

UPDATE

For the spirit of the city



2209 EAST GRACE STREET RICHMOND, VA

JUNE 2008

TENDING THE SPIRIT

we be otherwise? - and we eventually will leave as mysteriously as we first came in.

Food for the Journey

I guess when you finally decide it is going to be a journey, that's the time you start paying attention to finding the food you need for it.

The world does not change, at least in the important ways, without someone's effort, someone's intervention.

Life in nearly all of its aspects is in constant flux. But this is not the kind of change of which we are speaking. Water runs down the river bed, drop following drop across shoals and rapids, pausing in pools. Robins, wrens, and cardinals fly from tree to tree, carrying the song of this present summer to places anew. Each week a new flower flies its colorful flag in the sun-drenched air of the garden. And we, passing our days in work and play, struggle and release, live out minutes and hours in our four-jurisdiction Virginia city.

Our motor vehicles growl aggressively across the ribbon-paved landscape, turning in and turning out, stopping and starting, weaving their individual patterns into an intricate but loosely connected quilt of commerce. Electronic television signals splash out into the ether, bringing pictures and words and themes to crowds unseen by one another. Cells of messages dart back and forth like so many spurts of fire and energy, connecting the efforts and desires of one to another and all to the great unseen connective net.

In response to these messages and these journeys, goods and services flow back and forth, insuring the survival of most and, inexplicably, perpetually bypassing others. Hospitals and infirmaries, provide places of respite and repair for those who are temporarily out of circulation, or who are completing their physical participation. Prisons and jails incarcerate those whose activity is judged to threaten or the system or its participants.

And time moves on, year to year, season to season, day to day. The entire system is in constant movement. It is most obvious in a human city. The organism is complex, unstoppable, unrecordable, but nonetheless somewhat familiar to all who inhabit it. We are born into it - how could

Fish take a journey in the sea, and the andromadous ones come up the river. They swim, pushed around by the currents, diverting their course to feed, watching for predators. Birds take little journeys across the garden and great journeys of migration across continents.

All of these things are a part of the movement that is constant in the universe, in the garden, in the city. The shape and organization of the beehive is established by untold generations of evolution. But to human beings alone it falls to be a part of a different kind of change, a change we refer to as transformation.

At least, that was the understanding of the Jews who longed for a new Messiah to lead the movement to a right and just order in Jerusalem, and to call individuals to a new and constructive behavior. The prophetic Jews thought that God's strategy would be simply to change out the leadership of Jerusalem and insert the right person, a new David, a person designed and chosen by the author of the original system itself.

But The Author had different ideas. He appointed a representative. But that Messiah could not fix the city by himself. He could, instead, inaugurate a larger and longer-term process of spirit-built transformation, in which all of the citizens would eventually be a part of the solution.

This was a new journey, then, a journey which moved toward the cleansing of wounds long septic, the
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HOW WOULD YOU UNDERTAKE SUCH A JOURNEY? YOU WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE IT WITHOUT PROVISIONS, AND FOR A SPECIAL JOURNEY YOU WOULD NEED SPECIAL FOOD.

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Mulenga Katyoka

Scott Simmons

Shola Walker

Armstrong Program Director

Kim Black

Micah Program Staff

Mieko Timmons

Mary Hetzel

righting of wrongs long established, the awakening of consciences long embalmed, the giving of answers where questions had long been buried. The paths for these journeys were unmarked and innovative. They led inward as well as outward, for no one could see to uncover the hidden dysfunction of the city who was not constantly finding the same shards of brokenness within himself.

The journey was one of innovation and resistance. Fear and dread marked the way, as often as not, because the currents and paths of constant movement avoided these questions, placing barriers in front of the biggest solutions, and hiding the victims under piles of justifying rhetoric.

Why would you be part of such a journey, a journey toward healing? How would you undertake such a journey? You would not undertake it without provisions, and for a special journey you would need special food. This is a spiritual journey, in the clearest and most common sense of the word. That is, you need spirit to proceed, and your spirit is at risk. You need hope, and whatever it takes to sustain hope. You need courage, and whatever it takes to sustain courage. You need vision, and whatever it takes to illumine vision. You need patience, and whatever it takes to nurture patience. You need judgement, and whatever it takes to renew good judgement. You need love, and whatever it takes to assure love. You need surrender, and whatever it takes to require surrender. And you need grace - which is all around us, and which fills the metrocity before we ask.

The English catechism describes a sacrament as "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." Because the journey toward transformation and healing demands inner strength and renewal, the food which it requires is by that definition a sacramental food. For many, the sacrament of the eucharist is at least one place where that food is found, but even for those it is also a metaphor for the other places where one finds food for this journey - in prayer, in rest, in

reflection, in encounter, in the trading in of change for transformation, in the sacrifice of physical resources for spiritual ones. The journey is not truly engaged until one sacrifices something for it, until one gives up something that is seen for something that is not seen.

The journey, once engaged, involves one in a celebration of results which will only be hinted at in one's own lifetime, -- in joys suggested in the quick rays of sunlight through the trees, the unfettered laughter of children who had almost forgotten how to laugh, the relief of adults once cursed with pointlessness or embittered by failure or burdened with wealth.

There is food for this journey, if we can find the courage to step up to the table. There is joy in this journey, an acquired but enticing glow of the spirit.

B. P. Campbell, Pastoral Director

INDIVIDUAL RETREAT

*Available each week in 24-hour increments
between 4:00 pm, Monday and 4:00 pm,
Sunday*

**JOIN IN THE
RHYTHM OF LIFE
WITH THE
COMMUNITY.**

*Silent retreat, spiritual direction, and
Christian healing prayer sessions are
available to those on individual retreat.*

*Extended periods of Christian inner healing
prayer are available upon request*

*Suggested Donation:
Directed, \$75 per night
Non-directed, \$50 per night*

*Contact: Karen Moore at 783-7903 or
guestmaster@richmondhillva.org.*

Armstrong Leadership Program

Kim Black, Director of the Armstrong Leadership Program for the past two years, will be completing her ministry at Richmond Hill at the end of June. Under her leadership, the program was designed and developed, and secured three major grants from the Travelers' Foundation, the Robins Foundation, and the Jackson Foundation. The second senior class of the Leadership Program was honored at the final retreat June 1. More information on our student leaders will be included in the next newsletter.

The new director of the Armstrong Leadership Program is Yvette Davis Rajput of Richmond. Ms. Rajput is the parent of two students in the Richmond Public Schools and a resident of Battery Park. She was employed for years with the Special Olympics of Virginia, in which she had significant experience in organizing events, and has worked diligently with the Richmond Community High School. She has long wanted to lead a youth program. Ms. Rajput was chosen from more than 30 well-qualified candidates.

Mulenga Katyoka, an intern member of the residential Community, leaves residency at the end of May. Mulenga worked with the Leadership Program for her internship. She will be residing in Richmond.

New members of the Council

We are pleased to announce the election of new public members to the Council of Richmond Hill, taking office in June. The Council of Richmond Hill, which is the Board of Directors of this non-profit corporation, is composed of five members of the residential Community and up to 15 public members. The public members serve staggered three-year terms.

Continuing public members of the Council are Don Coleman, Sarah Freeman, Bob Hetherington, Cathy Keiger, John Tucker, Bill Walsh, and Beverly Compton Wynn. Cindy Paris has served two consecutive three-year terms and must rotate off.

Council members from the residential Community are Ben Campbell, Karen Moore, Delmarshae Sledge, Janie Walker, and Charles Williams.

The new members elected at the May meeting of the Council are: Rev. Maceo Freeman, assistant pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church; Dr. Sandy Gramling, teacher of clinical psychology at the VCU School of Psychology; Hal Howren, a first vice president of Davenport & Co., Bill King, vice president for marketing of Westminster-Canterbury; Katherine Ilian, teacher; Rev. Lawrence Smith, an associate pastor of Good Shepherd Baptist Church and an administrator at VCU; Betty Squire, a community leader, board member of Virginia Heroes, Inc., and early founder of Richmond Hill; and Bill Sweeney, a realtor with Keller Williams.

...Community News continued on page 7

Metro Richmond at Prayer is a cooperative, covenanted effort of the churches of Metropolitan Richmond. We pray together each Sunday for the common concerns of our Metropolitan Richmond community. Coordination of this effort is provided by Richmond Hill. Ask your Pastor to commit your congregation to participate.

To order the prayer book, or to obtain a covenant, call the Rev. Del Sledge at 783-7903 ext. 24, or e-mail Metro Richmond at Prayer at mrap@richmondhillva.org. You may also fill out a covenant at our website: www.metrorichmondatprayer.org.



Metro Richmond at Prayer

Pray for the Criminal Justice System in Metropolitan Richmond

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.
(Matthew 11:4-5 RSV)

June 1, 2008. We pray for the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: For all who are incarcerated in jails and prisons, their families, and their loved ones.

June 8, 2008. We pray for the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: For the victims of violent crime and those people and situations that perpetrate violent crime.

June 15, 2008. We pray for the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: For the police, judges, lawyers and court personnel, correctional officers and institutions, juvenile detention facilities, and probation officers

June 23, 2008. We pray for the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: For chaplains, ministries to jails and prisons, half-way houses, work-release and after-care programs, and all those who have no one to pray for them

June 29, 2008. We pray for the criminal justice system in Metropolitan Richmond: For an end of the drug trade, gangs, demonic cults, hate groups, domestic violence, child abuse, prostitution and sex crimes.

June 2008

RETREATS

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

A Summer Retreat at Richmond Hill

Dates: June 23-27, 2008 5p.m. Monday through 9a.m. Friday
Suggested Donation: \$245.00

This summer we invite you take part in a retreat ripe with opportunity to rest, to be quiet and reflect, and to enjoy the grounds of Richmond Hill, including the library and our gardens. This retreat will include two sessions each day designed to help us grow in intimacy with God.

Persons are encouraged to come for the entire four nights, but we will accept registrations for one or two days as well.

Contact: Karen Moore at 783-7903 or guestmaster@richmondhillva.org.

WHEN DREAMS DIE

Dates: October 24-26, 2008
Facilitators: Jerry and Patsi Deans, Sandy Gramling
Suggested Donation: \$150.00

This retreat will address reactions and responses to losses that occur in our lives. More than just the death of loved ones, our dreams die whenever we are forced to deal with changes and disruptions in our preconceived personal realities.

There will be four distinct parts of the retreat:

1. The Problem with Problems.
2. Standing on the Promises.
3. Preparing for and Receiving the Help God Sends.
4. Reconciling and Redeeming our Losses.

Jerry and Patsi Deans have led a grief ministry at Cool Springs Baptist Church for the last 4 years. Jerry has a Masters in Social Work from VCU and recently retired from the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

Sandy Gramling in on the faculty in the Psychology Department at VCU, is a licensed clinical psychologist, teaches stress management, has co-authored two books on stress.

Contact: Karen Moore at 783-7903 or guestmaster@richmondhillva.org.

THOMAS MERTON

A Retreat by Dr. E. Glenn Hinson

Dates: October 31- November 2, 2008
Facilitator: Dr. Glenn Hinson
Suggested Donation: \$160.00

Dr. E. Glenn Hinson became a personal friend of Thomas Merton when Hinson was a professor of Church History at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in the 1950's. Merton, Trappist monk and spiritual writer, lived in the Abbey of Gethsemani near Louisville. Hinson went on to become involved in the ecumenical revival of spirituality in Christianity. From 1994 to 2004 he taught Church History and Christian Spirituality at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Currently, he is Visiting Professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Senior Professor of Church History and Christian Spiritual Formation at the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. He is the author of many books, including *Religious Liberty: The Christian Roots of Our Fundamental Freedoms*, and *A Serious Call to a Contemplative Lifestyle; Spiritual Preparation for Christian Leadership*. Dr. Hinson has D. Phil from Oxford in Early Church History, as well as a Th.D. in New Testament from Louisville.

Dr. Hinson recommends that retreat participants obtain a copy of Lawrence Cunningham's *Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master: The Essential Writings*. (Paulist Press). Available from the Richmond Hill Book Store.

Contact: Karen Moore at 783-7903 or guestmaster@richmondhillva.org.

CREATING A (SUB) URBAN CONSCIENCE

Dates: November 21-23, 2008
Facilitator: The Rev. Ben Campbell, Pastoral Director
Suggested Donation: \$150.00

Metropolitan Richmond is one socio-economic city that is divided into four major governmental units and at least six smaller ones. The divisions among jurisdictions give a particular quality to the continuing issues of race, class, and poverty, issues of social justice for Christians. A new generation of

Christians is seeking to address and alleviate these problems, which are rooted in the history of our metropolitan city. There are original sins here - class, racism, Pharisaic religion, and greed. This retreat will address the precedents in our metropolitan city created by our history, allow for discussion about how to heal the wounds created by our history, and strategize on how we can help to develop a healthy community and seek God's righteousness for the one million citizens of the city of metro Richmond.

Contact: Karen Moore at 783-7903 or guestmaster@richmondhillva.org.

SCHOOLS

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Opening 24 hour retreat: September 6-7 2008

Classes are on Thursday weekly from 6-9:30 pm beginning September 11, 2008

Pastoral Care and Counseling is a one-year program that focuses on enhancing one's skills in ministering to those who are experiencing physical, emotional, and spiritual difficulties. It also helps persons improve the quality of their own self-reflection through journaling, prayer, meditation, and Bible reflection. Weekly sessions are held on Thursday nights beginning with community prayer at 6:00 pm in the chapel and followed by dinner and class.

Deadline for application is July 31. Application includes a written form, an interview, and a \$50 nonrefundable fee.

For further information, call the Rev. Dr. Alice Harris, Director, at 804-783-7903 or 804-232-8312, or e-mail at aw_harris@juno.com.

RUAH SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Now accepting applications for 2009-2011 class

The RUAH (Hebrew word meaning 'breath' or 'spirit') School of Spiritual Guidance exists to help both laity and clergy to identify and develop the

SCHOOLS

(CONT.)

charism of spiritual guidance. A two-year, two-phase program, runs from September through June each year. The first year focuses on the identification of the gift of spiritual guidance and provides opportunity for careful spiritual formation. For those who wish to continue the development of the gift of spiritual guidance, the second year will focus on skill development and supervision in the context of deepening one's own faith life.

For further information, contact Janie Walker at 783-7903

SOZO SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN HEALING PRAYER

Now accepting applications for 2008-2009 class

The SOZO (Greek word meaning "to make whole" or "to heal") School is a one-year school which consists of four 24-hour retreats and three eight-week sessions. Designed for persons discerning a call to the ministry of Inner Healing Prayer, weekly sessions are held on Thursday nights beginning with community prayer at 6:00 pm in the chapel and followed by dinner and class. The first trimester focuses on an introduction to Christian Healing Prayer, the second on inner healing, and the third on special topics around healing prayer, ethics, and guidelines for ministry and self-care for the prayer minister. Classes include presentations, discussion, and prayer practicum.

For further information, contact Janie Walker at 783-7903.

CLASSES

REDEEMING RICHMOND.

Dates: Thursday evenings, September 25 - November 13, 2008. 7:30 p. m.

Facilitator: Rev. Benjamin P. Campbell, Pastoral Director

Suggested Donation: \$120 with supper included; \$80 lectures only.

This course is a series of eight lectures on the History of Richmond from the time of its original inhabitants to the present. It explores the Covenant which the European settlers claimed to make with the God who is the Father of Jesus and the original sins which were committed in the establishment of Richmond and have continued to this day. Finally, it addresses the urgent mission of redeeming Richmond.

1. The Covenant of Richmond.
2. The Reasons for Jamestown.
3. The Conquest of Tsenacomoco.
4. An Economy of Servants and Slaves
5. City of Slaves
6. Segregation and Resegregation
7. Modern Patterns of the Original Sin
8. Redeeming Richmond.

Advance registration is encouraged. Contact Karen Moore, Guestmaster. 780-1253.

Retreats@Richmondhillva.org.

GROUPS

THE SACRED DANCE SATURDAYS

Second Saturdays, 10:00a.m.-noon, Mulenga Katyoka, facilitator

This group is for those interested in cultivating inner peace and an enhanced sense of wellness through Sacred Dance, an integration of Gospel music with traditional African gestures and jazz. Contact Mulenga Katyoka at Mulenga_k@yahoo.com or by phone at 433-9840 for more information.

AA TWELVE -STEP MEETING

Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUPS

Tuesdays, 4:45 - 5:45 p.m., Karen Moore, facilitator
Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., Helen Eano, facilitator

Each group is open to all, both those who have experience in centering prayer and those who do not. Contact Karen Moore for more information.

Retreat Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Retreat: _____

A non-refundable 50% deposit is required.

___ Enclosed is \$

___ I need scholarship assistance. Please contact me.

Make checks payable to
Richmond Hill

Please complete registration form and return with check to:

Richmond Hill
2209 E. Grace Street
Richmond, VA 23223
Attn: Karen Moore

804.783-7903 Fax: 804.783-7957
Email: guestmaster@richmondhillva.org
Web Site: www.richmondhillva.org

Richmond Hill retreats and classes are open to anyone interested in strengthening their relationship with God. Suggested donations are set as low as possible and are subsidized by the labor and love of many volunteers. Scholarships are available upon request.

For more information on the opportunities listed here, contact Karen Moore at 783-7903 or email guestmaster@richmondhillva.org.

DAILY PRAYERS

Morning 7:00 - 7:30 A.M.
 Noon 12:00 - 12:15 P.M.
 Evening 6:00 - 6:15 P.M.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Every Monday

The community celebrates Holy Communion. Services are led by ministers of various denominations according to their traditions. We invite you to join us afterwards for dinner in the refectory.

TAIZÉ

Leader: Jim Bennett

7:30 p.m. first Monday of each month

Taizé worship is contemplative and meditative in character, using short songs, repeated again and again in a candle lit chapel. Using just a few words, the songs express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, the hope is this reality will gradually penetrate one's whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God.

We invite you to participate in our practice of Taizé which includes singing, prayer for Metropolitan Richmond, and a period of silence. Jim Bennett is a skilled musician and leads this time of worship with a variety of musical instruments.

12-STEP HOLY COMMUNION

2nd Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

The order of this service centers on the Twelve Steps used in AA, NA, and many other programs. Open to everyone. For more information, please contact Ben Campbell or Janie Walker at 783-7903.

SOAKING PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: Fontaine Williamson
 4th Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
 1st Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Those struggling with illness have benefitted from being "soaked in prayer" over periods of time. Prayer ministers are available to pray with those desiring emotional, spiritual, or physical healing. Participants are invited to find a comfortable place, sit, relax, and receive prayer. Participants may also come and go during the service.

EUCCHARIST FOR GENERATIONAL HEALING

Leader: The Rev. Janie Walker
 5th Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Once a quarter, Richmond Hill offers a Eucharist for Generational Healing. This is an opportunity to invite God's healing into your family, including the generations that have gone before and the generations that will come after you. Please bring the blessings as well as the pains and traumas of your ancestry written on a piece of paper (not to be shared). For more information call Janie Walker at 783-7903.

On Humility

Humility. Living one's life in perspective, in a commitment to assess and honor one's own gifts and those of others. (*Rule of Richmond Hill*).

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us..." (Romans 12:3-6a NIV)

Sometimes I question if the church isn't feeding America's self esteem problem, adding to the media's message that we just aren't good enough unless... Feel free to fill in this blank with the shortcoming that you hear most often in your own head: unless I am this beautiful, this rich, this holy, this powerful, this... humble. Within the church we teach that humility is essential to godly character. And yet humility is a quality that seems extremely difficult to grasp, especially within the church culture. There is a passage in Philippians 2 that states that in order to be better servants, in humility we should consider others better than ourselves. All too often this passage gets twisted in my own psyche, creating an impossible standard by which I am to serve everyone who surrounds me; and of course, feeding the belief that I am not as (worthy) as everyone else. Am I the only one who is confused?

The Rule of Richmond Hill is written in such a way to try to avoid this misunderstanding of humility. The essence of true humility lies in knowing who you are, and trying to be just that, and nothing more. First, it is important that we understand the extent of the grace of God, and the unique talents and abilities that He has gifted us with. As a result of this journey, I have also discovered that I have many weaknesses, and that there are gifts and talents which I do not possess. This self awareness allows for a greater appreciation of the gifts, talents, and yes, even the shortcomings of those around us. We become humble when we realize that God's grace extends into their lives just as much as it is a part of our own. The scripture uses the metaphor of God's people as a human body. In this metaphor, each part has a purpose. Part of humility, one that is essential when living in community, is the ability to recognize others' gifts, and to celebrate them, while also understanding your own limitations. Then as a community, we become a stronger body of God's people.

Scott Simmons
 Intern

Rev. Harriet Culp, a senior member of the residential Community of Richmond Hill, completed her residency at the end of May. For the past year, Harriet has undertaken the arduous task of sorting through the files of Richmond Hill's first 20 years and attempting to bring order to them. She has also served as interim Pastor for the First Congregational Church of Chesterfield. When she leaves Richmond Hill, she will become a summer staff member at the Chataqua Institution in upper New York State.

Positions Available

These positions are available at Richmond Hill. Preference is given to persons who make a commitment as members of the Residential Community. Job descriptions are shaped to fit the particular gifts of persons called to residency.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR. This is a residential position for a married or single person, including basic pastoral duties, liturgical work and preaching, work with program, and spiritual counsel. If skills and interest are present, work may include public ministry in the larger community of Richmond as well.

DATA COORDINATOR. This is a full-time residential position for an imaginative person, single or married, who will establish and maintain a full data base of members and friends of Richmond Hill, retreats, churches, and clergy. The position includes ample opportunities for other ministries as well.

INTERNSHIPS IN URBAN SPIRITUALITY. Residential internships at Richmond Hill are for a one-year term beginning in the Fall. This program is designed for persons who wish to explore ministry and vocation in this residential Christian Community for a year. Some persons participate full-time in the Community and its ministry; others do so while in seminary or graduate school. Inquiries and applications can be made at any time. Selection occurs in the spring.

TO INQUIRE OR APPLY contact the Rev. Ben Campbell, Pastoral Director, at 783-7903 or BCampbell@RichmondHillVa.org.

God's Creation and Creatures

We are an impatient people. We do not like to wait. We must realize that some things cannot be hurried. God's time is unhurried but for sure He answers our needs in His own special time and in His own way. When we wait patiently on the Lord, He inclines unto us and hears our cry.

With the arrival of warmer weather the birds seem to sing with rejoicing in the tree tops. As if they knew the secret of a joyful life, and they do. They go about the day without worrying or complaining and find that their needs are met. Nearly 2000 years ago Christ used birds to teach of the joy available to everyone who was willing to: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." (Matthew 6:33a). We can still learn from Christ's illustration today.

When visiting the zoo we sometimes look at funny looking animals God created and wonder why. But consider how boring the world would be if God had made only one kind of animal or one type of tree or one budding flower, or even one type of people. We are individuals yet we were all created like God. "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He them." (Gen. 1:27).

Let us reflect upon the Creator for a moment and delight in His amazing artistry. Among His wonders is the hummingbird with its unique design to dart among the flowers and gather nectar. If God lavished such attention upon a little bird; how much more does He want the very best for us? We are His jewel of creation.

There is also another marvel in His creation, an ordinary bee. This super flying machine moves in precise flight from blossom to blossom. That is a remarkable design which is the envy of sophisticated engineers. Let us be thankful today that, "God created great creatures and every living thing that moves, with which waters abounded, according to their kind and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:21)

When we give our heart to Jesus, he takes away our sins and heals the wounds left behind. But sometimes he leaves a scar which serves as a reminder of the cost of sin. Even after Jesus conquered the grave, his scars still told the story. Thomas doubted but when he saw the scars in Jesus' hands and side his faith was healed. Where is our faith today? Are we healed by the scars of Jesus? Do we ask forgiveness for our sins? Do we have a right relationship with Jesus? Think about it!

*Rev. Dr. Alice W. Harris
Pastoral Counselor*

For the spirit of the city



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June 2008



Metro Richmond at Prayer

June

Pray for the Criminal Justice System
in Metropolitan Richmond

Richmond Hill is an ecumenical Christian fellowship and residential community who serve as stewards of an urban retreat center within the setting of a historic monastery. Our Mission is to advance God's healing of Metropolitan Richmond through prayer, hospitality, racial reconciliation and spiritual development.

RICHMOND HILL'S DAILY CYCLE OF PRAYER

Pray for Metropolitan Richmond
Every Day: For the healing of metropolitan Richmond; for the sick and those in our hearts; for the welfare of all our citizens; for the establishment of God's order in our community.

MONDAYS: Our citizens who live in the City of Richmond, the Mayor, Manager, City Council, and School Board. Non-profit organizations and their ministries. All schools: students, teachers, and staff. Day care centers. All who suffer from addiction, dependency, and co-dependency. The Council, residents, and staff of Richmond Hill.

TUESDAYS: Our citizens who live in Hanover County, the Board of Supervisors, School Board, and Manager. The print and broadcast media. The churches of metropolitan Richmond: members and clergy. All who live in poverty. All who suffer from mental illness.

WEDNESDAYS: The Governor of Virginia, the General Assembly, and all who work in State Government. All who work in businesses which provide services to others. All who work in construction. Hospitals and nursing homes: patients, resi-

dents, and staff; all who provide health care. Victims of violent crime; all who commit violent crime. All senior citizens.

THURSDAYS: Our citizens who live in Ashland, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, and Petersburg, the town and city Councils and Managers. All who work in banks and finance; all making financial decisions for greater Richmond. Prisons and jails of metropolitan Richmond: prisoners and staff. All who are unemployed or underemployed. All public servants.

FRIDAYS: Our citizens who live in Henrico County, the Supervisors, School Board, and County Manager. All who work in the manufacturing industry in metropolitan Richmond. The police, fire, and rescue workers. The courts. All young people. All who hurt, need inner healing, or are unable to love.

SATURDAYS: Our citizens who live in Chesterfield County, the Supervisors, School Board, and County Manager. All who work in retail trade in metropolitan Richmond, and those who own our businesses. Counselors and spiritual directors. The Sisters of the Visitation of Monte Maria. All victims of abuse; all perpetrators of abuse.

SUNDAYS: Our citizens who live in the Counties of Charles City, Goochland, Powhatan, and New Kent, the Supervisors, School Boards, and Managers. An end to racism and racial prejudice. All places of prayer or worship: churches, mosques, and synagogues. Universities, colleges, and technical schools. All who seek God.

We pray daily at Richmond Hill for persons or situations for which our prayers are requested. Call us at 804-783-7903.



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