



Some years ago a Presbyterian minister friend and his Roman Catholic wife asked me to baptize their twins, and a local Catholic bishop (another friend of the family) was asked to co-officiate. When we met to settle on details of the service, the bishop asked if we wanted to include the exorcism.

I had seen the movie and was rendered momentarily speechless at the thought of rotating heads and projectile vomiting. Catching the look of horror on my face, the bishop smiled and explained the liturgical moment he had in mind—one that turned out to have a clear parallel in the baptismal question Presbyterians ask: do you “renounce evil and its power in the world?” (PCUSA Book of Common Worship).

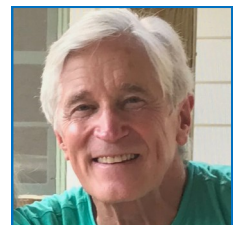
As we come to the baptismal font, we do so with a recognition that the one we baptize will be a disciple in a world that does not embody the gospel’s values—a world that can distort and damage our humanity. At the moment of baptism, we renounce evil—all that defies God’s loving and just ways in the world and in the life of the one baptized. Ever since my a-ha moment with the bishop, I have referred to this Presbyterian query as the exorcism question!

The renunciation of evil is a communal and covenantal act, a promise we make to each other, for the world’s evil gets inscribed upon all of us—evils such as racism, sexism, homophobia which distort our humanity and our common life. They are in the very air we breathe and are the ghosts that have us by the throat. Yet in baptism we affirm that God’s love is infinitely more powerful than the violence the world inscribes upon us.

The baptismal vow of renunciation is a critical tool in reminding us that we are accountable to each other in calling out such aggressions and distortions of our humanity when we see them—gracefully, but forcefully and courageously as the Spirit of the crucified and risen Christ empowers us to do so, so that we may grow into our full stature as children of God and disciples of Jesus.

Fear is the great inhibitor of renouncing and resisting evil. Thus one of Jesus’ most frequent admonitions to his disciples was “fear not.”

May remembrance of baptism, and of the promises we make to each other around the font, strengthen us for our ministry in this transitional period in our church’s life.



Roger Gench,
Transitional Team
Pastor

Anything But Ordinary Art Show

from the Gallery at 2nd Pres



Please take some time to view the amazing artwork in the gallery.

Make sure you read the artist's statements for the work. Artists explored the extraordinary presence of God in the ordinary details of life.

Transition Information

From Kate Fiedler

Presbyterians believe that God uses committees, papers, procedures, and our polity--sprinkled with a generous measure of prayer, Scripture, and worship--to help a church family discern who it is that God is calling to be their pastor. The transition season takes time to build relationships with candidates to discern who will be called. This call is confirmed as the pastor, the church, and the presbytery each say "yes" to the relationship. This three-way partnership is acted out throughout the pastoral call process.

Roles of the Congregation during the transition:

- Continuing to support the ministry of the church through prayer, participation, and financial support during the time of pastoral transition
- Participating in the Mission Study this summer (happening later than originally planned), through Holy Cow! Consulting
- Electing the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)
- Praying regularly for the PNC
- Electing the new pastor and approving the terms of call
- Welcoming the new pastor as the ministry begins

Transition Team of Three at Second:

- **Roger Gench:** Summer 2023: acting head-of-staff, moderator of Session, and leader of staff meetings; starting in the fall of 2023, will focus on worship & teaching
- **Mary Jane Winter:** pastoral care & worship
- **Fred Holbrook:** Starting September 2023: head-of-staff, administration, moderating Session, leading staff meetings, and worship

All three pastors are familiar with Second Church, and are eager to support the congregation's move through the transition season with grace, confidence, and clarity.

- If you have other questions, please contact the staff, and check out the webpage for updates on the process. (<https://www.2presrichmond.org/pastoral-transition>)
- If you would like to nominate someone for the Pastor Nominating Committee, email Vernon Mays (vernonlmays@gmail.com) and Cliff Henderson (cehender@yahoo.com), co-chairs of the Nominating Committee.

Lectio Divina



All are invited to join us for the practice of Lectio Divina. Join us weekly on Mondays from 1:00-2:00 pm on Zoom. We read a passage from scripture three times, with periods of silence and reflection following each reading. We close our time together with conversation and prayer. *All ages and stages of faith are welcome!* Join us for this time to focus our attention on the living Word and to tune our hearts with God's love. Join Lectio Divina on Mondays at 1:00 pm. Click [this link](#)

(Meeting ID: 951 6829 7558 // Passcode: 067514).

Summer Conferences!

Massanetta ~ Worship and Music ~ Youth ~ Women



Our middle school youth recently attended the Massanetta Middle School Conference, **Welcome Home**, which focused on Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."

"Many of us have heard this phrase, but what do these words really mean to us?" This conference examined Psalm 23 in a deeper way, and explored the familiar words through keynote, recreation, workshops, and encounter groups.

Ask our middle schoolers about their exploration of Psalm 23 when you see them!

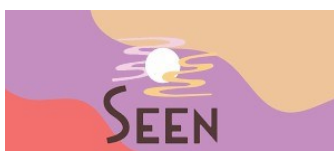


Members of the choir and others head to Montreat for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Conference on Worship and Music, **Thirst No More**.

"In the gospel of John, a Samaritan woman goes to the well for refreshment and has a life changing encounter with Jesus. Similarly, each year conferees gather for refreshment, renewal, and relaxation, drawing from the metaphorical well that is the PAM Worship and Music Conference, a well overflowing with wisdom and knowledge."

Check in with choir members about the worship and music in Montreat when they return!

At the end of July, our high school youth will attend the Montreat Youth Conference. The theme is **InJoy**. *"What does it mean to experience deep, authentic joy? It can often feel inaccessible or artificial, yet opening ourselves up to it provides new possibilities and stretches our boundaries. Youth will leave Montreat knowing that their faith matters; they are loved as they are; and that they are part of a community of faith."* Ask our youth about their perspective of joy in faith upon their return in early August!



And finally, the women of the church will attend the Montreat Women's Connection with the theme of **Seen** in mid-August. *"In the midst of our shared feelings of fatigue, anxiety, isolation, burn out, frustration, anger... we can feel invisible, unseen. Through biblical call stories with women like*

Hagar, Mary, and the unnamed woman at the well, scripture reminds us time and time again that our God is a God who always sees us. God looks beneath the surface and sees us, claims us, and loves us unconditionally." Check in with the women of the church as they return in late August, and ask about their takeaways from this study of women of the bible!

Preaching Schedule for July & August

July 2	Roger Gench	August 6	Roger Gench
July 9	Kate Fiedler	August 13	Kelley Connelly
July 16	Kelley Connelly	August 20	Kate Fiedler
July 23	Roger Gench	August 27	Marvin Daniel
July 30	Roger Gench		

Deacons' Corner

The deacons have received numerous updates since we published the membership directory last fall. We have decided not to share this updated information online, out of concern for protecting our members' privacy and security issues. However, we are planning to distribute an updated directory this fall—stay tuned.

In the upcoming weeks, you will be receiving a questionnaire, to learn more about what's important to you in the pastoral search. Your thoughts are very important to us. If you have any difficulty completing this document online, please let the deacons know. We will be happy to help.

In May, the deacons hosted a night out at the Richmond Squirrels game for members of Second and their families and friends. **The group had fun celebrating Stuart Martin's birthday--and with a Squirrels win, too!**



“Those of us who were there had a blast! It was a beautiful night,” said deacon Anne Looney.

* * *

During this time of transition, we want to encourage connections among the congregation, and we will host some fun events in the months ahead. We hope you can make it to our ice cream social after church on July 16th.

Christian Faith Formation

Many thanks to the incredible teachers and speakers who have shared their expertise in our faith formation classes this 2022-2023 program year! We are putting together another inspirational and faithful lineup for our next program year, which begins with Rally Day on Sunday, September 10.

Nursery | Infant to Completed Grade 2

Our program year takes a summer break from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During July and August, and on September 3, the nursery will be open from 9:45-11:15 am so that children, ages infant to completed grade 2, will have a place to be during summer worship. We will resume Sunday school offerings for all ages on Rally Day!

A Good Day at Second



On June 18, we were joined by the Rev. Betsey Moe and her husband, Eric Moe, mission co-workers in Guatemala.

Betsey preached, Eric played the trumpet, and together after worship shared information about their work with CEDEPCA and in Guatemala.

You can learn more about their ministry at [https://](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/rev-betsey-and-eric-moe/)

www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/rev-betsey-and-eric-moe/



Photos by T. Crickenberger

Congratulations to Knox Dendy!

We celebrate with Knox and his family as he graduated from The New Community School this spring.

Knox is looking forward to attending the College of William and Mary in the fall.

Knox, our prayers and support surround you as you begin this next chapter.

We rejoice with you and pray that you sense God's guidance and presence in your journey.



Partnership Trip to Guatemala

On Monday July 30, ten representatives from Second Presbyterian Church will travel to Guatemala where they will engage in the dynamic ministry of CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Education in Central America), a long time mission partner of Second. This visit strengthens our partnership and provides a first-hand glimpse into their life-changing ministry, and at the same time, deepens our life of faith and mission.

Emerson Morales, a friend of Second and now the pastor of a church in a challenging neighborhood, will be CEDEPCA's leader of the group in Guatemala. The group will visit a creative elementary school where the teachers have expressed a need for certain children's books. If you would like to purchase one from the list they have provided, please contact Mary Jane Winter (mjwinter@comcast.net). The books can be carried by the group.



Representing Second Presbyterian Church are: Kitty Bryant, Heidi Campbell, Terry Crickenberger, Kate Fiedler, Katherine Goodpasture, Jon Heckel, Dixon Kerr, Kathleen Murphy, January Tims, and Mary Jane Winter.

Please keep them in your prayers!

Ushers Needed

Every Sunday morning we have two ushers in the narthex to greet members and guests, and to distribute bulletins. We currently have a small but faithful group of ushers.

However, it would be wonderful to add more! Please contact Greg Dickie at 804-441-2328 or gregorydickie@comcast.net if you are interested in being an usher. *Thank you!*

Juneteenth Celebration

from Kelley Connelly

On Monday, June 19th the church building filled with joy and smiles as volunteers and lunch guests joined together to celebrate Juneteenth.

The Juneteenth Holiday commemorates the final federal enforcement of emancipation for the last slaves after the Civil War. God calls each of us to continually eliminate racism and seek the image of God in all people, everywhere—which is why we wanted to take this time during our Walk-In ministry to celebrate with a special meal and a performance by the RVA Street Singers! Many thanks to all of those who were able to attend and assist with this special program.

This performance concludes the program year for the RVA Street Singers. Rehearsals will resume in September.



Kroger Community Rewards – It Can't be Easier!

The Kroger Company Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Their stores are on a mission not just to be a part of but to help create stronger communities. They recognize that every community has unique causes that need support.

If you haven't already, please link Second Presbyterian to your rewards card. The more you shop, the more Second receives! From February 26 through May 27, 49 households shopped, and Second earned a total of \$268.97. These earnings benefit the Walk-In Ministry. Keep shopping. It truly can't be easier!

A Note of Thanks

I want to express my thanks and gratitude for the support given to me over the program year by our amazing team of volunteers who help each Sunday with the production of our online livestream and other audio/visual needs of this church.

*from Bo Jacob,
Production Director*

Gregg Hillmar sits at the controls for the cameras almost every week. He is so skilled at selecting great camera shots and fluid transitions that ensure a high quality video product for online viewers.

David Bailey rarely misses a Sunday and is a great help with the production set up in the sanctuary loft for guest vocalists and instrumentalists, as well as in the dining room for adult classes and guest lecturers. He can also be found running the sound board in the control room or manning the iPad in the sanctuary during the worship service.

Steve Barkley, our newest team member, has shown he has a love for sound mixing and will often be "on the board" during worship. He is also a great help with set-up and tear-down each Sunday.

They are volunteers but, in my opinion, provide Second Presbyterian with professional level A/V skills.

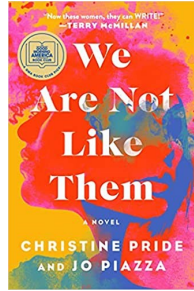
Finally, I want to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to the members of Second Church, as well as the staff, for providing support for the A/V department. We are so fortunate to have a high quality level of equipment so that we can meet the technical needs of this church community.

Literary Circle ~ July

Tuesday, July 11 at 7:00 pm

Literary Circle will meet on Tuesday, July 11 at 7:00 pm at the home of Elsa Falls (2180 Cedarfield Lane).

Carolyn Brandt will lead the discussion of *We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza.

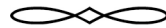


Literary Circle ~ August

Tuesday, August 8 at 7:00 pm

The circle will meet on Tuesday, August 8 at 7:00 pm for its annual book selection pot luck dinner at Carolyn Brandt's home (1412 Chowan Road).

If you would like to know more about these events, please contact Carolyn Brandt (288-2511, crbrandt1412@gmail.com) or Page Wagner (323-7038, pagewagner@icloud.com) for more information.



Day Book Group ~ July

Wednesday, July 19 at 10:00 am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on Wednesday, July 19, in Room 308 Virginia Building and on Zoom.

The group will be discussing poems by Joy Harjo, a Native American who has served as our Poet Laureate.

All are welcome.



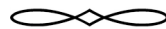
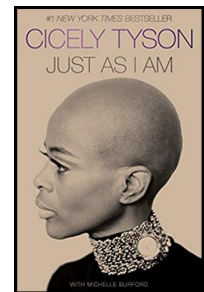
Day Book Group ~ August

Wednesday, August 16 at 10:00 am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on Wednesday, August 16, in Room 308 Virginia Building and on Zoom.

The book for discussion is *Just As I Am* by Cicely Tyson.

All are welcome.



All Nations Presbyterian Fellowship to Join in Worship on Sunday, August 6

The African immigrant congregation led by the Rev. Humphrey Muraya will be with us in worship on August 6 and afterward for fellowship. Last October, Rev. Muraya spoke during the church school hour about their fellowship which began with the name African Evangelical International Ministries (AFREIM) and has been one of the mission partners of Second for many years.

It is a joy they can be with us, especially as we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



Coffee and Tea Sales:

July 2 & 16

August 6 & 20

September Newsletter

The deadline for submissions for the September newsletter is Monday, August 21. Please send to:

wjacob@2presrichmond.org



Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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Summer Office Hours:

The church office closes at
3:00 pm Monday-Friday
between Memorial Day
and Labor Day.

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