



Alex Evans, Pastor

Dear Church Family,

When I look around the many books on my shelves in my Pastor's Study, I realize that I have purchased more than a few books related to the topic, "Leading Lives that Matter." It seems like this is a favorite subject.

Here is a good question: "What is the difference, if any, between a good life and a significant one?" A good life could be mostly a matter of character, having to do with the kind of person you are. A significant life could be more about the consequences of your life, a life that influences people and circumstances. A person does not have to be morally good to be significant or influential.

But, we could also argue that a significant life must change the world for the better. In other words, is "significant" a quantitative term or a qualitative term. Someone like Joseph Stalin, or other leaders, might influence lots of people and circumstances, but, that influence may be detrimental to humankind. Should that be considered a significant life? Or, do we say that a significant life must be a good life, AND it must change the world for the better.

God certainly calls us to lead lives that matter. The Shorter Catechism asks: "What is the chief end? . . . to glorify God and enjoy God forever." That points us to a good life and a significant life that seeks to make a difference in the world. Jesus says over and over: "Follow me." Jesus wants to lead us to a good and significant life – toward the promised and coming reign of God.

In some other reading and thinking, Rabbi Harold Kushner shares five thoughts toward leading a life that matters. All of us need the following five elements:

1. We need a small group of people around us, who know us, who love us and whom we can love. For most of us, this includes our life partner, our immediate family, or a small group of cherished friends.

2. We need a larger group of social connections that nourish our souls. This could be an expanding group of friends, social groups, church connections, supper clubs, golf or tennis buddies, garden and bridge clubs. Social and personal connections enrich our lives.

3. We need faith – for us, it is Christian faith – but everyone needs faith to remind us we are part of something larger, part of God's world. Faith gives us hope when we confront the disappointments and losses. Faith gives us humility when we enjoy life's successes.

4. We need work to do, either paid or unpaid, but everyone needs to feel useful, purposeful. Work—whether employed or volunteer—gives us opportunities to apply our skills and talents for causes beyond ourselves.

5. We need to find ways to make a difference in the larger world, pay a tax on the air we breathe and the resources we consume. We need to apply our lives to causes that make the world better, more wholesome and hopeful.

Which area of life might need the most attention for you to grow and deepen in your pursuit of living a life that matters? How can we lead good and significant lives?

As we move into these summer days, as we go and come, may we each give some thought, prayer, and devotion to "leading lives that matter" as we serve Christ our Lord. And if you are in town, certainly join us for worship and faithful life. May God bless us all.

Alex

Highlights from the Session Meeting

At the May meeting:

- ◆ Vernon Mays provided an excellent presentation focusing on the latest design plans for the atrium entrance, basement floor, first floor and second floor. Similar presentations will be shared with the congregation on June 4 and July 16 after worship. The Session expressed gratitude to Vernon for his leadership and work on the design plans.
- ◆ Heard an update from Bo Jacob about the streaming and broadcast ministry. The Session is very grateful for Bo's dedication and commitment to our video ministry.
- ◆ Becca Cummings, Union Presbyterian Seminary Intern, expressed her thanks for being a part of our community in the last year. The Session congratulated Becca on her upcoming graduation and expressed gratitude for her contributions in the last year.
- ◆ Molly Spangler provided information on the UKirk Ministry for the past academic year and that six students are graduating. Molly is visiting with several POJ churches over the summer to promote UKirk.
- ◆ Heard that the church ended the month of April in a strong financial position. Although expenses exceeded income for the month, income still exceeds expenses by \$40,902 year-to-date, due to higher than budgeted pledge and plate offering income.

Shining the Light of God's Grace ~ Capital Campaign Update

Now just one year from launching the "Shining the Light of God's Grace" capital campaign, we have raised \$3,868,293 in donations and pledges from 154 donors. This represents over 77% of our \$5,000,000 goal!

Thank you, thank you to everyone who has so generously supported this landmark effort in the history of Second Pres to share the Light of God's Grace in our city and throughout the world. Scaffolding has gone up and work has begun to refresh and revitalize our historic sanctuary. Thorough cleaning and painting, installation of updated lighting, and new carpet and upholstery will enhance our sacred worship space.

Initial steps have also been taken to seek historic tax credits for this work. A special shout out of thanks to Franklin Graham for his leadership of the sanctuary project. Thank you to all for your patience as this sanctuary work progresses over the summer.

Also, stay tuned in the coming months for information from the Wayfinding Team. As part of a communications effort to share the latest ideas on making our building more open and welcoming, that team will facilitate member forums on June 4 and July 16 to share schematic plans and answer questions.

The Wayfinding Team is led by chair Vernon Mays, with committee members Sharon Blount, Dick Gibbons, Anne Jefferson, Jeff Wells, Steve Allred, Henry Tenser and Dot Hart.

The Capital Campaign Committee is co-chaired by Allison and Vernon Mays and Jeff Wells and Mac Pence with committee members Tom Jefferson, Tom Holland, Mary Sue Donahue, Greg Dickie, Julia Carr, Marjorie Clark, and Don Falls.

Please feel free to contact any committee member for more information.

Welcome!



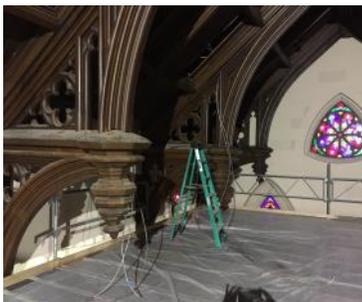
Karen and Randolph Irby

Karen is a teacher for Henrico County Schools and plans to retire this year. Randolph is a CPA. They have two children, Sarah, who resides in Richmond, and Rand, who lives in Georgia.

Karen and Randolph both enjoy playing tennis.



Pat Hass married Anthony Hass, an executive officer of Kraft/General Foods, with whom she lived in Washington, D.C. and New York. Pat and Tony had three children and six grandchildren. Pat's career has been journalism and for thirty years a senior book editor at Random House in New York City. Pat's sister is Jane Cecil and her brother is John Cecil.



The Sanctuary Renovation is underway!

Check out the church's website 2presrichmond.org — under Current News and Happenings — for updated photos of our exciting project.

The Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering makes real and lasting impact in the lives of our young people.

Give toward a more promising future! When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share their faith in Christ.

- 40% stays with your congregation
- 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)
- 25% goes to Ministries with Youth
- 10% advocates for at-risk children



Please give generously. Offering received on Pentecost Sunday, June 4.

Faith-Based Advocacy 101: 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.

Membership Council Update

Do you remember what it was like searching for your church home...shopping around each Sunday, trying to determine where you are being called...wondering where you belong?

The Membership Council continues to explore new ways that we can welcome visitors and new members among us. According to our recent survey of new members, 18% of new members did not sign the friendship pad. So if you see an unfamiliar face near you in worship, please introduce yourself and encourage them to provide their name and email via the friendship pad (or the tear-off form provided in the bulletin during the weeks we are worshipping in the Chapel).

70% of new members visited Second Presbyterian at least six times before becoming members. When new members join, they often note the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of our church as one of their chief reasons for joining. 64% of recent new members heard about Second from friends and family. There is boundless opportunity for us to open our doors to visitors and show them how we are serving downtown Richmond during this exciting time for our church. Please share this message that all are welcome, and invite a visitor to come to church with you during the summer months!

If you are interested in serving as a greeter after worship or welcoming a new member and assisting them as a new member sponsor, please email Jeff Wells at jeffwells@mauryplace.com for further details.

The Membership Council is comprised of: Sloan White, Michael Bacon, Kyle and Chelsea Russell, Carol Graham, Bryan Tims, Heather Harvey, Anne Jefferson, Lucretia McCulley, Anne Grier, Ginger Evans, and Jeff Wells (chair).

Upcoming Second Seniors Events

- 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.

Extending Hospitality

Did you know our Capital Campaign extends beyond the Sanctuary Renovation? We also want to make our church campus more welcoming. Come hear more about the latest plans for improvements to our entry courtyard, atrium, Heritage Room and new bathrooms! We’ll share a slide show in the dining room and answer your questions. Join us after worship on **June 4** or **July 16**.

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!

Guatemala Mission Trip August 14-21

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. If you are considering this opportunity please contact Mary Jane Winter at mjwinter@comcast.net.

Hosted by our Presbyterian Mission partners in Guatemala and sponsored by our presbytery.



UKirk at VCU

UKirk ended on a wonderful note this year!

We had a great experience with the Episcopal Campus Ministry at VCU when we participated in a Peace-to-Go Event the Sunday after Easter. We gathered with other campus ministries at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and shared our interpretation of what peace means to us. This event was a meaningful way to get to know other campus ministry students around VCU.

Our students also enjoyed several study breaks of coloring pages, coffee, and doughnuts during final exams. They know how to work hard and when to take a break! We celebrated an amazing year together by having an end of the year cookout party complete with great food, a bonfire, and gifts for our seniors. We have six seniors heading out into the world!

Please keep them in your prayers: Leah Dunham, Kyle Sutherland, Cassidy Rae von Harders, Denny Turner, Victoria Gimmi, and Martin Lederle-Ensign. They have all worked hard to achieve their degrees this year and we wish them the best going forward!

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for us, brought us meals, and donated time or finances to UKirk this year. Our students and I are so grateful for all Second Presbyterian does to support this ministry.

Peace,
Molly Spangler



Massanetta Middle School Conference
“All Together Now” ~ June 27-30



Stacey Dendy and Eric Koenig, chaperones
Lucy Lomeling
Joseph Foltz
Charlie Adams
Knox Dendy

Montreat Youth Conference
“A Missing Peace” ~ July 8-15

Ginger Evans and Sheri Highfill, chaperones
Thomas Dendy
Thomas Foltz
Isabelle Thomas
Ethan Thomas
Mary Thompson
Philip Lomeling

*Please keep them all
in your thoughts and prayers!*

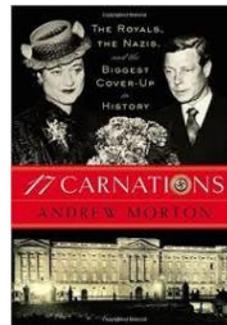
Literary Circle

Tuesday, June 13, 7:30 pm

Literary Circle will meet on June 13 at 7:30 pm at the home of Em Keys, 5 Bisley Court.

Em will lead the discussion of *17 Carnations* by Andrew Morton.

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

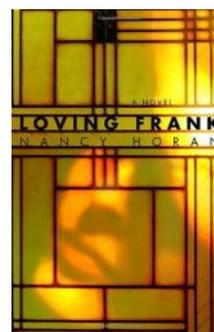


Day Book Group

Tuesday, June 20, 10:00 am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am Tuesday, June 20, in Room 308, Virginia Building.

The book for discussion is *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. All are welcome.



from AFOI

Assisting Families of Inmates is thrilled to announce that our Annual Meeting and Silent Auction raised over \$5,000 to support our mission of keeping families connected!

Thank you to everyone who attended our event, and who donated and/or purchased items at our silent auction. Your generous support enables us to serve thousands of families each year through our transportation program, video visitation program, children's support groups and resource referral programs.

We will celebrate our 40th Anniversary in 2018 and we'd love for you to be part of that event! Contact Angie Strickland at 643-2401 or angie.strickland@afoi.org to get involved.

Presbyterian Women Circle 1

Tuesday, June 13, 10:30 am

Circle 1 meets Tuesday, June 13 at 10:30 am at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave), 6th floor Lounge. We conclude with Dusty Pritchett leading the Bible study on how other faiths see Jesus, Chapter 8, in *Who Is Jesus?*

Look Who's Preaching



- June 4** Alex Evans
- June 11** Alex Evans
- June 18** Alex Evans
- June 25** Kathryn Lester-Bacon

Deadline for July/August newsletter ~



Monday, June 18



Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

5 NORTH FIFTH STREET | RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

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

Dated Material

Do not delay delivery

Address Service Requested

Worship at 10:00 am

Beginning May 28



Pentecost Offering

will be received

June 4