



Second Press

Volume 41 Issue 5 May 2024

Dear Church Family,





How do you measure a year?

The musical *RENT* sings that a year is comprised of 525,600 minutes, measured in sunsets, midnights, cups of coffee, laughter, strife, and mostly measured in love. Last May, I wrote a letter for the front page of the Second Press, giving thanks for the ministry of Ginger and Alex Evans, and outlining the work of our Interim Team: Fred Holbrook, Roger Gench, and Mary Jane Winter. I am so grateful for the ways our Interim Team has led us! This year, I want to share a few places where the Spirit has shown up and reminded me that there is much to celebrate at Second Pres over the past year.



Kate Fiedler,
Associate
Pastor

At Second Pres, we can measure a year by the movement of the Spirit!

-  **Over the summer of 2023, we had five different groups travel—to conferences, and one international trip to connect with our mission partners in Guatemala!**
This was not a slow summer, with youth, choir members, women, staff, and ten of us exploring Guatemala with CEDEPCA. Benjamin Lomeling shared about the power of his experience at the Montreat Youth Conference from the pulpit during Youth Sunday. These trips nurture our community and connect us with friends and other churches in beautiful ways.
-  **Last fall we completed the Mission Study, with exciting results.** The Holy Cow! Consulting survey was well received, with high marks for participation. The survey results also demonstrated that Second Pres is a healthy church, “transformational” with high energy and high satisfaction, and that there were no major concerns or crises that needed attention in the interim. We are able to focus on welcoming guests, creating opportunities for connection, and nurturing relationships among the congregation.
-  **During Lent, Hannah Garrity and Mary Jane Winter worked to bring back Second Course.** These small group Bible studies were a hit! People enjoyed meeting over six weeks in nine different groups to connect and discuss different passages from the season. Again, the energy was high, and people were grateful to be together.
-  **We have welcomed TWELVE new members—friends in the faith—over the past year.** New people continue to find us, get a sense of our worship and community online, and join us downtown. We strive to welcome all who connect with us downtown and online, so keep wearing your name tags and greeting those you don’t already know.

This May, we pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee, as they begin the confidential phase of their work, talking with candidates and discerning the person God is calling to serve as the next pastor. This is exciting! We give thanks for their energy, time, and decisions as they work together to pay attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

It is clear the Holy Spirit is busy at Second Pres! *How have you sensed the work of the Spirit over the last year? What moments have reminded you that the Spirit is still active and hopeful at Second Pres?* We carry on, with hope and reminders that the Holy Spirit is in our midst, calling us as a community to welcome and serve our neighbors, to nurture our connections with one another, and to deepen our relationship with God. Given how the Spirit has shown up, I’m even more confident and grateful for our life together.

With joy,

Kate

The Forum Class ~ May | 9:30-10:30am

Fracture: Mental and Behavioral Health in the Wake of the Pandemic

A Series of Resurrection Stories for Eastertide

May 5 **Grace: Freewriting for Health & Collegiate Recovery**

May 12 **Community: A New Mission in Community Support**

May 19 **Prevention: Leadership Metro Richmond**

Grounded in the scriptural texts for the season, this study invites us to dive deep into understanding mental and behavioral health. Dr. Sarah Clark Wood has pulled together an incredible slate of speakers from around Richmond, Virginia, who are working closely with the field of Mental and Behavioral Health and Recovery. In talking to Dr. Wood, she identified that churches are a critical link in the process through allyship. Removing stigma around the subject is the first step toward becoming allies toward family and neighbors who are experiencing addiction, mental, or behavioral health events in their own lives.

Faith and Literature Class

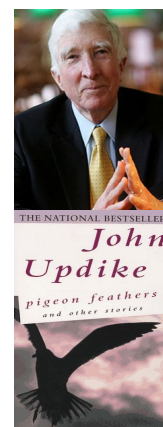
Pigeon Feathers and Other Stories

Second's Faith and Literature Adult Sunday morning class has begun discussing a new book: John Updike's *Pigeon Feathers and Other Stories*.

It's a collection of 19 short stories published in the 1960s in *The New Yorker* and elsewhere.

Newcomers are always welcome to join us in person in Room 308 or via simultaneous Zoom.

Contact Dan Ream at danream@gmail.com with any questions or for the Zoom link.



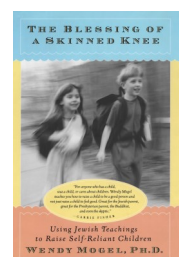
Parenting Discussion Group | Sundays at 9:30am | through May 12

The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children
by Wendy Mogel, Ph.D.

Parents, come together for discussion around this highly recommended book based on the teachings of the Jewish Talmud.

We will meet in the Atrium Conference Room.

Please contact Hannah at hgarritty@2presrichmond.org for more information.



Children's Church School | 9:30 am | For children, ages 4 years to 5th Grade

Join Ms. Laura, Ms. Maggie, and Rev. Paul for Children's Choir and Sunday School.
All are welcome!

1st Sunday — Music Time with Ms. Laura and Family Worship in the Chapel

2nd Sunday — Music Time with Ms. Laura and Church School with Bible Stories (Art)

3rd Sunday — Music Time with Ms. Laura and Church School with Bible Stories (Mission)

4th Sunday — Music Time with Ms. Laura and Church School with bible Stories (Drama)

Youth

Youth Group | 6th grade through 12th grade | 9:30am-10:45am

Join Andrew and Kate for Youth Group every Sunday in the youth suite!
Waffles, conversation, and Bible study at 9:30am.



Gratitude for Roger Gench

We give thanks for the gifts, mind, and talents that Roger Gench has shared with us over four years as our Theologian in Residence! He plans on writing a book and enjoying the full fruits of retirement. His last Sunday serving as part of our Interim Team will be July 28th.

If you would like to share your gratitude for Roger's preaching, teaching, and presence with our congregation, please send a card or email to Kate Fiedler (katef@2presrichmond.org) or leave it in her box by the church offices.

Kate and Hannah will arrange the cards and notes into a book of thanks to present to Roger in July.



Church Retreat ~ Saturday, May 18 ~ 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Plan to connect at the Second Presbyterian Church Spring 2024 Retreat at Richmond Hill!

The mission study we recently completed as a church reminded us that we seek to know one another in this vibrant Christian community. Over the last year, many have asked about mental and behavioral health in our post-pandemic life. There has also been interest among the congregation to spend some time on the topic of grief.

At our church retreat in May, there will be offerings along these lines in art, garden, and lecture formats.

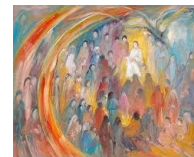


Women's Bible Study | through May 16 | Thursday at Noon | Room 308 & Zoom

Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life

Meets at noon on Thursday in Room 308 and by hybrid Zoom.

Contact Hannah for more information at hgarrity@2presrichmond.org.



Urban Engagement

Habitat Build Days

Volunteers from Second Presbyterian Church will participate in two upcoming build days with Metro Richmond Habitat for Humanity on **May 24** and **June 7**.

Is God calling you to participate in our mission and advocacy around affordable housing? Wondering how to connect with this powerful and important event?

Email Paul Nalla, Director of Urban Engagement (pnalla@2presrichmond.org) or talk to Kathleen Murphy and Cathy Howard.

Mission Drives ~ Thank you!

Thank you so much for your unending generosity!

Aside from financial support for our partner organizations directed by the Mission and Advocacy Committee, Second Presbyterian Church also gives in material ways.

The mission drives from October 2023 through April 2024 were very successful: diapers for the Sprout School, clothing and shoe drive for our shower ministry guests, winter warmth ministry for our Walk-In guests, Habitat for Humanity, ReEstablish Richmond, and the Second Presbyterian Church clothing closet.



Art for Pentecost

The Pentecost mobiles were created by Harlan McMurray. They represent the tongues of fire that rested upon the disciples' heads in Acts 2.

And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." (Acts 2:8-13, NRSV)

This installation offers a visual exploration of this sacred moment and celebrates the birthday of the church!

Art for Eastertide

The banners for Eastertide were created over a decade ago by the Second Pres Arts Committee. We are grateful for the incredible leadership of Janice and Harlan McMurray along with many others over many years. These beautiful banners are made in a style called paper lace with photo backdrop paper, box cutters, and Exacto knives. Take some time exploring the patterns and meaning behind each creation.

Give to the Pentecost Offering ~ It Changes Children's Lives

Your gifts to the **Pentecost Offering** will support the Summer Day Camp of Sacred Heart Center, a ministry for Latino youth ages 5-12.

Cielito Lindo, a bilingual Day Camp, provides nearly 75 at-risk children with five weeks of activities and enrichment (swimming, outdoor adventures, art, science, and more) as well as breakfast and lunch each day, and most importantly, with love and personal attention. It brings children and youth together in a supportive environment, engages them in activities that can expand their horizons, and helps them to thrive.



In addition to helping locally, the Pentecost Offering also supports efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in ministries to children and youth, as well as Young Adult Volunteers.

The Pentecost Offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

Please give generously, either by check payable to Second Presbyterian Church, or on our church website on the GIVE tab (selecting the Special Mission Offering). Please indicate it is for the Pentecost Offering in the memo or online.

Thank you!



Sunday, May 19
Rejoice in the Lamb
by Benjamin Britten

Join us for this celebration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit with special music from the choir and organ during worship.

Wear a pop of red on Pentecost ~ Sunday, May 19

To add a festive flair to the day, wear a pop of red as we celebrate Pentecost (and begin our summer sartorial shindigs)!

Summer Sartorial Shindigs!

On the third Sunday of May through August, we'll have a fun theme and time after worship for a photo of those who participate.

This is not intended as an exercise in consumerism. Borrow from friends and neighbors, or get crafty to participate and play along!

May 19: Pentecost (wear a pop of red!)

June 16: Rainbow (or any color of the rainbow!)



July 21: Sparkle (bring out things that light up, or have sequins, or are bedazzled, or have gemstones!)



August 18: Plaid



PNC Corner

The PNC remains hard at work. We continue to accept and review candidate applications. The committee is also scheduling exploratory conversations with candidates via Zoom. Your continued prayers are appreciated.



Summer Schedule
 Worship time shifts on Sunday, May 26 ~ 10:00am

Deacons' Corner

This spring, the deacons celebrated Palm Sunday, Easter, new members, and the ordination and installation of officers with special fellowship hours. On April 14, we held a potluck lunch and meeting for our deacons, including the new Class of 2027.



MAYMONT Our fellowship committee has lots of fun activities planned for our church family and friends of all ages, beginning with a hike at Maymont on **Saturday, May 11**. We will meet at the children's farm at 11:00am. Be sure to bring blankets, chairs, and a picnic lunch to enjoy after strolling through the grounds.



Then, on **Saturday, June 8**, we will cheer on the Richmond Squirrels at the Diamond. It will be Marvel Super Hero Night, so look for special appearances by Spider-Man and Iron Man. The gates open at 5:00pm, with the first pitch at 6:05pm. Fireworks to follow. Stay tuned for more information on tickets, so we can all sit together.

We are planning the return of the deacons' dinner. As in years past, when it was known as Let's Do Dinner, members from various parts of town will get together for a meal—either at a home or restaurant of their choice.

Deacon Susan Nocht fondly recalled the last dinner she attended before Covid, held at Mary Spain's house. "It was the talk of the town," she said, with a smile.

The deacons sincerely hope you can attend some of these fun events! As fellowship chair Anne Looney observed, "it's fun to gather in different places because you get to know people in a different way."



At Easter

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At Deacons' Meeting

April Session Highlights

The session met in person for its monthly stated meeting on April 16.

Following dinner and fellowship, special thanks was extended to Anne McDonnell, Kathleen Murphy, and Terry Sheets, elders in the class of 2024.

These items were on the agenda and were acted upon by the session:

- ◆ Remembered Kerri Walker who served as DCE at Second Pres and whose memorial service will be held at Unity of Bon Air on April 26.
- ◆ Elected Carolyn Brandt as treasurer and Don Falls and Cherry Peters as assistant treasurers.
- ◆ Received as information the treasurer's report.
- ◆ Received information from the Trustees of Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond that they elected officers: Steve Allred, president; Anne McDonnell, vice-president; and Mac Pence, secretary.
- ◆ Accepted the terms for the Line of Credit, to be paid monthly by the church; line of credit to be used to pay for Capital Expenses identified as urgent.
- ◆ Approved a motion that the church accept two contracts with Willet Hauser Company, LLC for the restoration of the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary and the Chapel.
- ◆ Approved changing the names of the eight session "councils" to "committees."

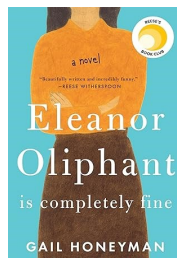
Literary Circle

Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00pm

Literary Circle will meet Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00pm.

Elsa Falls will host (2180 Cedarfield Lane) and lead the discussion of *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

Please contact Carolyn Brandt (288-2511, crbrandt1412@gmail.com) for more information.

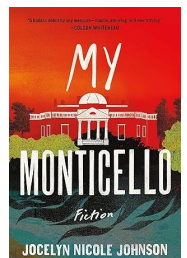


Day Book Group

Wednesday, May 15 at 10:00am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00am, Wednesday, May 15 in Room 308 Virginia Building and by Zoom.

The book for discussion is *My Monticello* by Jocelyn Nicole Johnson. Marjorie Clark will be leading the discussion at the church and on Zoom.



Fair Trade Coffee and Tea Sales



May 5 & 19

June Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Wednesday, May 15**. Please send submissions to:

wjacob@2presrichmond.org

Brunch Bunch

Friday, May 17 ~ 11:30am

at

McLean's Restaurant



Second Presbyterian Church

OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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Preaching in May

May 5	Fred Holbrook
May 12	Kate Fiedler
May 19	Special Music
May 26	Terry Crickenberger

Address Service Requested



Summer Worship Time

Worship shifts to
10:00am
on Sunday, May 26