonathan Heckel, Terry Sheets, Toni and Todd Grant, Second; Sarah Lageman, St. Paul's; and Vic and Nancy Grand, Centenary.

***"Creative play is like a spring that bubbles up from deep within a child."*** —Joan Almon

Creative opportunities abound at Second Presbyterian Childcare Center thanks to the leadership of Eboni Brickhouse and her talented staff. Children and teachers happily engage in meaningful activities that activate young minds and bodies each day, whether it's participating in storytelling at the Richmond Public Library, learning Spanish, or moving and grooving through Stretch and Grow.

Come join us as a volunteer at our stimulating Childcare Center and share a little love and laughter!

Vicki Douglas  
2PCCC Board Member



## *Sprunt Lectures at Union Presbyterian Seminary, May 8-10*

Register Now!

Come hear Dana L. Robert speak on "Cross-Cultural Friendship and Christian Mission: History and Practices." Dr. Robert is the Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission and Director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission at Boston University. She is a leading historian of world Christianity and mission.



The Rev. Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, will be the preacher. Moss has spent the last two decades practicing and preaching a Black theology that unapologetically calls attention to the problems of mass incarceration, environmental justice, and economic inequality. Part of a new generation of ministers committed to preaching a prophetic message of love and justice, he believes they are inseparable companions that form the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For more information and to register please go to <https://www.upsem.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Sprunt-brochure-2017.pdf>

## *April was a fantastic month for UKirk!*

UKirk at VCU



At the beginning of the month we shared in a Seder Meal together to learn about Passover.

A special thanks to Sam Adams for coming and leading the meal for us! Many of our students had never experienced a Seder, therefore it was a very special event for our group.

It was a great evening of fellowship, food, and learning.

On April 12th, we went to the Siegel Center to hear a talk by lawyer and author Bryan Stevenson.

We have spent this year reading chapters from his book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, and it was powerful to have the opportunity to hear him speak about solutions to the problems of injustice. If you would like to learn more about him and his organization, the Equal Justice Initiative, which defends those most desperate and in need, visit the website <http://eji.org/>.

Our students also got to share in Holy Week events together. We attended the Maundy Thursday service at Ebenezer Baptist with Second, as well as the Sunrise Service at Chimborazo Park.

April has indeed been educational, inspiring, and moving. Thank you all again for your prayers and support as we continue this journey of campus ministry together.

Grace and Peace,  
Molly Spangler

### Guatemala Mission Trip August 14-21

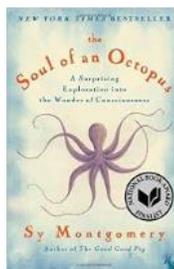
If you are considering this opportunity please contact Mary Jane Winter at [mjwinter@comcast.net](mailto:mjwinter@comcast.net). What a wonderful opportunity to visit a country of stunning beauty, engage in caring for God's creation, and see God's mission come alive. Hosted by our Presbyterian Mission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



### Literary Circle

**Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 pm**

Literary Circle will meet on May 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Elsa Falls, 2180 Cedarfield Lane. Elsa will lead the discussion of *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery.



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

### Day Book Group

**Tuesday, May 16, 10:00 am**

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on Tuesday, May 16, in Room 308, Virginia Building. Books for the coming year will be selected. Members are asked to bring one or two choices to recommend for the selection process, as well as a list of books otherwise recommended.

### Presbyterian Women Circle 2

**Tuesday, May 2**

Circle #2 will meet at the home of Chris Blanton, 505 Henri Road, at 11:00 am on Tuesday, May 2.

Em Key will conclude our study of "Who is Jesus?" according to other Abrahamic faiths and to Contemporary Cultural Interpretations. Please join us for stimulating discussion and good fellowship.

This will be the last meeting until October.

### Presbyterian Women Circle 1

**Tuesday, May 16**

Circle 1 meets Tuesday, May 16, at 10:30 a.m. at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave), 6th floor Lounge.

Mary Jane Winter will lead the Bible study on seeing Jesus through the lens of culture," chapter 9 in *Who Is Jesus*. How does who we are and our context give us new insight about Jesus? How does our culture or location make a difference in our understanding? This lesson looks at familiar passages and explores how context or experience can shape our perspective as we continue to ask, "Who is Jesus?" Come and enjoy an interesting discussion.

 *Deadline for June newsletter ~ Monday, May 15*

### Coming this Summer!

### Montreat Women's Conference: The Fullness of Life

**August 11-13, 2017**



We, as women, are made in the image of God, created as physical, emotional/relational, and spiritual beings. Women's Connection 2017 is a holy time for women to honor who God has created us to be. We hope to provide space for opportunities to nurture mind and body, to connect with community of old friends and new, and to re-center our communal lives and our individual selves in God's good news. Come as you are.

This year's conference, featuring Rachel Held Evans, will encourage participants to find grace and renewal through reflection, rest, and community. Conference activities will include worship, fellowship, recreation, rest, and workshops. There will also be a time set aside to study and discuss Rachel's book together as a conference community. *Please let Ginger Evans know if you are interested in going!*



*Second Presbyterian Church*  
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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*Beginning Sunday, May 7*  
*Worship will move to the Chapel*  
*(due to Sanctuary renovations)*

✦

May 7, 14, 21 ~ 11 am  
May 28 ~ shifts to 10 am  
(through Labor Day)

