ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Second Presbyterian Church 5 North Fifth Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 804-649-9148

www.2presrichmond.org

The Session

Alex Evans, Pastor Kate Fiedler, Associate Pastor Joanna (Jacy) C. Jacob, Clerk of Session

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Marian English	Marvin Daniel	Jonathan Heckel (2)
Heather Harvey (2)	Jed Dutton	Sam Highfill
Becky Hudson	Cliff Henderson	Sally Johnston
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Katherine Weisiger, Chair

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
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NOTE: The persons with a (2) beside their name are serving their second, consecutive three-year term.

Report of the Pastor Alexander W. Evans

Psalm 77 opens with these words:

¹I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that he may hear me.

²In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

The psalmist continues to lament and cry, moan and long for God's care and presence. Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?

Then, there is a shift in the tone and focus:

¹¹I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old.

¹²I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds.

¹³Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

¹⁴You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples.

As we consider our common life in 2021, Psalm 77 seems to apply to our lives as we have continued to deal with immense challenges:

- a stalking and haunting pandemic COVID 19 that made everything different and difficult, especially with changing variants
- ❖ a clarion call to continue to address systemic racism and work for racial justice in the church, the culture, the world
- an ever-shifting landscape of what it meant to be the church in worship and fellowship, witness and work

So, like the psalmist, we keep recalling the steadfast faithfulness of the Lord, muse on God's mighty deeds, and re-affirm that "God works wonders among the people."

In this Annual Report for 2021, we can and must celebrate some sincere accomplishments:

- ❖ **WORSHIP** remained strong! We celebrated our connections to God, to God's Word, and to one another. We rejoiced in our gifted choir and music program, our faithful attendance through in-person and on-line options, our efforts to figure out COVID-safe Communion, Baptisms, and more.
- ❖ EDUCATION and Faithful Programs on-line and in-person touched many lives with lots of variety. Our community continued to delve into tough topics with a willingness to struggle. We seek to be "not conformed, but transformed by the renewing of our minds to discern the will of God what is good and acceptable and perfect." (See Rom 12:2)
- ❖ LOVE and CARE deepened our community connections, a critical element to faithful life, especially in these days. Our creative Deacons, outdoor worship and fellowship events, our various personal and special touch efforts reminded us that we all have a role to play as God's people in fellowship. We are made for community.

- ❖ OUTREACH defined us as we strive to bear light and love in downtown RVA. We adjusted and yet maintained our faithful efforts at feeding hungry people on Monday, opened the Shower Ministry, and maintained so many shared blessings through mission partnerships. We experienced the benefits of the new Winn Mission Endowment in its support of Afghan refugees, and the Mission Scholarship Fund in support of needy students. We celebrate all the ways the church seeks to serve as Christ served.
- ❖ STRONG FINANCES sustained us. Even amidst COVID limitations and all the other challenges, the pledges and gifts received from members and friends in 2021 exceeded our best predictions. This generosity, along with the church's endowments, kept us on sound fiscal foundations. We were able to support our staff, maintain our sacred space, and do all of God's work through the church. THANK YOU.

Forward Taskforce, a group that originated within Mission Council as we dealt with racial justice in 2020 but evolved into a larger group that led the congregation in significant reflection and action through 2021. This group initiated many conversations and programs, powerful Holy Week Pilgrimages, and more through the year, and encouraged prayerful learning and reflection on our past and future, especially related to racism and racial justice. In the summer of 2021, following several congregational forums, the Session voted to relocate the large tablets commemorating some of the church's pastors from the front wall of the Sanctuary. This Taskforce continues to pursue ideas to encourage reflection and growth on the church's past and future: who are we and who is God calling us to be as a faithful congregation?

The promises and presence of God continue to guide us, even through storms and challenges. We can never cease to worship and work - giving our best efforts for God's purposes in the world.

It is my sincere honor and privilege to be on this journey of faith and life with great colleagues on a devoted staff, and with the dear people of this congregation. May God continue to bless us and guide us.

Psalm 77 closes with these words in praise of God: "You led your people like a flock!"

Thanks be to God!



Report of the Associate Pastor Kate Fiedler

Romans 12:11-13

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. (NRSV)

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality. (The Message)

These words were written for the early church, and yet for me, they describe the recent ethos at Second Presbyterian. I am grateful for the ways our congregation has been "cheerfully expectant, helped Christians in need, and was inventive in hospitality" during 2021. Your spirit and zeal for ministry have inspired me!

For me, this summer was a highlighted season of hope, patience, and the good work of the Spirit in our midst. I celebrate that Second encourages your pastors to spend time away on sabbatical. I am grateful that you all trusted me while Alex spent well deserved time away. The patience of my staff colleagues and the kindness of the congregation during these weeks were a gift. Thank you for all the ways you encouraged and supported me as we kept the "home fires" going.

Some moments in ministry stand out, and the ways this congregation showed up for my installation service were incredible. Jeff and Grant led the choir in creating remarkable music for the service. (I will never hear "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" in the same way!) I am in awe of Brian Blount's sermon; he shared a new way to think about Jesus and a new vision for me to consider ministry. My family traveled from Goochland, Roanoke, and Rockwood, Tennessee, and it was a true joy to share the day with them. When I asked the COM if I could delay my installation until we could gather for worship, I could not imagine how full my heart would be after such a service. What a gift you gave me and my family, Second! It was and continues to be So Extra!

As I settle into my call at Second, I was invited to join other groups in the community. With Cathy Howard's support, I am a member of the Interfaith Advisory Council for Richmond Public Schools. Over 30 faith leaders are currently focused on literacy: offering our resources as families of faith in helping students delight in reading. I joined Alex, Marvin, and Roger in Clergy & Citizens Against Racism (CCAR) and worked with Marvin and Drew Willson in facilitating a book study in the fall. Over 100 people signed up and participated from over 20 congregations, discussing how we can work to fight racism together. It was great so see so many from Second join the discussions in the chapel and online. I have joined the Board of Directors for Camp Hanover and partner with the Rev. Gary Charles in facilitating a cohort for newly ordained pastors in the POJ and PEVA. I am grateful for these opportunities to give back and serve the wider community.

Thank you for the ways you continue to rejoice in hope, dear saints of Second. I am cheerfully expectant about what this next year holds!

Report of the Diaconate Kate Fiedler, Moderator

Despite the continued challenges presented in the year 2021, the Deacons thought creatively and worked hard to connect and build community among the congregation at Second Presbyterian Church. Listed below is a summary of their efforts:

Fellowship Opportunities

- Dress Up Trivia Night (March)
- ❖ Baseball game (July)
- Frozen Custard truck after worship (August)
- James River Clean Up (October)
- Soul Ice truck after worship (November)
- Christmas Dress Up Trivia Night (December)
- In person fellowship after worship (December)

<u>Deacon's Loving Care</u> (DLC)

- Hundreds of cards sent to members
- 40 Easter Bags provided for children
- ❖ 42 Advent Bags delivered to homebound members
- Coordination of numerous meal deliveries by Deacons and church members
- Transportation assistance for members

Communications/Engagement

- Pandemic Project: collected over 40 submissions from church members to be archived and published (work is ongoing)
- Advent Outreach calls: with the help of Session members, contacted over 350 member households to offer support during Advent

The Diaconate came together, in person, on two occasions. Once in April to thank those whose term was over and celebrate our new members. And in October for a retreat at Richmond Hill to strengthen their connections and reflect on their mission.



Report from the Director of Christian Education Ginger Evans

We began 2021 about ten months into the Covid-19 Pandemic. We did not find ourselves paralyzed but continued to figure out safe ways to meet, discuss, study, and grow in our faith together.

Adult Church School Classes continued on Zoom. Faith and Literature met virtually and read and discussed so many great offerings and Franklin Reding met his Bible Class on Zoom. The former "Dining Room Class" met on Zoom and had meaningful classes including Bethany McGinnis of Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee; Dr. Julian Hayter, Associate Professor of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond, who spoke on the role of the church during the Civil War, Reconstruction, and during the Civil Rights struggle. Kate Fiedler led classes on Sharing Faith Stories; Sally Johnston prepared the class for the Lenten Pilgrimages; Roger Gench led Theology of the Cross; Sam Adams led Allowing for Grief; Michael Hawn led Hymnology of the Cross; and Emily Nyce shared the ministry of Yaupon Place at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

The Holy Week Pilgrimage Group worked tirelessly to bring the whole congregation three different pilgrimages that challenged, encouraged, and enlightened everyone. They even provided a virtual pilgrimage online through our website. The members of the Task Force: Sally Johnston, Kathleen Murphy, Sharon Blount, Clare Diester, Jay Morgan, June Henderson, Kathy Pryor, Kelley Connelly, and Marjorie Clark.

Several Second Course Groups formed for a Lenten Study, which used the Sanctified Art Lenten Devotional Booklet as their Study Guide.

Roger Gench led a six-week Lenten book study of <u>The Last Week</u> by Marcus Borg and John Crossan.

During the Summer, Roger Gench led a seven-week study course on Isabel Wilkerson's <u>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</u>

For the Fall of 2021, the Mission and Advocacy Council planned a speaker series entitled "Perspectives on Richmond's Emerging Story." As they stated in their introduction of this series: "We are coming to see that moving toward racial healing and wholeness for our city, state, and nation is dependent upon weaving together an equitable emerging story. Such a story emerges as we honor the voices of those whose stories, contributions, and aspirations have been hidden, thwarted, or devalued through systemic racism." The speakers for the Fall were:

- Faithe Norrell, Office Manager and History Services Associate, Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia
- The Reverend Ralph Hodge, Faith Outreach Manager of Virginia Interfaith Power & Light and senior pastor of Second Baptist Church of South Richmond, a church addressing environmental justice in RVA
- Chief Stephen Adkins, Chief of the Chickahominy Tribe since 2001, has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Virginia Indian Tribes to gain federal recognition and to assure that America's leadership includes a Native American voice

- Dr. Kenneth Alexander, Mayor of Norfolk, on the impact of grassroots leadership for poor and marginalized people
- Dr. Lauranett Lee, Public Historian and Visiting Lecturer at University of Richmond on the education of African American children following the Civil War, providing the long view of the hard-fought quest for a foothold into equality
- Michael Paul Williams, Pulitzer Prize columnist, Richmond Times Dispatch on his hope for the future of the City of Richmond
- Hamilton Glass, Painter, Muralist, and Founder of Mending Walls RVA project
- Dr. Edward L. Ayers, Tucker-Boatwright Professor of the Humanities at the University of Richmond, where he is President Emeritus
- Kim Bobo, Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy to talk about the work of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and how we can be involved in faith-based advocacy to address Matthew 25 needs; she also highlighted VICPP priorities for the 2022 General Assembly

Roger Gench led a seven-week book study of Heather McGhee's <u>The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together</u> and finished out the year with a three-week Advent reflection on *Christ and Empire*.

The Youth Group met throughout the year on Zoom for fun games ad good discussions. We met in person in parks, Kate's backyard, and other safe outdoor places to gather.

The Children met on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for singing with Ms. Laura and Bible stories from me. Occasionally we had visiting members of the church who joined us to share in the fun and tell us about their faith.

We had a Women's Retreat via Zoom in March, which was a delight; and a group attended the Montreat Women's Conference in August in person!!

The Kerygma Class met via Zoom and briefly in-person between variants.

Summary: We rejoice that God continues to work in our midst to nurture us in faith and discipleship. Through these classes, opportunities, and actions together, we seek to grow in our knowledge and love of God and to be about God's purposes in the world.



Report from the Worship Council Katherine Weisiger, Chair

The Worship Council provides support and feedback to our Pastors and Director of Music on worship-related matters. Worship Council regularly engages in discussion about all of the worship opportunities at Second, and further provides support for worship through the ushers, communion coordinators and Arts Committee.

Worship Council's primary focus in 2021 was on continuing to meet the challenges brought on by COVID-19. Sunday worship services remained online until Pentecost Sunday, May 23, which marked our first in-person worship service in the sanctuary in over a year. While excited to resume in-person worship, we were careful to ensure best safety practices. Adjustments we made included: wearing masks, social distancing by marking off every other pew, placing baskets at the front of the church for the offering rather than passing the offering plates, initially singing no hymns, gradually transitioning to singing the hymns with an abbreviated number of verses, and then singing the full hymns. The services were shortened to 45 minutes to reduce our exposure and overall gathering time indoors. The spaciousness of our sanctuary and the efficiency of our HVAC system, along with exercising best practices, have enabled a successful return to in-person worship.

After shifting from online worship to in-person worship with live streaming, our online participation has remained strong. On most Sundays throughout the year, the combined total of those in the sanctuary plus those worshiping online has been greater than our worship numbers before COVID. We are grateful for the expertise of Bo Jacob, his A/V crew, and access to the technology that makes all of that possible.

The full choir remained on hiatus for much of the year while the worship music was led by a chorus of our section leaders. After Labor Day, the full choir resumed (while masked and carefully spaced in the balcony), which brought a sense of normalcy back to our Sunday worship. We are grateful to our music ministry, led by Jeff Riehl, and our organist, Michael Simpson, who retired during the year and has been succeeded by Grant Hellmers. Laura Carr's work with the children continued to share their joyful voices in our worship, and we were enriched by the return of the handbell choir.

Our pastors and staff continued to make adjustments to enhance our worship experience, whether online or in person. One of the pieces missing when we first returned to in-person worship was communion. Thanks to our pastors and assistance from Greg Dickie, we were able to devise a method of offering communion that enabled us to bring back an important part of our worship experience in as safe a manner as possible.

Despite the ongoing changing circumstances as a result of COVID, Sunday worship continued to offer a meaningful experience of faith at Second. The Lessons and Carols service was a special highlight, and the year ended with an in-person Christmas Eve candlelight service. We are grateful for those providing preaching and worship leadership in 2021, including: Alex Evans, Kate Fiedler, Roger Gench, Kelley Connelly, Brian Blount, and Marvin Daniel.

Finally, thank you to those involved in the many discussions and planning sessions around worship and COVID-19, including: Alex Evans, Kate Fiedler, Jeff Riehl, Ginger Evans, Rob Ferguson, Helen Adams, Cliff Henderson, Betty Dickie, Sam Dalton, Heather Harvey, Becky Hudson, Anne McDonnell, and Bo Jacob.



Report of the Production Director Bo Jacob

Pandemic, you say? Yes, we experienced another year of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic here at Second Presbyterian, along with the rest of the world. But we were blessed to have the technical tools and staff to maintain a connection to our members and friends throughout the world. Fortunately, our audio-visual equipment is state of the art, and we continued to add functionality with smaller investments throughout the year.

We have the capability to livestream, record, and Zoom from multiple locations within the church's facilities which include: Sanctuary, Chapel, Winn Dining Room, Atrium Conference Room, and the Hawes Building Multipurpose Room. We also have two mobile conference systems that can be utilized in the various classrooms located in the Virginia Building, or where needed in the other mentioned spaces.

The A/V crew is composed of Gregg Hillmar, David Bailey, and our newest crew member Steve Barkley. All crew members are trained to operate the A/V systems in the Control Room and assist with set-up and operation of the various systems within the Second Church facilities.

Here are the viewer analytics of video broadcasts for the previous year, January 2021 through January 2022. These numbers represent totals for all Second Presbyterian broadcasts: worship, classes, memorial services, lectures and discussions, and archived broadcasts for up to a year prior.

- **❖** Total Views ~ 12.135
- ❖ Watched Broadcasts ~ 161
- Seen in 19 countries, 43 states, and the District of Columbia
- Most viewers watched on desktop computers
- Top 5 viewed broadcasts: Linwood Holton Memorial (442 views); Easter Sunday (439 views); Sunday, October 31 (423 views); Sunday, September 5 (376 views); and Sunday, April 11 (309 views)

On most Sundays through the past year, when we count those in-person in the sanctuary, and add the number watching online, the totals far exceed the numbers we have experienced prior to Covid.

We celebrate the connections and community building that this technology affords us, especially in these challenging times. Thank you for your support.



Report from the Membership Council Vernon Mays, Chair

Despite the challenges surrounding the pandemic, church membership made significant strides during the past year. Membership Council performed its regular slate of duties, which include helping prospective members understand the mission and culture of our church and coordinating Council members and other volunteers from the congregation to greet visitors after worship.

To celebrate the launch of the church year, the Council sponsored a Rally Day gathering in the South Courtyard prior to worship on September 12. Coffee, juice, mini-donuts, and tasty breakfast burritos were served to all for good fellowship and a welcome back from summer's hiatus.

With the church doors reopened for in-person worship, we greeted many new visitors who have found a church home at Second Presbyterian. In October, we were blessed to welcome this class of new members to our congregation.

Natalie Eisenach and Spencer Harris: Natalie is from Kansas; she moved to Richmond for college and later returned for her residency training. Spencer is originally from Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, and graduated from the University of Richmond. He received his medical and graduate school training at VCU. They are both runners. Spencer enjoys hiking, college football, board games, and listening to classical music. Natalie enjoys learning about arts/film and wants to learn more about the artistic side of Richmond.

Jack and Erica Warren: Jack and Erica Warren met at Presbyterian College and recently moved to Richmond from Nashville, Tennessee. Jack works in sports advertising and Erica works in finance. Erica (formerly Erica Vogler) was born and raised in Richmond and attended Second Church with her family. Jack is from Columbus, Georgia. If they are not spending time with their dog, Darla, they enjoy traveling, watching sports, cooking, and visiting family.

Brad Mooney: Brad is a recent military retiree and moved from Washington, D.C., to be closer to his kids. He spent the first part of his career as enlisted in the Army and the second half as an Air Force officer. He is now a Professor of Acquisition Management based at Ft. Belvoir. He was raised in Ohio and has lived around the world. He earned an MBA from Ohio Dominican University and an MMS from Air University. Brad enjoys sailing, athletics, and reading. He lives in downtown Richmond.

Melanie and Robert Griffey: Melanie and Robert moved to Richmond from Kansas City. Their daughter, Emily, lives in Richmond. Melanie is also related to Bill Schotanus, who recently passed away, and his daughter, Nan Boyd, and her family. With the addition of Emily's children, now four and seven, they had to move to Richmond! They find themselves more than busy caring for grandchildren and trying to establish a garden. They are grateful to have found Second Church of Richmond!

"Bunny" Tai: Yun-Ling (known as Ling or Bunny) moved from Taiwan with a Garfield cat named JJ in July 2019. She is a visiting scholar in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at VCU. She was born in a Taiwanese Presbyterian church and for generations her family believed in Jesus. She was encouraged to serve at church, so she played the piano, sang in the choir, and helped with youth fellowship in Taiwan. She has already joined our choir!

Eileen and Bill Vogel: Eileen and Bill Vogel joined us by transfer of membership from a sister church. They met as undergraduates at Susquehanna University. She worked in social services, he in education. In 1970, they moved to Virginia, where Bill taught at VCU in Special Education, and helped set up the Special Education program in Powhatan County Schools. He retired as a mental health consultant with the Virginia State Department. Eileen has served as a Deacon; Bill as an Elder. They have two daughters who work in special education and social work, respectively. They enjoy dancing, bird watching, nature, travel, and reading (history, theology). They are excited to join Second Church and its work in charity and justice.

Ed Davis: Ed formerly served at Second Presbyterian Church as a Deacon, Chair of the Property Committee, and choir member. He is an architect involved exclusively in historic preservation and has been appointed to numerous preservation associations in North Carolina and Virginia. Ed is currently vice president of the North Carolina State Capitol Foundation.

Baptisms

Edwin Randolph Evans, March 21 Eliza Ann Lazerow, March 26 Hannah Grace Stone, June 20

Marriages

Emily Blair Powers to Matthew Andrew Wilson, October 9

Transfers Out

Helen Brook

Deaths

Virginia (Ginnie) Ruth Aronson, March 1
Joyce Mabel Shively, March 5
Evelyn Hamm Moss, April 3
Judy Van Styke Turk, May 2
Daniel Allen Hillsman, May 13
Gail Gatewood Gillespie, August 20
Amy Martin Padgett, September 22
Richard (Dick) Beverly Vines, November 23
Mary Will Mays, December 9



Report from the Mission and Advocacy Council Lucretia McCulley and Cathy Howard, Co-Chairs

Faith-based advocacy and mission work "side by side" by advocating for systemic changes while providing hands-on mission assistance through our mission partners and church mission programs. This past June, the Council acknowledged the ten-year anniversary of the Advocacy Committee and celebrated its merged role within the Council and as an important component of the church's outreach. The Council changed its name to Mission and Advocacy Council to reflect these two areas of focus.

In addition to having Kelley Connelly continue as the Director of Urban Engagement, Marvin Daniel was commissioned to serve as the lay pastor for Mission and Advocacy. His appointment was approved by the Presbytery of the James in October. Their combined services contributed to the many MAC accomplishments this year.

Advocacy priorities for 2021-22 include Immigrants/Refugees, Earthcare, Racism and Racial Equity (including criminal justice reform and gun violence). Consistent attention on these priorities were shared with the congregation through education, prayer and action. We partner with Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (VAIPL) and the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness to communicate with state and congressional representatives on issues and legislation related to our priorities. In collaboration with VICPP, Council members also hosted zoom meetings with state representatives this past fall. Lucretia McCulley administers the "Advocacy@2ndPres" google groups email list to alert church members about faith-based advocacy actions and learning opportunities. Nearly 70 members are currently on the list.

We invited Kim Bobo, Executive Director of VICPP, to speak during the church school hour on November 21, where attendees learned more about the mission of VICPP and upcoming legislative issues for the 2022 General Assembly. The Council followed up by encouraging church members to register for the January 2022 "Days for All People" which was held via Zoom. This annual event is a meaningful opportunity to learn about legislative priorities through workshops and speakers and to advocate with our state legislators.

In December, the Mission and Advocacy Council and the Arts Committee collaborated once again to create an impactful orange ribbon display remembering gun violence victims in the City of Richmond. On Sunday, January 16, 2022, our worship service included litanies and prayers focused on gun violence and the congregation read the names of the people who were killed by guns in the City of Richmond in 2021. In addition, the bell tolling for gun violence victims in the City of Richmond continued each Monday morning throughout 2021 and prayers for victims are included in the bulletin each week.

The EarthKeepers subcommittee of MAC led the way in the spring of 2021 with a Holy Week Pilgrimage. Working with members from the Moving Forward Together committee, these two groups collaborated to embody Second's commitments as a Matthew 25 and Earth Care congregation by creating a three-day Holy Week Pilgrimage. The goal was to help Second's congregation walk the streets of Richmond to lament and confess its participation in Richmond's unhealed history of systemic racism and to envision resurrection possibilities. Individuals and small groups physically or virtually walked the three routes in Richmond,

reflecting on Jesus's story and Richmond's story at key locations. The Good Friday route was done as a shared walk with Clergy Against Racism congregations. That route helped neighbors come together to lament three national crises of 2020 deepened by racism: the pandemic, George Floyd's murder, and the January 6 insurrection at the nation's Capitol. Over 125 pilgrims, representing 24 congregations, and involving over 50 members at Second, walked the Good Friday route together in small, interracial, covid-safe groups.

For the months of September and October, MAC leaders hosted an eight-week speaker series called "Perspectives on Richmond's Emerging Story." In keeping with our commitments as a Matthew 25 and Earth Care Congregation, we engaged speakers representing voices of those in Richmond and Virginia whose stories, contributions, and aspirations have been hidden, thwarted, or devalued through systemic racism. Speakers such as Michael Paul Williams, 2021 recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for journalism, Chief Stephen Adkins of the Chickahominy tribe, Faithe Norrell of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center, and historian Dr. Ed Ayers of the University of Richmond, as well as four others, helped us make connections with hidden stories that guide our steps toward a more hopeful future.

In November, an intergenerational group of 18 EarthKeepers from our congregation met with the Rev. Ralph Hodge, one of our fall speakers. Mr. Hodge hosted them for a field trip to learn more about environmental justice. They toured the community garden and learned about several earth care initiatives that Second Baptist Church in South side Richmond has developed to serve larger southside Richmond community. They came away with new ideas about how to address racial justice through earth care initiatives.

The Mission and Advocacy Council co-sponsored an educational Zoom talk in late October about climate issues with PC(USA) International Peacemaker Frances Namamou. This was a joint effort with several churches in the Presbytery of the James.

MAC heard presentations from ACTS (Area Congregations Together in Service) which has been keenly involved with pandemic relief for families, and from the Scholars Latino Initiative. Kelley began a podcast series entitled "Second Servings." With assistance from Bo Jacob, she has interviewed several of our mission partners. All podcasts can be accessed from the church website. In addition, church members participated in several volunteer days at Shalom Farms. Volunteer opportunities in the community were limited due to Covid-19.

In January, we hosted an online presentation by Bethany McGinnis from Equal Exchange Fair Trade about the importance of Fair Trade to the community of small coffee farmers in Central and South America. Shortly afterwards, we learned that despite Covid-19, our church was once again in the top 5% of churches nationally in sales of Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee in 2020. In particular, Second Church sales were noted as #51 of all of the thousands of churches who do the Equal Exchange program and #12 among Presbyterian churches specifically. Although face-to-face sales were suspended for many months during Covid, we continued to offer free home delivery and at-church pickup for our loyal customers. In response to requests we added 6 varieties of tea to our 6 varieties of coffee available for purchase in early 2021. Our Fair Trade Coffee Sales team resumed face-to-face sales twice monthly in the fall of 2021.

A working group met and made recommendations for the use of the newly renovated Hawes Building. As a result, a weekly shower ministry was launched serving a maximum of eight people per day. In addition, the RVA Street Singers used the space for their weekly practice (when not under Covid restrictions).

The Al Winn Mission Endowment Fund was launched with application and guidelines posted on the church website. A review committee has been appointed. The Mission Education Fund awarded scholarships to four students for a total of \$34,000.

A number of very successful collections were conducted to support ministries with special needs: soup supplies for Walk-In; non-perishable food and goods for Sacred Heart and FeedMore; teacher supplies and books for Richmond Public schools; shower supplies for the shower ministry; warm clothing items for Walk-In guests. The generosity of the congregation has been overwhelming. In response to the crisis with Afghanistan refugees coming to Virginia, MAC approved \$3,000 to support ReEstablish Richmond, and \$10,000 to Massanetta Springs which will be housing individuals waiting for resettlement.

The Child Care Center closed during the pandemic. A Memorandum of Understanding with the YWCA has been approved by the Session and the Board of the YWCA to establish a Sprout School at Second Presbyterian Church. A contract is in the works with the anticipation that children will be enrolled by summer 2022.

The church participates in the Four Special Offerings that support the work of our denomination: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy Offering. In the past year, giving to all offerings except the One Great Hour of Sharing returned to their pre-pandemic levels. Two offerings allow for congregations to designate part of the offering. The OGHS received \$2850 to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People. The Pentecost Offering received \$2,864 to address at-risk children, so our designation went to Sacred Heart Center's summer program for children. The Peace and Global Witness Offering received \$3,025 and our designation went to Haiti and our partners there to address the overwhelming needs in this fragile country. The Christmas Joy received \$2,057 which provides needed financial assistance for church workers and for colleges equipping communities of color.

Funding for all mission partners remained constant for 2021. Going forward, MAC requested funding proposals for 2022. Upon review of proposals, the requested budget reflected increases for several local mission partners, basic mission support of PC(USA), international partnerships, and the POJ hunger fund. We are encouraged that the church continues to provide strong support for mission efforts that align with our commitment as a Matthew 25 congregation. In January 2022, the budget and finance committee approved all MAC budget requests.

As a Matthew 25 church and an Earth Care Congregation, we are called to build a more just society. Our faith-based advocacy and mission efforts are grounded in scripture and we welcome others in the Second Presbyterian community to join us with prayers, volunteer opportunities, actions and learning opportunities in 2022.

Report from UKirk RVA Kelley Connelly

This time last year I was thinking about Isaiah 43:19, where we read "I am about to do a new thing!" I wondered what *new* could really begin in the midst of an ongoing, global pandemic? Well, God certainly has a sense of humor that way. UKirk RVA has taken a very new turn this year, but it's one that I am very excited about. Last summer, in a conversation with two of my campus ministry colleagues at VCU, we realized that we were all in the same position -- ready to meet new students and grow our ministries, but not sure how to move forward in that growth.

So, after much planning, prayer and discernment, we decided we should join forces and create a new, more sustainable model for our programming. UKirk RVA began collaborating with Episcopal and United Methodist Campus Ministries at VCU for the 2021-2022 school year. We wanted to provide a space for students of diverse cultural backgrounds and faiths to connect and learn about others in an intentional community. We do this by providing fellowship, storytelling, bible study, student worship, and a weekly meal. At this point, all our programming happens at the Pace Center on the campus of VCU. Pace is the United Methodist Church's center for Campus and Community ministry. Their location has been such an asset to the programming this year and gives me the opportunity to engage with students on a more regular basis and participate in on campus events more frequently. Some of our most successful programs this semester include:

Stories and Lunch

A weekly meeting centered around one topic to encourage storytelling and connection. Meals are provided weekly by local congregations and other sponsoring organizations. The meal ministry is a great way to engage church volunteers with the college students. As of December 2021 this event averages around 25 students per week.

❖ Walk a Dog

Come and walk a dog with us! This event is held twice a week. Students are invited to join staff and peers to simply walk dogs. This initiative was originally started by staff to provide a therapeutic activity and give people a sense of home when they come to our space. The Walk-a-Dog program is now run by students, and we have 12-18 people participate regularly.

Mindfulness

 Weekly mindfulness sessions led by students. Activities include but are not limited to coloring, meditation, and other relaxing activities to encourage mindfulness as a daily practice.

As I continue to navigate the protocols of COVID-19, I remain hopeful knowing that God is at work. I keep adapting when adapting is necessary and reminding myself that there isn't a handbook on how to do ministry in a global pandemic. For now, we remain flexible and trust God. As this new semester begins, I look forward to more sharing, eating, gathering, and cultivating a foretaste of the Kingdom of God for our students.

Report of the Building Administrator Rob Fergusson

Our historic buildings and their systems are in very good condition. Some of the more interesting projects tackled this past year include the replacement of our aged, failing security camera system with a new system expanded to provide advanced warning of trouble before it arrived at a door. Our new shower and laundry ministry needed the installation of wall-mounted shower seats, shower soap dispensers, clothes dryer vent booster fans, and storage shelving. On the first floor, we painted the dining room, the foyer facing the corner of 5th and Main, and the hall connecting them, along with the first and second floor corridors between the sanctuary and chapel, and their stairwells. In the hall leading from the atrium to Dorothy's office, the carpet was replaced with wood flooring for a more consistent look with the renovated atrium; and the kitchen stair landing with its broken floor tiles was given a new, wood floor to match the adjacent corridor. Out in the courtyard we replaced the failed fountain pump and treated the fountain's developing corrosion. We also reworked the floor of "the pit" in the rear corner of the courtyard to eliminate its standing water that produced mosquitos. That pit also got a leaf cover to prevent blockage of the stormwater drain system. All our very aged computers were replaced. The new faucets in our recently renovated first floor restrooms were battery-powered. These faucets could be operated manually, or by touch, or in a touchless manner; but often the wrong combination of these methods would drain a faucet's several batteries in just a couple of days, so we hardwired them. The roof membrane over the sanctuary-chapel corridor required numerous repairs; we looked into replacing that 80-foot section but found that the prudent approach was to repair now and consider replacement in a few years when the skyrocketing material prices have come back down. Removal of the historic plaques from the sanctuary exposed large holes in the wall, and all of that was repaired and repainted.

By the time you read this I will have retired as Second's Building Administrator after nine years of service. I'll miss that job and the wonderful interactions I've had with staff and members of the congregation. When I was hired, I saw opportunities for a lot of operational improvements in building management, and I've worked hard over these years, including in a lot of my free time, to make things easier for my eventual successor. So, he or she will now be equipped with manuals I've written on the operation and maintenance of every building system; with an extensive inspection and maintenance checklist; with storage areas that are emptied of junk and used for organized storage of our tools and materials; with organized files of warranties, service agreements, and regulatory inspection reports; with organized administrative files including modernized leasing; and with a comprehensive list of suggested, prioritized projects for Property Council's 5-year plan.

Wishing you all a safe and delightful 2022.



Report from the Personnel Committee Jonathan Heckel, Chair

Members: Anne Grier, June Henderson, Sam Highfill, Chris Reina

The Personnel Committee has ongoing responsibilities to support our church staff members to help them to successfully engage in their professional roles within the life of the church. Additionally, the Committee seeks to assist the Pastor in creating a positive, motivating and equitable workplace culture through the administration of compensation and benefits, the creation and administration of policies, as well as the hiring, coaching and counseling of staff members when appropriate or necessary.

In 2021 the Personnel Committee directly felt the effects of the Great Resignation, an ongoing societal trend in which employees are critically re-evaluating their working roles as a result of the stress and challenge of living in our pandemic world. In doing so, working folk beyond Second Presbyterian across all job disciplines have opted to voluntarily resign from their jobs simply due to their changing feelings about work while re-thinking life's priorities. In January, we didn't know how that would impact Second Presbyterian.

In April our accomplished Organist Michael Simpson announced his retirement after 11 years of faithful service to Second. To help us to prepare for a smooth transition in June, Michael graciously gave us much advance notice and also helped us to "stockpile" pre-recorded music for our digital streaming. We promptly launched a search committee in partnership with Jeff Riehl (Director of Music) and other members of our musical community. After a sixweek process we found our current Organist Grant Hellmers who took control of the bench without skipping a beat. We are very grateful to have had the benefit of Michael's musical gifts for so many years and celebrate with him that he has arrived at this point in his life. We also warmly welcome Grant to our church family!

In July we said goodbye to Sexton Chris Adams who left us to work for Assisting Families of Inmates, one of Second's mission partners. Chris' gregarious personality was a gift that was enjoyed by those who interacted with him around the church, and his new role enabled him to directly engage with the agency's clients and make the fullest use of his talents and gifts. We were completely supportive of his transition, and this gave us an opportunity to creatively re-think the void left by Chris. Instead of hiring his replacement, the Personnel Committee reconfigured the work time and responsibilities of our remaining Sextons Kerry Randolph and Teddy McClure.

In September, we were then notified by our Financial Manager, Terry Sherman, that she would also be changing her priorities and announced her planned departure after 14 years of keeping our books and reporting our financials. Another search committee was initiated between Personnel and the Budget & Finance Council. While seeking a new financial partner during budget season was not ideal, the search committee pushed forward. After analyzing our needs and speaking with many potential resources, the committee settled on securing the services of the public accounting firm Warren Whitney who got started in November. Their representative, Rusty Dean, jumped in with both feet and quickly got us caught up on monthly reporting and prepared us to face 2022 with new accounting strength.

In November, the Great Resignation brushed us once more. After eight years of steady, calm and generous service to the church, Building Administrator, Rob Fergusson, announced plans for his retirement as well. Yet another search committee was launched, this time with the help of the Property Council. After seven weeks of focused activity, we warmly welcomed Gene Roland to Second as our new Building Administrator. Gene brings to us decades of experience managing and maintaining large buildings having worked for the City of Richmond, VCU, and St. James's Episcopal Church. While the boiler room will certainly miss Rob's faithful presence, he left us in remarkably better shape than when he arrived eight years ago. Gene got started right away developing a relationship with the boiler (!) and we are blessed to have his knowledge and expertise safeguarding a complex assortment of historic buildings.

Thankfully 2021 has come to an end for the Personnel Committee! I am personally grateful for each of those listed above who serve with me willingly and faithfully. There has been plenty to do and each Committee member has been entirely hands-on accomplishing the work of the church. A very big thank you to these wonderful folks who have served this year adeptly guiding us through the effects of the Great Resignation.

We are all also grateful for the staff who support us and keep us moving forward each and every day, having done so for years. We rejoice in the support of our Office Manager, Dorothy DeJong, who has been with us for 16 years, as well for the service of Lead Sexton, Kerry Randolph, who has been with us steadfastly for 33 years! We also are well-served by the talents and services of our part-time administrative staff: Willa Jacob, Administrative Assistant; Cliff Anderson, Security; Elva Mapp, Walk-In Coordinator; and Bo Jacob, Production Director. In addition to his hands-on work with production, Bo now oversees several volunteers who assist with our Sunday services as well as continuing to build out and maintain our digital infrastructure at Second.

In 2022 these highly capable staff members are working alongside our wonderful religious program professionals Ginger Evans (Director of Christian Education) and Roger Gench (Theologian in Residence), as well as with our clergy Alex Evans (pastor), Kate Fiedler (Associate Pastor), Kelley Connelly (UKirk Campus Minister & Urban Engagement) and student Levi Bannerman (UKirk Intern).

We are grateful for our many blessings bestowed upon us through our talented and highly committed staff members. Supporting the operations of an active church such as Second Presbyterian on many days is hard work, made even harder by the pandemic. Our vibrant congregation serves God by moving forward, but our tasks are made easier with the help of our wonderful church professionals, capably serving in each and every role. We sincerely appreciate their service. To our church staff we again say loudly: THANK YOU for all that you do!

Report from the Budget and Finance Committee Carolyn Brandt, Chair

The Budget and Finance Committee has two main responsibilities.

First: The Committee monitors the Church's revenues and expenses in relation to the annual budget approved by the Session. At its almost monthly meetings, the Committee reviews financial reports prepared by the Church's Financial Manager. These financial reports later are presented to the Session. The Committee also receives financial information about the Endowment Fund, the Capital Campaign (in recent years), the Virginia Building, and the Parking Deck.

Second: The Committee coordinates the preparation of the Church's annual budget. In the fall, the Committee receives the Councils' spending requests for the following calendar year and reviews anticipated revenues from stewardship pledges, plate offerings, prior year pledges, the Endowment Fund annual 3.5% draw, Virginia Building net income, and several other revenue sources. If necessary, the Committee and the Council Chairs meet in early December to reconcile spending requests and anticipated revenues. When final year-end financials are available, the Committee finalizes its budget recommendation and presents a proposed budget to the Session for approval. The Committee also orders and receives an annual audit of the Church's financial statements prepared by an independent outside auditor.

The year 2021 saw the continued effects of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Most previously in-person activities and meetings continued to be conducted via Zoom. The Church did resume in-person Sunday worship in the late spring with health and safety related precautions and continued the streaming worship service as well. In the fall many meetings continued on Zoom but a few Sunday School classes resumed meeting in person. However, few fellowship activities occurred due to COVID concerns.

The Church ended 2021 in a strong financial position. While plate offerings were understandably lower than anticipated, pledge offerings exceeded the budgeted amount of \$890,000 by \$16,821. Expenditures remained under-budget, largely due to the continuing COVID-related changes in Church operations and to spending discipline by the Councils. In short, the Church ended 2021 with a surplus of \$85,596.66.

The 2022 budget process proceeded smoothly. The Council Chairs submitted their requests in the fall and the Committee was able to design a balanced budget that met all of the Councils' initial budget requests without change. The Committee's proposed budget was approved by the Session at its meeting on January 18, 2022.

A major change occurred in September when Terry Sherman, Financial Manager for 14 years, submitted her resignation. We accepted the resignation regretfully and thanked her for her many years of service to the Committee and to the Church. Fortunately, the Personnel Committee was able to hire the Warren Whitney Management Consulting firm in her place, and they assigned Rusty Dean to be our manager. He spent the month of December creating operating budget financials for October, November, and December so that we could finalize the 2022 budget in time to present it at the January session meeting.

The Church continues to be blessed with members who are generous with their time and talents, including their financial resources. Just as in 2020, 2021 was a challenging year. However, the clergy, staff, and members of the Church responded faithfully, creating a financial situation in which Richmond can continue to be a beacon of hope to Richmond and beyond. Thanks be to God!

The Committee members are: Carolyn Brandt (Treasurer and Committee Chair), Marvin Daniel (Elder and Lay Minister for Mission and Advocacy), Tom Edmonds, Don Falls (Assistant Treasurer), Sam Highfill (Elder), Jackie Jackson (Secretary), Anne McDonnell (Elder), Cherry Peters (Assistant Treasurer), Richard Reynolds (Deacon), and Terry Sheets (Elder).

The Committee is supported by staff members Alex Evans, Pastor; Dorothy DeJong, Office Manager; and Rusty Dean (Financial Manager). Independent auditor TBD.



REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO THE SESSION AND CONGREGATION FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

Background. The Trustees are charged under the Book of Order of the PCUSA and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia with the ownership and management of the real, tangible personal and intangible property of the Church, subject to the ultimate direction of the Session. (Under a resolution of the Session, the Property Council handles maintenance of all Church real property.)

2021 Results. The Trustees meet at least quarterly with the Pastor, the Church's financial manager, and representatives of The Colony Group (the Church's fee-based investment advisor) to monitor performance and conditions. Discretionary investment management is provided by our advisors under an investment policy and an asset allocation model adopted by the Trustees. The General Endowment Fund (GEF) is invested in a mix of large cap, small cap, index, growth, value, international and fixed income mutual funds. This mix of investments is designed with a goal of minimizing risk and volatility, while maximizing return.

Set forth below is information from the GEF for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2020 and 2019:

General Endowment Fund	2019	2020	2021
Balance at beginning of year	\$5,732,944	\$6,737,165	\$7,468,965
Withdrawals	\$202,000	\$217,200	\$232,000
Contributions	\$166,426	\$1,013,634	\$914,443
Balance at end of year	\$6,737,165	\$7,468,965	\$9.020,025
Investment Gain / Loss	18.9%	13.0%	11.1%

The GEF contributes on a quarterly basis to the Church's annual operating budget. During 2021, the GEF contributed a total of \$232,000 to support the Church's operations. These contributions are determined by a formula set by Session, which equals 3.5% of the average of the fund's year-end balances over the preceding three years.

Other Invested Funds. Additional funds invested with the endowment, but have special designated uses, totaled \$2,358,029 at the end of 2021. The Toms Music Fund, which provides money for special music projects had an ending balance of \$10,962. The Manse Fund, which is the source from which the Church may lend money to its pastors to assist in the purchase and upkeep of housing had an ending balance of \$317,491. The Capital Reserve Fund, which provides resources when needed for unanticipated repairs or improvements to the Church's physical plant that cannot be covered by the operating budget of the Property Council had an ending balance of \$532,977. An Organ Maintenance Fund for repairs and maintenance to our organ had a balance was \$45,237. Two funds created in 2019 from our "Shining the Light of God's Grace" capital campaign and their 2021 balances are the Mission Endowment Fund with a balance of \$865,301 and the Education Scholarship Fund with balance of \$151,196. Other funds invested with the endowment include the Capital Campaign 2016 Fund, which had a year-end balance of \$214,207, the Davis Urban Engagement Fund (\$141,104), and the Gus and Virginia Davis Enrichment Fund (\$79,554).

The monies in all these funds are invested according to the identical strategy as the GEF and provide identical returns. Periodically, some of these funds are spent for the purposes intended.

Miscellany. In December 2021, \$620,000 of the GEF was used to refinance the bank loan that had been approved by Session in 2015 to buy out the former parking deck lease and make repairs to the parking deck. By using endowment funds to refinance the parking deck loan, the Church will save approximately \$47,000 per year in federal income taxes, which would otherwise apply beginning in 2022. The Parking Deck Committee signed a note to repay the GEF in monthly installments of principal and interest over four years at an annual interest rate of 4.5%. It is anticipated that the loan will be repaid in fewer than four years as surplus revenue from the parking deck operations will be used to make additional principal payments on the loan.

Respectfully submitted,

The Trustees of Second Presbyterian Church
Carolyn Brandt
Jeff Gallagher
Matt Horn
Mac Pence
Ken Powell
Katherine Weisiger, Chair

Second Presbyterian Church 2021 and 2022 Operating Fund Budget

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	Approved 2021 Budget	Approved 2022 Budget
SUPPORT and REVENUE				
CONTRIBUTIONS				
Pledged Contributions	\$911,647	\$906,822	\$890,000	\$905,000
Prior Year Pledge Payments	1,283	4,500	1,000	1,000
Plate Offerings	16,962	9,352	18,000	14,500
Special Contributions		100		
Subtotal Contributions	929,892	920,774	909,000	920,500
OTHER SUPPORT and REVENUE				
Cole Trust Fund Earnings	1,026	-	-	-
Investment income	1,832	113	1,000	1,000
Facilities Use	500	470	500	500
VA Bldg Net Income Transfer	60,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Endowment Transfer	217,200	232,000	232,000	270,000
Allocation of prior accum surplus	not needed	not needed	41,074	85,432
Subtotal Other Income	280,558	297,583	339,574	421,932
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	1,210,450	1,218,357	1,248,574	1,342,432
EXPENSES				
MISSION	198,582	151,122	198,582	227,832
WORSHIP & MUSIC	25,464	25,859	48,600	48,850
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	8,400	7,778	23,000	23,700
ADMINISTRATION	61,871	55,465	68,300	79,950
STEWARDSHIP	390	-	200	200
MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL	-	67	3,000	3,000
BOARD OF DEACONS	2,454	1,808	1,900	2,400
KITCHEN OPERATION	1,261	483	3,000	3,000
PROPERTY	141,425	170,479	178,500	178,500
PERSONNEL	694,823	719,699	723,492	775,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,134,679	1,132,760	1,248,574	1,342,432
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 75,870	\$ 85,597	<u> </u>	\$ -

Church Staff

Ministers: All members of the congregation

Pastor: Alex Evans (aevans@2presrichmond.org)

Associate Pastor: Kate Fiedler (katef@2presrichmond.org)

Director of Christian Education: Ginger Evans (gevans@2presrichmond.org)

Director of Music: Jeffrey Riehl (jriehl@richmond.edu)

Organist: Grant Hellmers (grant.hellmers@gmail.com)

Building Administrator: Gene Roland (groland@2presrichmond.org)

UKirk Campus Minister and Urban Engagement: Kelley Connelly (kconnelly@2presrichmond.org)

Office Manager: Dorothy DeJong (ddejong@2presrichmond.org)

Financial Manager: Rusty Dean

Administrative Assistant: Willa Jacob (wjacob@2presrichmond.org)

Production Director: Bo Jacob (knobturner2001@yahoo.com)

Theologian-in-Residence: Roger Gench (rgench@2presrichmond.org)

Pastor Emeritus: Ben Sparks

Walk-In Coordinator: Elva Mapp (eamapp@icloud.com)

Sexton: Kerry Randolph Security: Cliff Anderson

Missionaries: Karla Koll, San Jose, Costa Rica

Cindy Corell, Haiti

Leslie Vogel, Regional Liaison, Mexico and Guatemala

Our missionaries are partially supported by the regular benevolent giving of our church.



5 NORTH FIFTH STREET | RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 2321 804 649 9148 | www.2presrichmond.org PC(USA)

We welcome all whom God calls into the life, worship, work, and leadership of this church without regard to gender, cultural heritage, skin color, socio-economic status, circumstances, or sexual orientation.