If we do not pay atten-

tion to reality, it will not

stop reality from being

real. We will simply be

broken by it.

TENDING THE SPIRIT

Word and reality

Everything is so much more than the words that describe it ...than the measurements that describe it ...than the chemical and physical analysis that profile it. Everyone is so much more than the words that describe them ...than the things you can say about them ...than the analysis you can make of them ...than the history you can tell of them.

All of these descriptors and analyses, all of these dissections and divisions into elements, all of these photo-

graphs and MRIs, are both profound and profoundly lacking as they attempt to describe life in the most simple day in this world. Limit the space you are describing, limit the time — it is still profound. The truth is beyond our grasp.

We can make significant mistakes in attempting to describe what we see, and great catastrophes can result. We act, after all, based on what we see or think we see. So if we see incorrectly, our actions are unlikely to have the desired result.

But making mistakes about what we see is a minor infraction compared to the great mistake of our time, which is to declare that what we see is the same thing as reality.

Computers simply incarnate the current madness. Computers are about the measurement and description of reality. Life is simultaneously expanded and reduced to megabillions of bits and bytes.

Meanwhile, the most highly developed society of this century, the most highly computerized society of this century, the most thoroughly researched and described society in human history, the most persistently polled society in the world, is rapidly disintegrating into fragments of its former self, more racist, less humane, more frantic.

The study of economics devolved into mathematics and graphs — with no attention to the purpose and success of economies in supporting and building a nation. Look at

what we have — an economic policy that consistently maldistributes wealth, destroys cities, reduces wages, eliminates jobs, generates enormous deficits, oppresses subject nations, and devours the common wealth.

The study of politics devolved into polling and prediction — with no serious attention paid to the earnest issues of the time. Look at what we have — the development of competing poll-tested slogans powered by enormous amounts of money. We have mouthpiece leadership by interchangeable candidates in electoral districts designed to be non-competitive.

The study of medicine has concentrated on drugs and machines — with less and less attention paid to the mysterious healing properties of human care. Look at the result — the highest health costs in the world, hospitals that frantically try to expel the patient as soon as possible, pill-based psychiatry, and cost-accounting instead of conversation.

The teaching of children is concentrated on standardized computerized tests — with no atten-

tion to the development of the mind or spirit or the true sources of inequity. Look at the result — firing and imprisonment of teachers, higher and higher expenditures on computers and standardized short-answer tests, total ignorance of classroom culture, and the destruction and defunding of public school systems throughout the nation.

The evaluation of society is relegated to statistical measurement of individuals, with little or no attention to the common wealth and the less measureable but easily seen quality of the community. Look at the result — more and more isolated people, miserable affluence and impossible unemployment, long hours in busy isolation on crowded highways, decades of deterioration of public facilities, insufficient or non-existent public transportation, the world's highest level of incarceration, leaders who think that their own material wealth is the goal of existence, and an increasing number of incidents where someone

Richmond Hill Council Members

President
Charles Williams
Vice President
Jay Kepley
Secretary
Jay Kepley
Treasurer
Don Cowles

The Rev. Dr. Lynne Caldwell The Rev. Ben Campbell DeBorah Cannady Brenda Giannini Latrice Jeffery Uzziah Harris Tim Holtz The Rev. Marcus Martin Cindy Paris Rita Ricks The Rev. Phoebe Roaf Richard Rumble Donna Thompson The Rev. Andrew Terry Albert Walker Davis Wrinkle

Community and Staff

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Ben Campbell
bcampbell@richmondhillva.org

Interim Pastoral Director
The Rev. Janie Walker
jwalker@richmondhillva.org

Administrator
David Vinson
administrator@richmondhillva.org

Coordinator of Spiritual Guidance
Deborah Streicker

Deborah Streicker dstreicker@richmondhillva.org

Guest Master
DeBorah Cannady
retreats@richmondhillva.org

<u>Development Director</u> <u>Debbie Winans</u> <u>development@richmondhillva.org</u>

Communications Director
Richard Rumble
rrumble@richmondhillva.org

Holistic Pastoral Care & Counseling
The Pay Dr. Alice Herris

The Rev. Dr. Alice Harris aharris@richmondhillva.org

<u>Hospitality Assistant</u> James Byrd <u>Garden</u> Heather Watt

> <u>Librarian</u> Carol Parke

> <u>Musician</u> Jim Bennett

Residential Member Annie Campbell

<u>Urban Service Corps</u> Linda Anderson Erna Seaberry Tony Martin Ebony Walden <u>Armstrong Leadership Program</u>

Yvette Rajput

Micah Initiative Qasrah Spencer

<u>Front Office Assistant</u> Marvette Craighead

TENDING THE SPIRIT

walks into a public space and sprays bullets into their fellow citizens.

The problem is not measurement that can be quantified and computerized. The problem is that this measurement has replaced other ways of seeing. The closer and more detailed this measurement becomes, the less it sees of the larger realities which really describe and determine human life.

The critical questions of human life and society deal with meaning and purpose, community and love, justice and equity, inclusiveness and value. The critical components of humanity are not only individuals but also families and tribes, cities and nations. The critical questions of economics deal today with preservation, health, distribution, and employment, rather than exploitation, capitalization, consolidation, and monetization of the world's remaining relationships.

If we do not pay attention to reality, it will not stop reality from being real. We will simply be broken by it. God is unseen, but that does not mean he is not real. He is unimaginable, but that does not mean he is not true. He is unfathomable, but that does not mean he is not kind. And he is by nature incredibly patient, but that does not mean the reality he has created can be ignored. His whole goal is to help us recognize and deal with the great mysterious and unseen reality in which he and we are fully existing. His intention is that we would so live and so love in this reality that we would know our eternal life.

In order to do that, we have to take seriously the things that are unseen — but as clear as the nose on your face.

The Rev. B. P. Campbell Senior Pastor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Departments 1-2 Tending the Spirit, Revive Richmond Richmond at Prayer, Community News

- Opportunities for Worship, The Care Corner
 Reflections on
- 4-5 Retreats, Schools, Groups, and Classes
- Ministry, In Direction Prayer Cycle

REVIVE RICHMOND

Fruit of revival

Like transformation or love, revival can be difficult to define. However, we certainly know it when we see it.

During one of our recent weekly bible studies, we focused on the Isaiah 58 passage. The study reminded me that when a group of people are seeking a renewal of hope and purpose as found in God, the face of revival is revealed. The seeking is equal to summoning God in a way that says, "We cannot bear to live another day apart from your divine intervention."

While we cannot be certain of the means by which God will intervene, we can anticipate that God will respond to repentance, humility, prayer, or faith. As redeemed people, we have seen in a microcosmic way revival in our own lives. So, perhaps we can even predict to some degree what the fruit of the renewal will look like.

Many of us saw the fruit of revival as it was expressed in the recent 150th anniversary commemoration of Emancipation in Richmond. The commemoration events were addressed, re-enacted and visited by diverse groups and ages, and they reminded us that a repeated call to revival has happened throughout history. The fruit of the beginning of revival was evident as we saw our leaders publicly acknowledge their own brokenness and dependence on God. We heard tell of new laws, curricula, and business practices being put into effect for the common good of all; economic and wealth-building initiatives being put in place to alleviate poverty; steps initiated to diminish crime and violence throughout our communities; volunteerism increasing among residents who recognize their responsibility to heal and undergird the community; the nature of spirituality becoming a hot topic in just about every arena of our society; and, most of all, grateful people taking the embers of the fire of revival and carrying them into other communities, towns and cities.

In short, we are indeed a city embarking upon revival - a place where kingdom values are being celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations. Not to mention that the values of our institutions are seemingly being overrun by the grace and presence of God. I would venture to say a different fire is burning than that of April 3, 1865 — a divine fire has fallen upon us, and our ordinary ways of being have been disrupted by the invasive supernatural power of God.

Having said all of this, even these words do not adequately describe the revival happening among us. Nevertheless, we know revival when we see it.

> The Rev. Janie Walker Interim Pastoral Director

Pray the Spirit of the Churches and Religious Institutions of Metropolitan Richmond.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. (I Cor. 12:12-14)

201

May 3, 2015. We pray for the Churches and religious institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: That the true light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ may awaken and heal every heart in every corner of Richmond, Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, and the surrounding counties and towns.

May 10, 2015. We pray for the Churches and religious institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all pastors, ministers, missionaries, and servants of Christ..

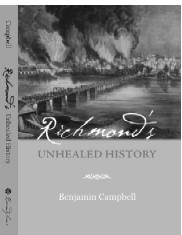
May 17, 2015. We pray for the Churches and religious institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all religious communities, abbeys, orders, brotherhoods, sisterhoods, religious societies, and para-church organizations.

May 24, 2015. We pray for the Churches and religious institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For seminaries, bible colleges, and schools training persons for vocations in ministry; for the students, faculty, and staff of these institutions.

May 31, 2015. We pray for the Churches and religious institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For a spirit of unity, mutuality, cooperation, reconciliation, reform, and common ministry among the Christian community.

AVAILABLE NOW from the RICHMOND HILL BOOKSTORE

Richmond's Unhealed



History

by Benjamin Campbell

Ben's book is available in a Kindle version for \$5.99 at Amazon.com

\$15.95 *plus tax* at Richmond Hill or \$18.50 *postpaid, tax included,*

by mail from Richmond Hill.

Order by telephone (783-7903) or on the web richmondhillva.org

Your order from the Richmond Hill Bookstore supports Richmond Hill.

Announcing a New School and Program Offering



=KOINONIA=

School of Race & Justice

Koinonia means sharing in community. This School of Race and Justice provides safe space and tools to address racism in ourselves and to build justice in our city.

Lecture Topics include: History, diversity, shame, grief, lament, privilege, class, poverty, media, and law.

Process Groups: These intentional small groups process each lecture personally and its implications for the city.

Retreats: The retreats are designed to build community and delve deeper into our issues of race.

The deadline for applications is June 1. Cost: \$1200. Some scholarship is available. For further information, please contact Rev. Janie Walker (804-783-7903), email: jwalker@richmondhillva.org

ARMSTRONG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

invites Churches, Temples, Mosques, Sororities, Fraternities, Business/Social Organizations and Alumni Associations to help out...

College Showers Need Hosts

The Armstrong Leadership Program is inviting Richmond organizations to help high-achieving seniors at Armstrong High School who have been accepted to four year colleges by hosting a College Shower for a student. At this event, the organization will work towards providing some items the student will need to furnish his/her dorm room. For the participating students, this is an important piece in making the dream of attending college a reality.

If your ministry, congregation or organization has interest in hosting a shower, please contact Yvette Davis Rajput, Director, by June 1, 2015 at work: 804-783-7903 ext.13, or cell 804-314-2622, or: yrajput@richmondhillva.org

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 \$65 per 24 hrs. | Guided \$90 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

Second 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.

Van Gogh: Art & Spirituality presented by Dr. Cliff Edwards



Limited spaces: 20. Suggested donation \$90. Sign-up: DeBorah Cannaday at 804-783-7903, or email: retreats@richmondhillva.org

pend some time at Richmond Hill with a remarkable teacher and scholar, Dr. Cliff Edwards, as he shines a light into the deep spiritual side of the brilliant, complicated, and misunderstood artist, Vincent Van Gogh. Edwards also lets us know that Van Gogh, the artist was a "philosopher of life, unorthodox theologian, and determined seeker of a global spirituality." This retreat will offer a new perspective and a broader examination of the intense passion and grace we see in Van Gogh's paintings and perhaps a better understanding of the chaos in his life.

Cliff Edwards has PH.D in biblical studies and world religions from Northwestern University. He is the author of three books on Van Gogh with a fourth book coming soon. They are: VAN GOGH and GOD, A Creative Spiritual Quest; THE SHOES OF VAN GOGH; and MYSTERY OF THE NIGHT CAFÉ, Hidden key to the Spirituality of Van Gogh.

Groups

Schools

Retreats

Classes

G r o u p s

Schools

NOW ENROLLING: NEW SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

RUAH XIV SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

New Class Begins September 2015

The RUAH School of Spiritual Guid-■ ance at Richmond Hill exists to identify and train persons in the ministry of spiritual guidance in the context of contemporary Christian spirituality. The school is a well-developed 2-year program of training which enables lay, professional and clergy persons to serve as spiritual guides within the context of their church, Christian community, or as a part of the Community of Richmond Hill. The first year focuses on the identification of the gift of spiritual guidance and provides opportunity for careful spiritual formation. The second year focuses on skill development and supervision in the context of developing one's faith and gift in this area of ministry.

Applications are currently being receive for RUAH XIV, which begins September 2015. The program consists of monthly 24-hour retreats in the context of the rhythm of life of the Richmond Hill Community. Prayer and faith-sharing are a part of the discipline of all participants. Topics covered in the curriculum are: Use of scripture in discernment, listening, healing, forms of prayer, history of spirituality, dream work, social transformation, depth psychology, and many other topics. Participants read at least one book a month on the topic of the month.

If you are a person to whom people come for spiritual conversation, and believe you may be called to develop this charism; if you believe Christ wants each person to find God for themselves; and you wish to deepen your own sense of the Spirit's leading, this program may be for you.

For more information, please contact Rev. Janie Walker, Co-Pastor and Dean of the RUAH School of Spiritual Guidance, at Richmond Hill. (804)783-7903 or jwalker@richmondhillva.org.



Apply now for Sept. 2015

Vocare means to call or to summon. This school is intended to provide tools, space, and community for discerning God's call in each of our lives.

Fall Tuesday Workshops: Tuesday workshops are designed to move you from your personal inner-work towards outward engagement with the wider community.

Spring Discernment Groups: These small groups meet monthly. The meetings will take place on the last Tuesday of each month. Each session will provide opportunity for a participant to discern vocation in community as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Applications are due June 1.
To inquire or apply, please contact Rev.
Andrew Terry at (804-783-7903) or email:
aterry@richmondhillva.org

ENROLL NOW!

The Richmond Hill Urban Service Corps provides a rare opportunity to gain understanding of how the Holy Spirit engages with both the people and the social structures of a City as well as how the life of a Christian community can provide a powerful witness for the possibilities of reconciliation and healing in a metropolitan area.

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 June 1.

To inquire or apply, please contact Rev. Janie Walker at (804) 783-7903 or jwalker@richmondhillva.org

2016 Class of Pastoral Care & Counseling

The School of Pastoral Care and Counseling is now accepting applications for the 2016 Class which begins in September 2015 and ends June 2016.

Pastoral Care and Counseling is a oneyear program that focuses on enhancing one's skills in ministering to those who are experiencing physical, emotional, and spiritual difficulties.

It is designed to help persons improve the quality of their own self-reflection through journaling, prayer, meditation, and Bible reflection.

This course is also offered on-line as Directed Study.

To inquire or apply, please contact the Rev. Dr. Alice W. Harris, Director of Holistic Pastoral Care and Counseling Services at (804) 783-7903 ext. 28 or by email at: aharris@richmondhillva.org.

Group Facilitation and Spiritual Formation Ministry Available for Small Groups

Richmond Hill's Staff and Council Consists of several experienced spiritual directors, healing prayer ministers, pastoral counselors, small group facilitators, and persons trained in several areas of spiritual formation and personal development. With adequate notice, these persons are available to work with small groups upon request. Suggested donations for these services (areas of ministry) are minimal and assessed based on the needs or requests of the group.

Requests for these services may be directed to Reverend Janie Walker at (804) 783-7903 or by email: jwalker@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.

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.

The road to travel

It is good to work out of your home nowadays with all of the vehicles on the road. Every one appears to be in a hurry, starting late and rushing to make up time. With all the distractions on the road, unless there is consecration on the responsibility of arriving safely, one may not reach their destination. With the horse power under the hood and the determination to arrive on time may cause us to take some unsafe chances. It would be a good idea to read a Journal like "God Calling," written especially for those of us who have more work than time to do it. Only the Holy Spirit can help us to solve that problem.

In Jesus's time not only did they have to walk where ever they traveled — they also wore sandals and had to wash their feet at their destinations. It is nice to have a foot washing if there is a massage with Shea butter to follow. Relaxation is good for the body, mind and spirit. It relaxes and gives a peace of serenity.

After Jesus's resurrection the people remembered what He had told them: "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and the third day rise again." (John 24:6-7) (NKJ). There was talk everywhere about the miracle if the risen Christ. There were no Bicycles. The roads were not prepared for them, not to think of motor bikes. Things were slow. The very rich had horses and carriages. There no computers, no telephones, no telegraph. Things were slow, but there were still conflicts. The evil one was still working.

"Now two of them were traveling that same day to village called Emmaus which was seven miles from Jerusalem and they talked together of all these things which had happened." (John 24:13-14) (NKJ).I grew up walking or riding in the horse and cart to church and having a conversation about things that had happened or may happen or that we hoped would or would not happen. People with cars would rush by and dust would cover us. These roads were sandy and very unpleasant. We were so glad to go to church — it didn't matter because all the others looked the same as we did. The important was to hear the word of God and to fellowship with the saints.

As we travel today let and from now on let us pray that God will be our chauffeur. Let us pray that the other persons driving be aware of others. Let us choose the roads less traveled. Ask for the guidance and directions of the Holy Spirit. That is our safety net. The road is to travel is the road chosen for you by Him.

Rev. Dr. Alice W. Harris Pastoral Counselor **RACIAL RECONCILIATION** — Examining oneself, paying attention to the particular wounds of race in metropolitan Richmond in concert with the Richmond Hill Community.

In the same week, I finished Ben Campbell's book, *Richmond's Unhealed History*, went to the Library of Virginia's Exhibit "To Be Sold: Virginia and the American Slave Trade" and walked Richmond's Slave Trail. I was overwhelmed by the hypocrisy, cruelty and racism that is at the foundation our city and country. Facing the truth is not easy but uncovering these wounds seem necessary to move toward healing, toward reconciliation.

The same week, I attended a session of Hope in the Cities' Community Trustbuilding Fellowship. We explored how history is always in the room while community building, and it is also entrenched in our land and culture. The thirty of us took a walk through history. We started at a Confederate monument at Libby Hill Park. Libby Hill was likely a sacred place for Native Americans before colonization and we could also see the docks which would have unloaded enslaved Africans. How do we reconcile the story of Native American genocide and the establishment of the U.S.? Of Confederate soldiers and enslaved Africans? I am not completely sure, but we can tell both sides of the stories. Maybe we can even acknowledge the other's hurt and/or ill will. We do not have to agree, but we can listen, forgive and move forward.

On the other side of the river at the Manchester docks, we traversed the woods enslaved Africans would have we walked through bruised, battered and traumatized. It was harrowing to think about the thousands of people who were forced to take this walk and the hearts and minds of the people who forced them. We joined hands as we walked, descendants of slaves and slave owners, Black and White, Latino and Asian. This was a testament of how far we have come. The injustices and disparities that continue to mar our landscape speak to how far we need to go. I hope as a City and Nation we can go that distance hand and hand, linked together by a desire to build a community of equality, trust and mutual understanding.

At the reconciliation monument, I ran my fingers over the *sankofa* bird embedded in the sculpture. *Sankofa* means "reach back and get it" and represents the need to know the past to build a successful future. Thirty people began to do that on a Saturday afternoon as we walked through history together, hand and hand. I am encouraged that there is a diverse cohort of change agents interested in transforming the hearts and minds of disparate groups through dialogue that can lead to collective action. I believe acknowledging our history and hurts and entering into honest dialogue can begin to break down the stereotypes that lead to racial divisions, tensions and the disparities that plague our cities. I was encouraged by these brave trustbuilders, their ability to face the past and willingness to begin to create a better future together.

Ebony Walden Urban Service Corps

The where-with-all

Spring time is a beautiful time in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the City of Richmond, and most certainly, in the gardens at Richmond Hill.

Spring time means awakening to new life. From the dead leaves of winter, new possibilities emerge. Look around the garden. New growth appears everywhere you look. The goldfish frolic in the pond, fine and frisky. The lily pads are spreading there, and the lotus has shown the first of its many blooms.

Spring time is also discernment time at Richmond Hill. As monasteries go, we are unique in that no one here makes this place a permanent residence. Folks answer a call and come into this residential community one of two ways: either a) the Urban Service Corps, which is a one-year commitment to service, with an option to renew for an additional year, — or — b) professional residency, which is a 3-to-5 year commitment wrapped around a specific job description. This call also carries the option and possibility for the renewal of term.

Either way, every spring, in late April and early May, each resident here at Richmond Hill enters a discernment process — sitting, talking and praying with a panel made up of members of Council and other residents. This is a time to look at the year past and look to what's ahead, examining one's life in relation to what we feel God is calling each of us to do.

What a privilege it is to take this time to check in, examine and reflect on what is going on in life.

The day following my discernment, as I sat in chapel listening to the sermon, I glanced down and noticed a neighbor's toe, well-manicured with plum nail polish. As I gazed at this snapshot of dress, ankle, foot and sandal, Vermeer's painting of the *Girl with a Pearl Earing* came to mind. And I realized the loving attention to detail, the thoughtfulness and intentionality that went into making this ensemble so beautifully put together.

In that moment I caught a glimpse of what it is to care, deeply, right down to your toes. "Ahh," I thought, "thank you, Lord, for giving us the where-with-all to play in this space called Life."

Can I dare to care in this way? What will it take for me to say, "I do?"

Richard Rumble Communications Director

Non-Profit

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

Return Service Requested

May 2015



In May:

Pray the Churches and Religious Institutions of 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.



Show your support with a Metro Richmond at Prayer bumper sticker Order online:

www.metrorichmondatprayer.org or call (804)783-7903.