

TENDING THE SPIRIT

The ear of God

There is another dimension.

It is not the third dimension. It is not the fourth, or the fifth dimension. It does violence to this dimension, in a sense, to give it a number. This is the dimension where number is nonexistent.

In the first two or three dimensions, number is required and defining. Length, width, depth, or height — these are measurements, and the first dimensions are measureable. We should know. The society is obsessed with measurement. In

fact — and even 30 years ago one might have considered this absurdly impossible a significant portion of the society considers immeasurable things insignificant.

The great enforcer of measurability is the computer. But money also helps.

Trillions of dollars (literally) are currently being invested to force the nation's public school system into a computer-based model, in which a few large software and hardware companies require use of their products and control what short answers children are taught — and in which all teaching and learning is reduced to things that can be answered on a computer-based test.

The power of the economic profitability of this is enormous. Major foundations are pushing it, and hedge funds exploiting it. It has taken over the current U.S. Department of Education and the public schools of several states. Its profiteers are contributing mightily in elections.

In the doublespeak which has been perfected by a market-driven, concentrated-power society, the centrally controlled computer-based Common Core curriculum is said to introduce "critical thinking" into education where it was missing before. It does exactly the opposite. Test-writers write trick questions and call that critical thinking. In order to deflect the short-answer syndrome of all computerbased testing, extensive attempts are being made to get computers to "read" students' essays.

Needless to say, few who have a choice will choose computerized classrooms, where experienced teachers are replaced with lower-paid classroom monitors, driven constantly by high stakes standardized testing. Most of us would prefer to have our own children educated in small classes in imaginative and encouraging private classrooms.

Kindergarteners' play and creative work is being replaced by short-answer computer-based tests,

frequently given, so that they can "get ahead" as quickly as possible. Their life of play and community is devalued, debased.

The drive for measurability is in no way confined to education, of course. Time and money, measured by what-

ever results can be measured or quantified, are the dominant shapers of medical care and non-profit funding as well. The logic of this is inescapable, but nurture is immeasurable. What is measured comes to dominate all activity. Poorer societies often do better at the immeasurable.

The U. S. Department of education and many education "reformers" whose investments are driving them are insisting that teachers be evaluated on the standardized test scores of their children, thereby removing any incentive to teach anything but the test, eliminating dissenters, and compelling survivors to gravitate toward students who will get good test scores.

Silence. Meaning. Depth. The immeasurable realities of life receive little attention and, even more distressing, little time. Time is money, whether it is in education, or in community work, or in medical care. Television and computers skate across the surface, demanding more and more of our attention and alluding to the meaning of life only by title.

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We feel the truth, but we are not led into its pathways. The paths become overgrown, and the way is even blocked on purpose.

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TENDING THE SPIRIT

They occupy us.

There is no time for meaning. No encouragement of discussion. No truth of depth. Nothing unseen, unspoken, unheard is acknowledged. Things are not thought or connected. We feel the truth, but we are not led into its pathways. The paths become overgrown, and the way is even blocked on purpose.

There is no time for something immeasurable — a song or a symphony, a question or an alternative thesis. How would one determine what was substantial, or important — what had weight? Does one thing matter more than another? Is there something open-ended? Would there be wonder, or appreciation, or discussion, or reconciliation, or fellowship? No time for the smokiness of spirituality, no sense of the intersection of time and the timeless moment.

What gets revenue is what is produced and marketed. What is taught is what is tested. There is no place for learning about the world, for the advance of humankind, for the building of community, the holding of hands, the things that really and truly endure.

The depth of things is the beginning of each day and the foundation of our journey. But our financial-profit-driven materialism conspires to keep us on the surface at all costs. Even our electronic gadgets are our captors: the average smartphone is occupied two hours and 53 minutes every day. Dare not to envision the deep!

Meanwhile, there are press reports that more people are turning to spirituality. We are starved for meaning, desperate for depth, longing for silence. It is what a friend of mine calls "the ear of God." Perhaps if we cry out he can hear us in immeasurable being.

> The Rev. B. P. Campbell Senior Pastor

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REVIVE RICHMOND

Maximum impact

How can you and I maximize our impact in metropolitan Richmond?

We can continue to grow and learn that people are more important than projects and relationships are more important than tasks.

This is an essential lesson for managing any organization or household but it is also essential to the continuing development of our communities in metropolitan Richmond, whether they be faith communities or neighborhoods, non-profits or businesses.

People matter. Relationships matter. And as one wise man quoted to me recently, "Relationships produce results." And I would add that relationships produce revival.

Richmond Hill at its best equips and forms people for deepened relationships with other people and with God. Our schools such as the RUAH School for Spiritual Direction, Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Vocare School for Vocation equip groups of people to be transformative agents in whatever community they are a part. Our retreats on First Fridays and Third Tuesdays and Art and Spirituality provide opportunities to reflect on experience and grow through deepening relationship with God.

Through these schools and retreats, God is molding people for their ministry in metropolitan Richmond. Through these schools and retreats, people are formed together to be agents of transformation. Through these schools and retreats, relationships and connections are being made that will contribute to the healing of metropolitan Richmond.

This is revival activity.

Join me in committing to prioritize people and relationships both here as a part of the Richmond Hill Community and as a part of our metropolitan city as we watch God revive Richmond.

> The Rev. Andrew Terry Co-Pastor

Pray for the Coming of God's Kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond.

2015

February

Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10)

February 1, 2015. We pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond: For a spirit of unity and cooperation among all people in all jurisdictions. We pray that all would earnestly seek the common welfare of this metropolitan city.

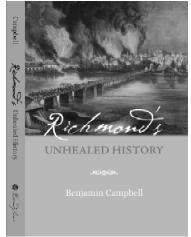
February 8, 2015. We pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond: For healthy economic development, which enhances the Metropolitan community, employs the unemployed, and contributes to the common good.

February 15, 2015. We pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond: For redemption of the divisions, prejudices, pettiness, despair, and discrimination of the past.

February 22, 2015. We pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond: For enhancement of our common life in Jesus' Name through the Holy Spirit, and for the resurrection of metropolitan Richmond as a modern metropolitan city of hope for the world.

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Richmond's Unhealed



History

by Benjamin Campbell



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Your order from the Richmond Hill Bookstore supports Richmond Hill.

COMMUNITY NEWS

News of note

We're grateful for a church donation which allowed for the purchase of new blinds in the retreat rooms. Another indvidual has given a donation for repairing the water damage on the Chapel wall. These gifts help keep prayer and hospitality going strong here at Richmond Hill. To that end, we have received a third gift — a matching grant of 25 thousand dollars designated for continued repair and upkeep of this beautiful place of prayer and retreat. If you or your church have experienced the blessing of hospitality here and would like to contribute to matching this designated gift, please contact Debbie Winans in the Development Office at (804) 783-7903, ext. 14, or email: *development@richmondhillva.org*

Seeking a Director of Administration

Richmond Hill is seeking an administrator to work collaboratively as part of a leadership team for the healing of metropolitan Richmond. This person will be responsible for the finances, personnel, office and property management. Additional duties will include legal, tax, and business connections with vendors and external organizations; help plan, coordinate and participate in leadership and staff meetings; and help coordinate volunteer efforts. This person will live in community with 10-12 other people and make a commitment to a rule of life, which includes a commitment to a rhythm of prayer. The interview process for this position will involve discernment together with the residential community and members of the governing council of Richmond Hill. This position is open to both clergy and non-clergy individuals.

> To inquire or apply, contact the Rev. Janie Walker, Co-Pastor jwalker@RichmondHillVa.org. - or - (804)783-7903

The Art of Grief: 9 am – 4 pm Sunday, Feb.15

The expressive arts have long been helpful in processing our grief. It is often restorative to bypass the intellect and work with our hands and heart. We can express our grief and find new insights about the journey. People are often amazed by what unfolds from their creative efforts. The retreat also includes an opportunity to share what has been created with other retreatants.

To register, please contact DeBorah Cannady, Guestmaster at Richmond Hill, by email: retreats@richmondhillva.org or at (804) 783-7903.

Facilitator: Sandy Gramling, Ph.D., Spiritual Director and Coordinator of Grief Ministries at Richmond Hill. Suggested donation: \$20.00 (includes lunch)

Retreats Classes Groups Schools Retreats Classes

RETREATS

INDIVIDUAL RETREATS

Richmond Hill offers individual retreats for persons who desire rest and time to seek God. Retreats may be taken in 24-hr increments between Mon. 4 p.m.– Sat. 4 p.m. In addition, more formal contemplative retreats are offered periodically on weekends for individuals who wish to be a part of a facilitated retreat rhythm. Spiritual guidance is available for any individual retreat.

Upcoming Facilitated Retreats: Sat. - Sun. Oct. 25-26

Recommended donations: Basic \$55 per 24 hrs. / Guided \$80 per 24 hrs. Contact Deborah Cannady, 804-783-7903 or retreats@richmondhillva.org

FIRST FRIDAY RETREATS

First Friday of Each Month | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A day for quiet reflection and spiritual renewal. Structure and guidance will be provided for those who want it as well as the option for one-on-one spiritual direction, or you can simply spend the day in silence—your choice.

Suggested Donation: \$20 (includes Lunch) Facilitator: Mimi Weaver, spiritual director and life coach. She can be reached at www.GraceMoves.com

Contact DeBorah Cannady at Richmond Hill to register 804-783-7903 or retreats@richmondhillva.org Please register in advance. Space is limited.

LISTENING TO THE SILENCE

Third Tuesday of Each Month | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Arrive at Richmond Hill at 8:45 to begin this spiritual experience. Lunch and chapel are included. Bring your Bible and your journal but leave the cell phone in the car.

Suggested Donation: \$20 (includes Lunch) Facilitator: Rita Ricks, spiritual director Contact DeBorah Cannady at Richmond Hill to register 804-783-7903 or retreats@richmondhillva.org Pleas register in advance. Space is limited.

GROUPS

CENTERING PRAYER GROUPS

Tuesdays, 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Deborah Streicker, Facilitator Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Helen Eano, Facilitator

Centering prayer is an ancient prayer method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing us to cooperate with this gift. Each group is open to newcomers regardless of experience.

Contact: Deborah Streicker at 783-7903 or dstreicker@richmondhillva.org

DROP-IN GRIEF GROUP

Monthly, 4th Fridays, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Sandy Gramling, Ph.D., Facilitator

Share experiences and obtain support from others who are experiencing a loss in a flexible group format. Discussion and reflection on the impact of loss, coping, meaning-making, etc. follows the brief presentation.

Preregistration is helpful but not required. Contact DeBorah Cannady at 804-783-7903 to register.

LENTEN OFFERINGS

at Richmond Hill



Visit us on the web at www.RichmondHillVa.org to learn more about these Lenten offerings. Or, please contact DeBorah Cannady, Guestmaster at Richmond Hill, by email: retreats@richmondhillva.org or at (804) 783-7903.

Urban Spirituality 2014-2015

Groups Schools Retreats Classes Groups Schools

A NEW LECTURE SERIES

Finding Grace in Race:



A public lecture series marking the 150th anniversary of the burning of Richmond.

"The Fall" *Dr. John Kinney.* **MON., FEBRUARY 23, 7:30 PM** This lecture will explore the theological underpinnings of race in the United States. About the lecturer: Dr. John Kinney is Dean of the School of Theology at Virginia Union and a renowned systematic theologian.

"The Burning" *Rev. Ben Campbell.* MON., MARCH 23, 7:30 PM This lecture will explore the historical events surrounding the burning of Richmond in 1865. About the lecturer: Rev. Ben Campbell is Senior Pastor at Richmond Hill and author of *Richmond's Unhealed History*.

"The Renewal" *Ms. Christy S. Coleman.* **Мон., Арки 27, 7:30** рм This lecture will explore how the United States has grappled with segregation in the legal system since the fall and burning of Richmond. About the lecturer: Christy Coleman is Co-CEO of the American Civil War Museum.

Each 45 minute lecture will be followed by facilitated conversation and group processing time among the audience. Join us for worship at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm, lecture at 7:30 pm. Dinner is \$10. Lecture is FREE. To register contact DeBorah Cannady at retreats@richmondhillva.org or by phone at 804-783-7903.

ART AND SPIRITUALITY



Art & Messages of Hope

9 am –3 pm, Sat. March 14, 2015

Prayer Strips

Do you have a favorite scripture that gives you hope or that you read for inspiration? Do you enjoy receiving cards, letters, and words of encouragement from others? Do you ever want to share words of courage and strength with others but can't find the right cards or words?

Come for a day where you can tap into your own creative spirit as you make a Message of Hope for another or yourself. You can decorate your own works of art to help others on their journey using your favorite Bible verse, poem, prayer or your own personal message of hope.

Bookmarkers, prayer strips, prayer cards, prayer lists are just some of the many ways you can express your message to another. Your personal creation is a wonderful way to send a message of hope, courage, or inspiration to another. It is also a great way to deepen your own prayer life and to be open to God through the creative process.

Facilitator: Brenda Giannini To register, contact DeBorah Cannady, Guestmaster at Richmond Hill, at (804) 783-7903, or by email: retreats@richmondhillva.org

Suggested Donation: \$30 per person

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.

SOAKING PRAYER SERVICE

Leaders: Patricia Hartsock and DeBorah Cannady 4th Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and 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.

EUCHARIST FOR GENERATIONAL HEALING

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 DeBorah Cannady at 783-7903.

Holy

The hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy* to me represents the God-Head. The first Holy is for God the Father. The second Holy is for God the Son and the third Holy represents God the Holy Spirit, the Triune God three in one. The hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God the Almighty* was written by Reginald Heber and published after death in 1826 according to Robert J. Morgan in his book "Then Songs My Soul." In my early years, this hymn always opened all the worship services. This was an invocation to call attention to God. That meant to stop all action and thought except those of the worship experience. Another element of the service was the Lord's Prayer. This was the meditative period of Worship. It set the tone of what else was to come.

I thank Reginald Heber for writing and am sad that he did not get to see it published before leaving this earth. According to Robert J. Morgan this hymn represented an earnest desire of the calling from God as a missionary to "India's coral stand" his desire was fulfilled in 1822 at age of 40. Reginald was bent toward poetry it gave him a keen and growing hymnody. He sort to lift the literary quality of hymns. Reginald also dreams of publishing a collection of high-caliber hymns corresponding to the church year for use by liturgical churches. He was not able to complete this dream because of the Bishop's plan for him. For his own church for 16 years he wrote 57 hymns. After his death his widow found the 57 hymns in a trunk in this volume was the great Trinitarian hymn based on Revelation 4:8-11. "The four living creatures having six wings were full of were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy,

Lord God Almighty

Who was and is and is to come

When the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne who lives for ever and ever, The twenty four elders fall down and worship Him who lives forever and cast their crowns before the thorns saying: You are worthy O Lord to receive glory and honor and power for you created all things and by Your will they exist and are created."

This is the Holy Worship brings me in the presence of the triune God the Holy, Holy, Holly Worship that gives me the fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against these there is no law. Selah, Think on these things.

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

OBEDIENCE — Living one's life in response to God's will, in a commitment to the mission of the community.

Have you ever asked yourself how did I get to this place in my life? Or how does this fit into the plan for my life? Did you get the answer, or are you still waiting?

I have asked those question since August, when I came to Richmond Hill and joined the Urban Service Corps. As I expect to find the answers, God answers day by day. Whether it's through the community of ten other people with whom I live, the many visitors that come through the doors, or even one of my current assignments with the Armstrong Leadership Program... it is a journey I'm willing to see through the end.

In the past ten years I have had the opportunity to travel on foreign land as a missionary with my church to Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Haiti, Nigeria, Solomon Island, Cambodia and Thailand. And while I served in the military, I lived in Germany for 3 years and visited Paris, England, Brussels and Holland. I say this not intending to bring attention to myself, but to help answer the question:"How did I get here?"

Living in community, I find there are daily and weekly responsibilities. With each responsibility, I find God is teaching, correcting or perfecting me. And I can also see how God is using my past experiences and relationships to help me walk in this new journey at Richmond Hill.

When was the last time you've taken a look at your past jobs, experiences and relationships? You may just find they all have a part in a new journey God has for you. Seeking out those things may answer the questions, how did I get here and how does this fit in the plan my life.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. — Jeremiah 29:11

Erna Seaberry Urban Service Corps

The Richmond Hill Urban Service Corps is a one year commitment beginning in August of each year. Typically, we will have four servant-leaders in the Community per year. Applications are due to Richmond Hill by April 15. To inquire or apply, please contact Rev. Andrew Terry at (804) 783-7903 or aterry@richmondhillva.org

The peace of the city

A few months ago I was at a church ministry fair sitting at a booth promoting RVA Rapid Transit. An older gentleman came up and said "What does public transportation have to do with God?" I quoted a few scriptures about God's desire to redeem places as well as people and seeking the peace of the city. I pointed out how Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, and how the kingdom coming in my mind was a physical, social and physical force. He seemed disinterested in any explanation. Perhaps his mind was already set about what things are spiritual, and apparently transit is not.

At Richmond Hill, we pray for Metropolitan Richmond 21 times a week, in specific ways — for its leadership, people and institutions...we pray for its health. Above the doors of Richmond Hill is the scripture "seek the peace of the city..." I do not interpret that to mean just peace as in the absence of conflict, but shalom, things being made right and whole. I see bringing Bus Rapid Transit (A metro system on wheels...sleek, frequent and affordable) as an instrument of shalom. Why? Corridors and streets are what connect us as a region, to one another and our shared resources. Rapid Transit could be a point of connection which leads to reconciliation.

Sharing public space like a regional BRT is one way we can engage across jurisdictional boundaries as well as racial, economic and generational lines. Rapid Transit also promotes the common good, improving the health of our communities by connecting residents to jobs, educational institutions, housing and other resources. It can also be a catalyst for visible transformation by way of new development, economic revitalization and the re-design/improvement of roads, infrastructure and buildings.

Lastly, it promotes good stewardship of our environmental resources, as riding transit decreases our use of cars which improves air quality and the need for gas. It also decreases traffic so our time can be better spent, and reduces car accidents which are costly to our health and finances. That's good news!

Witnessing the excitement and possibility around Bus Rapid Transit has convinced me that it is actually a movement of the Spirit and another way for God's Kingdom to come. I get to participate in praying and working for the future of Metropolitan Richmond, specifically in improving transportation so we can have a safe, reliable and efficient point of connection.

That seems like Kingdom work to me; a holy calling to help save the soul of our city.

Ebony Walden Urban Service Corps





2209 East Grace Street Richmond, Virginia 23223 (804) 783-7903 www.richmondhillva.org

Return Service Requested

February 2015

Metro Richmond at Prayer

In February:

Pray for the Coming of God's Kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond.

Share your comments, or sign up to receive our monthly *UPDATE* newsletter by emailing us your contact information: rrumble@richmondhillva.org

Richmond Hill is an ecumenical Christian fellowship and intentional residential community who serve as stewards of an urban retreat center within the setting of a historic monastery. Our Mission is to seek 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, residents, 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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