



Second Press

Volume 39 Issue 9 September 2022

Dear Church Family,



Alex Evans, Pastor

The earth is in a constant state of change.

The church is also in a state of change.

Ginger and I got a fresh sense of the earth's shifting and changing while on vacation and hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. The massive mountains and dramatic beauty

were formed by various events across many millions of years – volcanic eruptions, glaciers melting and forming rivers, and the ever-shifting tectonic plates.

Did you know that the Earth's crust, called the lithosphere, consists of 15 to 20 moving tectonic plates. The plates can be thought of like pieces of a cracked shell that rest on the hot, molten rock of Earth's mantle and fit snugly against one another. The heat from radioactive processes within the planet's interior causes the plates to move, sometimes toward and sometimes away from each other. This movement is called plate motion, or tectonic shift.

The continents, oceans, massive mountains, dramatic beauty, and the extreme diversity of our planet's landscape can be attributed to tectonic shifts and other forces across 250 million years.

God's purposes, and God's church, have also been ever shifting and evolving across so many years, even millennia.

As we move into September – a time of fresh starts and new opportunities with a new "program year" – we continue to sort out what it means to be God's faithful people, disciples who love and worship God and who seek to serve God in the world.

Think and pray with me about these things:

⇒ What does it mean to be the church in this COVID and post-COVID era (if we can ever get past this pandemic)?

We are shaped and molded by fellowship, time together in the sanctuary, singing and praying. How often do we come together downtown? How much can we be away and still feel a sense of belonging – connection to God and connection to Christian community - that strengthens us?

⇒ We are not dying but constantly under change and repair. The institutional church – especially historic churches like Second – must keep re-defining how we worship and serve – with technology, with authentic devotion, with faithfulness. The world is not ours. The world is always changing (see above). And we exist, not for ourselves, but to serve God. We have to adapt, shift, with shifting times and circumstances.

⇒ We are finding different ways of meeting and doing God's work. We are embodying God's light and peace in new and amazing ways. We seek to be a dynamic community of compassion and care, commitment and justice. We do not have all the answers – we seek to be a place where we ask faithful questions and serve God as faithfully as we can.

⇒ We remain attentive to God's Word and Spirit. We keep listening to Holy Scripture and what the Spirit might be saying to us. We strive to trust the Lord and keep on in loving service.

Perhaps in these coming days, with a new season (September), you will find ways to re-connect, re-invest, renew your own devotion and commitments to being a part of God's good and important work through this church.

I hope so, and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Join us for Taizé Worship ~ Tuesday, September 6 at noon

Begun more than 80 years ago in France, Taizé Prayer, a worship with tuneful, repetitive sung prayers and silence is offered in our Chapel the first Tuesday of each month for 30 minutes at noon. This next worship is on September 6. We add scripture, responsive reading, and a short message to the silence and soft guitar music for our singing.

Comments from participants: “I feel a deep sense of peace and calm,” “Singing adds a dimension that soothes the spirit,” “Seeking God’s presence, I’m hooked (on Taizé) and feeling more whole,” and “My heart feels profound gratitude for God’s love.”

Roger Gench and Kelley Connelly lead. Please join us if you can on September 6 for this thirty-minute, contemplative worship experience.



September 11

- ◆ *Join us at 9:30am
for refreshments and fellowship*
- ◆ *Church School Classes for all ages*
 - ◆ *Worship at 11:00am*
- ◆ *BBQ Luncheon after Worship*

All are invited to a
BBQ Lunch
catered by Alamo!

Reconnect with old friends and
meet some new!

Vegetarian option available

Adults ~

- ◆ “A Refresher Course of the Bible” with Alex Evans (Dining Room)
- ◆ Faith and Literature Class Introduction (3rd Floor Classroom and on Zoom)
- ◆ “Old Testament Roots of Paul’s Theology” with Franklin Reding (3rd Floor Conference Room)

Youth ~

Waffles and Connections (Youth Suite)

Children ~

“Travel God’s World in Song” - Music with Ms. Laura and Church School

Little Ones ~

Nursery

“A Refresher Course of the Bible” ~ 4 classes to consider this ancient book for our life and times

In these days, we are more often consumed by the heartaches of life and the too often bad news of the world. So, all are invited to join in this conversation to reconsider the dynamic books and stories of the bible—the history, people, complexities, promises, and offerings—that intend to shape our lives as God’s people. As “people of the book,” we seek always to trust God and serve God.

September 11 The Old Testament is full of GOSPEL—good news for all

September 18 The Bible doesn’t tell us what to do—and that’s a good thing

September 25 Jesus and ALL THAT—some thoughts on the complex questions of who Jesus was and is

October 2 Wisdom, Hope, and Love

The Faith and Literature Class

Second's Faith and Literature adult Sunday school class resumes meeting this fall both in person at the church and via Zoom (for those who cannot attend in person). We have found that reading short stories is ideal for our discussions, as each week allows a new, fairly short, shared reading and a new discussion that doesn't require attending the previous meeting. Our stories have come from a diverse variety of authors and for each story we discuss the spiritual, biblical, and religious themes we find, as well as relate them to our own lives. In sharing our stories this way, the class has created a wonderful sense of community for its members. New members are welcome to join us at any time.

We spent November through April of the last class year reading short stories inspired by Edward Hopper paintings from an anthology entitled *In Sunlight or in Shadow*. Our last several classes in April and May we enjoyed reading and discussing an original stage play by class member Daniel Moore and began a short story collection by Louisiana writer Tim Gautreaux entitled *Same Place, Same Things*. We resume our discussions this fall with the 6 stories that remain in that Tim Gautreaux collection and will be selecting our next short story collection for discussion in the early weeks of fall classes.

Please contact Dan Ream at danream@gmail.com if you have any questions about our class or need the zoom link information.

The Bible Class with Franklin Reding

The topic is "Old Testament Roots of Paul's Theology."

We will explore Paul's concepts of grace, reconciliation, and being in Christ. For more information, contact Franklin at franklinr@presbyteryofthejames.org.

YOUTH

Youth Group News!

All middle school and high school students are invited to join us in the youth room (3rd floor of the Virginia Building) on Sunday mornings for waffles, check-ins, and conversation. Starting Sunday, September 11, we look forward to more games of Jenga, laughter, talking about the scripture passages in worship, and being there for each other. See you in the Youth Room soon!



We also plan to gather for fun, fellowship, and service throughout the year:

Sun, Sept. 18--party at Kate's 5:30-7:00pm (dinner provided)

Sun, Oct. 16--lunch after church & walk to Browns Island for games and fun, pickup at 2:00pm

Monday, Oct. 24—Come help with Walk-In, 10:00am-1:00pm

Sun, Nov. 13--bowling 3pm-5pm

Sun, Dec. 11—Christmas party!

Monday, Jan. 16—Come help with Walk-In, 10:00am-1:00pm

Sun, Jan. 22--movie at Second's cinema, stay after church, pickup at 2:30pm

Sat. Feb. 18--Youth Sunday rehearsal at 10am

Sun, Feb. 19--Youth Sunday!

Sun, March 16--TBD

Sun, April 16--park venture after church, pickup at 2:00pm



Travel God's World in Song ~ Children's Music with Ms. Laura

Sunday mornings at 9:30
All aboard!

We will travel the world together through singing, instruments, games, dancing, and more.



Each child will be issued their own passport that will be stamped each week with the different countries we visit!



**Fair Trade Coffee/Tea Sales
September 4 & 18**

Buy for yourself, as a gift, or for our church's Shower Ministry. As always, we do this in support of small farmers, at our cost of \$8 per bag of coffee or \$4 per box of 20 tea bags. Contact Dan Ream at danream@gmail.com with questions or to arrange free home delivery to your doorstep.



Soul Ice Returns!

Join us for fellowship outside the red doors after worship on Sunday, September 18 with our friends from Soul Ice!

The Deacons look forward to treating our church family to another round of sweet treats. We hope to see you on the 18th!

**Men of the Church ~
Monday, September 19**

7:00 pm in the Chapel

The fall meeting of the SPC Men's Ministry is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 7:00 pm in the Chapel.

Join the men of the church to share in some fellowship, faith and fun to jumpstart the fall season. A terrific opportunity to get to know folks in an inclusive, informal environment.



Light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Bryan Carr at cavcarr1@gmail.com

Learn ~ Pray ~ Act

Faith-based Advocacy includes *prayer, learning, and action*

Advocacy priorities at Second Presbyterian for 2022 focus on refugee and immigrant assistance; racial justice; and EarthCare. We work closely with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Virginia Power and Light, and Clergy and Citizens Against Racism. If you would like to keep abreast of these issues, please join our "Advocacy@2ndPres" email list. Send your name and email address to Lucretia McCulley at: lucretia.mcculley@gmail.com.

Walk-In Ministry News

Walk In continues to welcome more of our neighbors each Monday, and dispense more snack suppers during the week. Thanks so much for the contributions of Nab style crackers, chips, fruit gummies, breakfast bars and desserts for the snack bags and canned beans, tomato sauce, other tomato products and vegetables for the soup. Some of you also brought salad dressing (French and Thousand Island were big hits). We appreciate finding your contributions in the box in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Chapel!

We could still use some more volunteers particularly as registrars who greet our guests. This can be a once a month opportunity or you can come whenever you are available. Speak to or call Elva Mapp if you are interested or you have any questions. Thanks!

Volunteering at Chimborazo Elementary School

We look forward to reconnecting with Chimborazo Elementary School this year! Some of you are eager to return to the classroom, reading with students and supporting teachers. Richmond Public Schools and Communities in Schools are partnering to offer a **required orientation for all volunteers** across RPS. Sign up for one of the required orientation sessions, with the dates below. Questions? Contact Kate Fiedler (katef@2presrichmond.org).

Link to sign up for an orientation session: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rpscis-of-richmond-volunteer-orientation-tickets-168971972719>

Dates:

September 8th- IN PERSON, CIS Offices, 100 Everett Street, Richmond, VA 23224

September 13th- ZOOM

September 21st- IN PERSON, CIS Offices, 100 Everett Street, Richmond, VA 23224

September 29th- ZOOM

October 3rd- ZOOM

(Zoom invites will be sent via email 1-3 days before the event.)

Saturday, September 10 ~ 10:00 am-noon

Day of Repentance—an ecumenical event for repair and renewal

St. John's United Church of Christ
503 Stuart Circle, RVA 23220

You are invited to a Day of Repentance worship service. Our goal is to mark the one-year anniversary of the coming down of the Lee Monument and to repent for the church's complicity with erecting the monuments and other acts of racism in Richmond. Most importantly, this will be a time for us to gather in prayer over our city that continues to feel the wounds of racial division. We will also pray for the work of racial repair that is on-going in our city.

*Masks are required

*If you keep a prayer journal, you may want to bring it.

Lectio Divina

Are you looking for a way to engage with scripture? Are you curious about practicing silence in community? If so, you are invited to join a small group for the practice of Lectio Divina. Join us weekly on Mondays from 1:00-2:00pm 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 1:00pm by clicking [this link](#)

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

Fellowship Time after Worship

Beginning September 11, we return to an 11:00am worship service, with a Fellowship Time following, around 12 noon. Join your friends, and meet new ones, in the chapel. The deacons will provide coffee, cookies, and other goodies.

Hope to see you there!

Church Directories

The Deacons are working hard to complete the church directories, which we plan to distribute on Rally Day, September 11. Be sure to pick up your copy!

UKirk Students Return

VCU is in session! Are you looking for ways to get involved this semester?

Prepare or sponsor a meal for our students!

Our Wednesday lunch program *Stories and Lunch* returns this fall. Each week thoughtful conversation and fellowship over food happens at The Pace Center. We are looking for volunteers to prepare or sponsor a lunch each Wednesday. More information can be found on the Sign Up Genius, or contact Kelley Connelly at ukirk.rva@gmail.com directly. Thank you for serving our students!

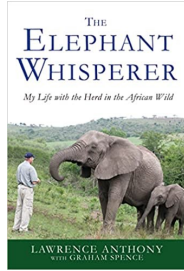
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BABA29A4FB6-stories2>

Literary Circle

Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 pm

Literary Circle's first meeting of the year will be September 13 at 7:00 pm at the home of Nancy Millsaps, 1804 Norris Lane, 23226.

Mary Lib Randall will lead the discussion of *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony. All women of the church are welcome. Please contact Carolyn Brandt (804-288-2511, cbrandt1412@gmail.com) or Page Wagner (804-323-7037, pagewagner@icloud.com) for more information.



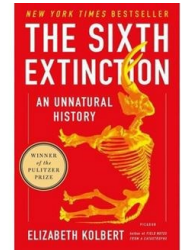
Day Book Group

Wednesday, September 21 at 10:00 am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am, Wednesday, September 21 in Room 308 Virginia Building and by Zoom.

The book for discussion is *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert.

All are welcome.



Fun with the Squirrels

One of the highlights of the summer was Second's gathering at the Diamond on June 25th. The weather was beautiful for "Defenders of the Diamond Night." With superheroes aplenty, Associate Pastor Kate Fiedler got in the spirit by bringing one of her (many! who knew?!?) capes which she donned in the last inning, hoping to give the home team the nudge into the winning column. Even though the magic wasn't quite enough, and the Portland Sea Dogs prevailed, it was a fun evening under the stars. Fellowship gatherings outside of church--whether for fun or more mission-focused--are important because we get to know and learn about each other in different ways when in different environments. Sharing and conversations have even more opportunities to extend and grow. We hope you'll join us for our next outing!

Deacons' News



Congratulations, Susan!

Susan Nochta was appointed as a Chaplain for the Disabled American Veteran's Auxiliary (DAVA) in June, at DAVA's State Convention in Roanoke. They also commended her with a pin and a letter for her 17,453 hours of service to veterans at various hospitals throughout Virginia.

Susan, who is also a devoted Deacon at Second, says she was inspired to support veterans because of her father, the late Henry Fairchild, who served as a U.S. Army Master Sergeant in the Normandy Invasion and Omaha Beach in World War II and in Korea, and her late husband, Elmer J. Nochta, Esq., a pharmacist, lawyer, and a Lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard.

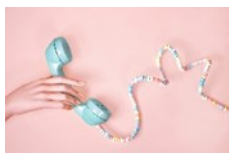
"Wherever there's a veteran, I'm available to help," she says.

Thank you, Susan, for all you do, in our community and at church!



Susan Nochta and the late Mark Alderman, a U.S. Marine and a member of Second Presbyterian, at a DAVA dinner in Virginia Beach honoring veterans.

Thank you for calling Second Presbyterian Church...



Thanks to our Virtual Receptionist, calls are streamlined to the intended recipient. The following is a list of extensions; you can press the numbers immediately and not have to listen to the entire message.

Alex Evans **100**

Kate Fiedler **120**

Ginger Evans **140**

Dorothy DeJong **200**

Willa Jacob **240**

Gene Rowland **280**

Music Dept. **160**

Eco-Camp Update



With great thanksgiving, we celebrate the success of Yaupon Place’s Eco-Camp and the role Second has played in launching this pilot project. Second’s Al Winn Mission Endowment Grant and numerous volunteers from Second played a key role in supporting this summer enrichment opportunity for Northside YMCA campers. Yaupon Place is an innovative initiative of Union Presbyterian Seminary to provide an eco-park that serves as a community hub for recreation, storytelling, and wellness programs. (Read more about Yaupon Place and see pictures from the eco-camp at yauponplace.org.)

For nine weeks, over 65 campers (grades 1-4) from the Northside YMCA visited Yaupon Place on either Tuesday or Thursday morning to explore a deeper, more dynamic relationship with the Earth, their community, and each other. They also spent time at Shalom Farms (adjacent to Yaupon Place), the largest urban farm in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Eco-Camp activities included recreation, storytelling, art, spirituality, environmental justice, gardening, peace-building and personal wellness.

Out of 41 volunteers who read with the children, 25 were members of Second Presbyterian. The mustard seed pilot project this summer has the potential to grow into various forms of year-round programming for children, youth, families, and older adults. Be watching for more news of Yaupon Place and ways we can continue to support this wonderful public ministry.



“Current” Events

From Gene Rowland



The afternoon of Thursday, July 21st was eventful. As severe thunderstorms moved through downtown RVA, Second Presbyterian lit up with excitement. Shortly after 3:00pm, a nearby lightning strike found its way through multiple low-voltage systems at the church.

The instant the lightning struck, damages to the church’s fire alarm and security systems were detected by our monitoring company, Johnson Controls. While technicians were dispatched immediately, it took a full week of struggling through supply-chain issues to restore our building access control, fire, and burglar systems. And as shocking as these developments were, other low-voltage systems at Second Pres also felt the effects of mother nature. Bo Jacob, along with Loring Wiggins, our technology contractor, discovered damage to many livestreaming components, including fatal issues with cameras, cabling, signal converters, and splitters. Nevertheless, Bo found workarounds to keep the Sunday streaming services up and running all these weeks while simultaneously crawling through attics, ceilings, and on the roof to replace inoperable equipment.

Lastly, we must also note Brotherhood Mutual and the role it has undertaken as our insurance provider. Early on, our claims representative, Alex Howdeshell, let us know that Second Presbyterian has made so few claims over the years that Brotherhood was lowering our deductible for this event from \$5,000.00 to \$2,500.00. Though final receipts are not yet in, this is truly a blessing because damages appear to be skyward of \$15,000.00.



*We celebrated
the ordination of*
Kelley Connelly (L)
and
Jay Morgan (R)
Thanks be to God!



Shining God's Light Campaign update

THANK YOU for participating in our Shining God's Light campaign! Over 200 people across our faith family—including toddlers and members in their 90s—joined our efforts to share God's Light. We were able to DOUBLE all the gifts, with around \$3,000 left over to keep shining God's Light as needs arise. Thanks for joining us in sharing God's grace and the church's finances to support so many wonderful mission partners and non-profits that are making a difference.

Well done, good and faithful church!

Advocacy Mission Partners

Clergy & Citizens Against Racism (CCAR) \$1,000
VA Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) \$3,000
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (VAIPL) \$800
Richmond Hill \$600
VA LEAP \$1,400

International Mission Partners

Mission Co-workers \$1,500

- Cindy Correll, Haiti
 - Karla Koll, Costa Rica
 - Betsey & Eric Moe, Guatemala
- CEDEPCA, Guatemala \$1,000
Ministry of Hope, Malawi \$1,000

Presbyterian Mission Partners:

All Nations Presbyterian Fellowship (AFREIM) \$1,000
Camp Hanover \$1,000
Massanetta Springs \$1,000
Montreat Conference Center \$500
POJ Hunger Fund \$200
UKIRK VCU Ministry \$200
Union Presbyterian Seminary \$200
Westminster-Canterbury \$600

Urban Mission Partners

Children

YWCA Sprout School at Second \$1,800
YWCA \$600

Healthcare/Addiction

CrossOver Healthcare Ministry \$3,600
Daily Planet \$400
Health Brigade \$600
The Healing Place (CARITAS) \$1,000

Housing/Homeless

Area Cong. Together in Service (ACTS) \$600
CARITAS \$1,200
FeedMore \$2,200
Habitat for Humanity \$400
Homeward \$200
Shower Ministry at Second \$1,000
Walk-In on Mondays at Second \$1,400

Prisoners

Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI) \$1,800
REAL Life \$1,000

Refugees/Immigrants

ReEstablish Richmond \$600
Sacred Heart Center \$1,200
Shalom Farms \$1,000

Our congregation also shared the light with these non-profits:

ALS Association • \$400
Better2gether RVA • \$400
Brain Injury Association of VA • \$1,200
Cameron Gallagher Foundation • \$200
Children's Hospital Foundation • \$400
Connor's Heroes Foundation • \$200
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence • \$600
Everytown for Gun Safety • \$400
Friends Association for Children • \$200
Friends of Accion, Inc. • \$200
Friends of Bellmeade Park • \$400
Historical Polegreen Church • \$200
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of VA • \$400
Mentor Virginia • \$200
Mercy Ships • \$200

Native Ways Federation • \$600
Oley Foundation • \$200
Open Arms, Malawi • \$200
Peter's Work • \$400
Planned Parenthood • \$800
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance--For Ukraine • \$600
Richmond Animal Care & Control Foundation • \$200
Richmond CASA • \$400
Richmond Cycling Corps • \$200
Scenic Virginia • \$200
VA Home for Boys & Girls • \$1,000
Wildlife Center of VA • \$200
World Central Kitchen • \$200
World Wildlife Fund • \$200

News from Mission and Advocacy Council

The mission and advocacy council are excited to announce the following drives for the Fall season!

The following drives will occur on a monthly basis for some of our urban mission partners at Second Presbyterian. Stay tuned for further updates about items and delivering items in the midweek email.

September: REAL LIFE collection for new towels and sheets

*Please note that all items must be new

October: Health Brigade collection for outdoor pantry items

*Collecting items such as canned tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter (plastic jars), canned vegetables, plain spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, macaroni, beef ravioli, beef and/or Brunswick stew, canned soups, canned beans, canned fruits/fruit cups, granola/energy bars (individually wrapped), cereal boxes, protein drinks, baby food, diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, sanitizing hand wipes, water, can openers.

December: Winter supplies for Walk-in and shower guests

*Winter accessories including socks, gloves, hats, scarves, etc.

The graphic features a dark blue background with white and gold text. At the top, the title 'Mission and Advocacy Council Drives' is written in a large, white serif font, with a gold starburst icon to the right. Below the title, the subtitle 'Plan ahead to support our mission partners throughout the fall!' is written in a smaller, white serif font. The main content is organized into three vertical columns, each with a gold header and a white body. The first column is for September, the second for October, and the third for December. Each column lists the drive name and the items to be collected. The graphic is decorated with white and gold starburst icons and a white wavy line at the bottom.

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	DECEMBER
REAL LIFE	HEALTH BRIGADE	Walk In and Shower Ministry
New towels and twin sheet sets	Non perishable food items	Winter accessories



Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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September 11

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for refreshments and fellowship*
- ◆ *Church School Classes for all ages*
 - ◆ *Worship at 11:00am*
- ◆ *BBQ Luncheon after Worship*

September Preachers

September 4	Kelley Connelly
September 11	Alex Evans
September 18	Kate Fiedler
September 25	Alex Evans