

# UPDATE

For the spirit of the city

RICHMOND  
HILL

2209 EAST GRACE STREET RICHMOND, VA

OCTOBER 2008

## TENDING THE SPIRIT

### Simple Sanity

In the redaction of Christian theology which comes through Alcoholics Anonymous, salvation is referred to as “restoration to sanity.” This is the beginning of possibility, the beginning of a transformed life.

It follows a process of conflict and disintegration, resulting in a time of conviction. The person is forced by repeated events to admit that he or she is powerless. He comes to believe that there is a Power greater than himself who can restore him to sanity; and he resolves to turn his life over to the God of his understanding. There is no requirement here that anyone have perfect theology or understanding – only that one identifies that Power that can restore sanity as well as one can, and seeks to surrender one’s life there.

The rest is the whole of the future – it is eternity, the endless journey of salvation into hope, the process of transformation.

But you never, ever, exceed simple sanity.

Sanity is quiet. It is stable. It is not flashy. It is a place from which one can see clearly, judge fairly, act clearly. Sanity permits the accurate estimation of threat, and the ultimate rationality toward decision-making. At times, it is normally conservative. But sanity also provides a base for the most radical action to be launched – if it is led and invited by that Power who restored you.

There is nothing, therefore, that sanity cannot risk; nothing that cannot be borne; nothing that one can refuse to know, if one must, with the sure and certain hope that the greater Power is on the other side, leading, guiding, protecting, reassuring.

Sanity is the handmaiden of truth. And truth is what we need.

The people who discovered the twelve steps were dealing with the great demon they called Denial – the net-

work of lies, half-truths, and almost-truths which one uses to avoid facing one’s own failure, one’s own helplessness before whatever it is one is facing. Happy is the man or woman who finds truth sooner rather than later. And happier, still, is the man or woman who continues to find it, to be renewed both in surrender and salvation.

Denial, on the other hand, is so often the world’s excuse for knowledge. The good and true things of every day, every person, every place, every society, every religion, every moment – these simple accuracies are wrapped in the convoluted draperies and cobwebs of human Denial. The Denial started too long ago to remember: the Hebrews said it started in the Garden of Eden, when the man and the woman denied that they were powerless before temptation, and that they needed a power greater than themselves to keep them in Paradise. They chose the Tree of Knowledge instead, but it became for them a tool for Denial. Having the power of the knowledge of Good and Evil, they chose to make that knowledge subject not to the truth, but to their own desires. Often as not, and often without fully knowing it, because of what they wanted they called evil “good” and good, “evil.”

Every nation of the world is built on a slippery foundation of denial, although there is also some solid land in every nation. Thus, we may believe we live in a nation where all

HAPPY IS THE  
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LATER.

...continued on Page 2

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Departments	6 Opportunities for Worship Reflections on the Rule
1-2 Tending the Spirit	7 InDirections The Care Corner
2-3 Community News	8 Prayer Cycle
4-5 Retreats and Classes	

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John Tucker

Charles Williams

Beverly C. Wynn

---

## Residential Community and Staff

### Pastoral Director

The Rev. Ben Campbell  
bcampbell@richmondhillva.org

### Administrator

The Rev. Delmarshae Sledge  
administrator@richmondhillva.org

### Business Manager

Charles Williams  
accounting@richmondhillva.org

### Garden Coordinator

Heather Watt  
hwatt@richmondhillva.org

### Guestmaster

Karen Moore  
guestmaster@richmondhillva.org

### Holistic Pastoral Counseling

#### Services Director

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

### Hospitality Coordinator

Daniel Burgess

### Hospitality Assistant

James Byrd

### Librarian

Susan Holworth  
library@richmondhillva.org

### Residential Members and Interns

Annie Campbell

Sarah Ann King

Scott Simmons

Andrew Terry

### Armstrong Program Director

Yvette Davis Rajput

### Micah Program Staff

Mieko Timmons

Mary Hetzel

## TENDING THE SPIRIT [CONT.]

are created equal, but we will have to face the fact that there is a lot of historical and institutional inequality here. We choose to admit it, or to deny it and say it isn't so. (Liberals can be just as adept at denial as conservatives, of course – it knows no boundaries of party or race or class.)

We are sitting in the midst of an economic collapse that was fully rooted in an elaborate system of denial. There isn't an economist or investment banker or government official with any clarity at all who didn't know this thing was a house of cards, based on one fictional prospectus after another. In too many of these financial dealings there was little or nothing there. You put the "security" in the test chamber and it simply evaporated. You tried to rest something else on it, and it melted. You let fear into the room, and it proved that it had no stopping power.

Perhaps this is a high bottom, or perhaps it is a low bottom – most likely it is somewhere in between. Whether we find real securities again, or whether or not we just reach a collective place where enough confidence comes forth to push out the terror, we will find some beginning equilibrium. In the economy, some sanity will be restored, at least for awhile.

The other great test this fall is whether we will find sanity in the electoral campaign. Here it is very difficult. At the local level, it is still possible to have some direct personal knowledge of candidates and issues, but the higher the election gets, the more mythological it becomes. Slogans and very sophisticated images makers seek to manipulate the world of myth and symbol, anger and hope, fear and deception. They are in the professional Deception business. They appeal to our darker natures, our more primitive selves. It is not a pretty picture. It is hard to find the truth, to hear the clear call of sanity through the deep forest of misinformation. But it is important, essential.

First, we must admit our own powerlessness – our desire to be led by our own prejudices, to attack our own mythological enemies, to seek our own interests and reinforce our own fantasies. Having done so, we

## TENDING THE SPIRIT [CONT.]

must resolve to turn ourselves over to a God and pray earnestly for true sanity. That brings good judgement, good questions, a desire for the truth, and it restores our intelligent filters. Then, we must ask God how we may ourselves serve our country in support of its leaders and its people. And finally, we pray into our vote.

It has never been more important. It will always be that important. And the rules are always the same. We are powerless over our Denial, and there is someone greater than us who can restore us to sanity and, with prayer, help us to see truth.

*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.*

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

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

## 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.

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR.** We are seeking an experienced spiritual director who will oversee the spiritual guidance program, help to train adjunct spiritual directors, direct individual retreats, and provide spiritual guidance.

**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.

TO INQUIRE OR APPLY contact the Rev. Ben Campbell, Pastoral Director, at 783-7903 or e-mail: [pastoraldirector@richmondhillva.org](mailto:pastoraldirector@richmondhillva.org)

## Interested in Volunteering at Richmond Hill?

Richmond Hill is looking for volunteers to help in the ministries of Richmond Hill. Several opportunities are available for you to be a part of a committee, the hospitality team, the front desk staff, the mailing team, the maintenance crew, the housekeeping staff, or the gardening crew.

If you or your church would be interested in volunteering at Richmond Hill, please contact the Rev. Del Sledge, administrator or Scott Simmons at 783-7903, or e-mail to [ssimmons@richmondhillva.org](mailto:ssimmons@richmondhillva.org)

**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 [mrp@richmondhillva.org](mailto:mrp@richmondhillva.org). You may also fill out a covenant at our website: [www.metrorichmondatprayer.org](http://www.metrorichmondatprayer.org).



## Metro Richmond at Prayer

### Pray for Public, Non-profit, and Religious Social Service Work and Ministries in Metropolitan Richmond.

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.*

(Matthew 25:35-36 ESV)

**October 5, 2008.** We pray for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in metropolitan Richmond: For all in need of social services, all social service departments and caseworkers; for a partnership between the church and other institutions serving the needy.

**October 12, 2008.** We pray for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in metropolitan Richmond: For all in need of mental health services, all mental health workers, counselors, and treatment facilities.

**October 19, 2008.** We pray for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in metropolitan Richmond: For all who suffer from addiction, dependency, or co-dependency of any sort, for twelve-step programs, recover programs, therapists, and addiction counselors.

**October 26, 2008.** We pray for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in metropolitan Richmond: For emergency shelters, women's shelters, clinics, and feeding programs; for recreation programs, youth programs, juvenile counseling, and young people's shelters.

October 2008

## RETREATS

### WHEN DREAMS DIE

*Dates: October 24-26, 2008*

*Facilitators: Jerry and Patsi Deans, Sandy Gramling*

*Suggested Donation: \$150*

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

*Contact: Karen Moore at 783-7903 or [guestmaster@richmondhillva.org](mailto:guestmaster@richmondhillva.org)*

### THOMAS MERTON

#### A Retreat by Dr. E. Glenn Hinson

*Dates: October 31 - November 2, 2008*

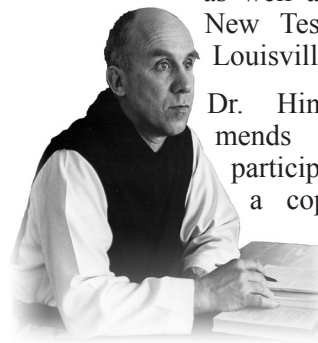
*Facilitator: Dr. Glenn Hinson*

*Suggested Donation: \$160*

*Co Sponsored by First Baptist Church, Richmond*

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, and 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*. Dr. Hinson has a 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](mailto:guestmaster@richmondhillva.org)*

### CREATING A (SUB) URBAN CONSCIENCE

*Dates: November 21-23, 2008*

*Facilitator: The Rev. Ben Campbell, Pastoral Director*

*Suggested Donation: \$150*

Metropolitan Richmond is one socio-economic city with 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 these divisions. 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 develop strategy on how we can help to develop a healthy community and seek God's righteousness for the more than one million citizens of the city of metropolitan Richmond.

*Contact: Karen Moore at 783-7903 or [guestmaster@richmondhillva.org](mailto:guestmaster@richmondhillva.org)*

### ADVENT RETREAT

*Dates: December 6 & 7, 2008*

*Facilitators: Annie and Ben Campbell*

*Suggested Donation: \$75*

Advent provides a special opportunity to stop and reflect, to be still before the holy day which marks the beginning of the new year, to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth through reflection.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### A Contemplative Worship Retreat featuring Offering

*Dates: January 30 - February 1, 2009*

*Suggested Donation: \$150*

Come join the Richmond Hill Community and Offering as we experience a weekend of worship without confinement, patterning our weekend after the rhythm of prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. The weekend will offer opportunities for musical worship, reflection, and creative expression.

*Contact: Karen Moore at 783-7903 or [guestmaster@richmondhillva.org](mailto:guestmaster@richmondhillva.org)*

## SCHOOLS

### PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

*Now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 class.*

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

## SCHOOLS [CONT.]

nights beginning with community prayer at 6:00 pm in the chapel and followed by dinner and class.

For further information, call the Rev. Dr. Alice Harris, Director, at 804-783-7903 or 804-232-8312, or e-mail at [aharris@richmondhillva.org](mailto:aharris@richmondhillva.org)

### RUAH SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Now accepting applications for the 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 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 Karen Moore at 783-7903 or [guestmaster@richmondhillva.org](mailto:guestmaster@richmondhillva.org)

## GROUPS

### 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 at 783-7903 or [guestmaster@richmondhillva.org](mailto:guestmaster@richmondhillva.org)

### Rule of Richmond Hill

**Conversion of Life** (*Conversatio*): Living one's life as if it were a conversation with God, in a commitment to personal spiritual disciplines.

**Obedience**: Living one's life in response to God's will, in a commitment to the mission of the community.

**Community**: Living one's life as life together, in a commitment to shared mission and a common life.

**Simplicity**: Living one's life without excess, in a commitment to a modest use of resources that resists greed and consumerism.

**Humility**: Living one's life in perspective, in a commitment to assess and honor one's own gifts and those of others.

**Hospitality**: Living one's life in service of others, in a commitment to welcome guests in love and a spirit of prayer.

**Prayer**: Practicing a spiritual discipline that includes daily prayer for metropolitan Richmond in concert with the Richmond Hill Community.

**Racial Reconciliation**: Examining oneself, paying attention to the particular wounds of race in metropolitan Richmond, and to the setting right of racial wrongs.

**Healing**: Committing one's own life to inner healing and to the healing of the larger community of metropolitan Richmond

**Ecumenism**: Honoring all expressions of Christian faith, respecting in Jesus' name all persons of other religions and faiths

**Christian Social Transformation**: Praying and working for the coming of the Kingdom of God in metropolitan Richmond.

**Stability** (*Stabilitas*): Pledging to pray and work for the permanent transformation of the metropolitan city.

### Retreat Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:guestmaster@richmondhillva.org)  
org

Web Site: [www.richmondhillva.org](http://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 e-mail [guestmaster@richmondhillva.org](mailto:guestmaster@richmondhillva.org)

**DAILY PRAYERS**

Morning 7:00-7:30 A.M.  
 Noon 12:00 - 12:15 A.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, praying 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 the AA, NA, and many other programs. Open to everyone. For more information, please contact Ben Campbell 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.

**EUCARIST 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 came 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 Stability**

Stability. Pledging to Pray and Work for the Permanent Transformation of Metropolitan Richmond.

*“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11: 29-30)*

We have been talking as a community about stability recently. Charles has said that in his opinion what binds this community together more than anything else is our mission: to pray and work for the permanent transformation of metropolitan Richmond. No Rule is nearer to this mission than the rule of stability.

Scott and Del have been working on the idea of voluntary slavery in describing our commitment to this community. Our grappling with what voluntary servitude really means addresses the rule of stability at the deepest personal level.

I too have worked quite a bit recently with stability and the idea of being a slave of Christ. However, through misunderstanding, I was experiencing my notion of stability as confining, my notion of Church Hill as imprisoning, and my notion of a clerical collar as a noose. So I have felt deeply the dangers of getting the notion of voluntary servitude and stability wrong in my Spirit.

The fundamental reality of Christ’s servitude and Christ’s stability is that with his yoke, with his collar, with his bonds, my burdens are in fact eased to the point that I can deal with the realities of my life. Reality is not easy. Reality is fitting a camel through the eye of a needle. Reality is the limits set on me by the circumstances in which I live within my family life, within my work, within my community, and within my city.

It is Christ’s call to us within our circumstances that lightens our burden. It is his call that sets our Spirits right, provides us with hope, and yokes us to Him. We are in this community because at the most basic level, this community enables us to live out our call more fully in Him. We are people who are pray-ers, who are workers for the coming of God’s kingdom, who are reconcilers, who love hospitality, who naturally live in simplicity, who attempt to talk to God and live in Him obediently. These are our calls. These are our Spiritual gifts. This is who we are, and God has placed all of us together in this community and says, “Here, Now, with gifts such as these, I will transform metropolitan Richmond.”

Andrew Terry  
 Intern

## Discerning Life

Recently, I was blessed with the opportunity to take a small part in Andrew's discernment as he seeks out the Episcopal Priesthood. As a part of this process, during the training of the discernment committee, the committee practices on what is called a test seeker. This is the role that I played. The notion that I was only a test seeker is not quite accurate, for there was no test involved. I was truly seeking direction.

Though it was a powerful experience, what I learned is that the answer as to what to do with my life is not one that a group of people, after a few hours of questions, will be able to produce, clarifying life for me. Opportunities like these discernment committees give insight into what our heart truly desires, and also into the many barriers that impede us from pursuing those desires, but we are rarely given a clear road map of what path to take in life. During this discernment I admitted that I had been raised in an evangelical world where we were taught that someone could find all of the answers that were ever needed simply by searching the scriptures. I expressed my frustration that this is not the case. No where in the Bible is there a story of a young man whose father died while he was 13, and he went on to obtain a degree in engineering, become an intern at a monastery, and then God said to him: "thou shalt..." After some reflection, I believe that this type of clarity would make my discernment easier, but I believe that we grow personally as a result of the journey to find the answer to these types of questions. And I am beginning to believe that God is more interested in this growth than He is in us making the perfect decision about what we will spend the rest of our lives doing. In other words, I believe God is more interested in our being than in our doing.

Merriam Webster defines discerning as having insight or understanding, and discernment as the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure. It is easy to answer the question, "what are you doing?", but it is often difficult to answer the question, "who are you?" Who we are is ever changing, growing, evolving. The exact nature of who we are is only known to the God who "knit us together." Our being is obscure to us. The gift I received in test seeking, was that I was able to share a little of who I am with others, and they were able to help reveal to me a little more of my inner most being.

*Scott Simmons  
Intern*

## Change

The Pastoral Care and Counseling Class began this year as usual with focus on the Metanoia Model: "To CHANGE one's mind and ATTITUDE." This year there is also a directed study class for those persons who live a distance from Richmond which makes it difficult to be at Richmond Hill each week. The purpose of the class is to meet the students where they are and take them where they feel Christ is leading them. The goal is to help persons change their minds and attitudes through hearing and responding to the Gospel.

The Objectives are:

1. Provide information about Pastoral Care and Counseling as a ministry of caring
2. To promote sharing, reflection and meditation as a personal discipline.
3. To empower others to become agents of change for self and others.

An early autumn mist still hanging in the trees yields to the warmth of the sun and reveals freshly tinted leaves eager to display their new designs. Their season is over, but God would not let them depart without this final gift, a frosty touch of gold tossing in the wind. How magnificent are the brush strokes of the Creator. What a blessing to know that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights." (James 1:17)

Some newly falling autumn leaves separate from the source of life, are left at the mercy of a river. The current decides whether they will drift aimlessly down stream or will be stranded on the rocks. When people move away from God they too are departed from their source of nourishment and life. They can easily begin to wander aimlessly through life or can find themselves stranded where they never intended to go. "Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him." (Isaiah 55:7)

Autumn is a time for change. Flowering plants lose their blossoms and leaves turn brilliant colors in farewell to summer. Maybe this autumn could be a time for changes in our life. Perhaps we have been carrying a problem along without God's help. Do not struggle with it alone. For adults gathering up leaves is one of the most overwhelming and exhausting jobs to be found during the autumn months. Yet with children who see the task as a chance to be helpful and have fun, like raking leaves as an enjoyable privilege, raking up a pile of leaves and falling in the middle of the pile, spreading them all over again. To children this is fun, where to adults it often is not.

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



For the Spirit of the City

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

**October 2008**

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## Metro Richmond at Prayer

**October**

Pray for Public, Non-profit and  
Religious Social Service Work and  
Ministries 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 of 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  
codependency. The Council, residents, and staff  
of Richmond Hill.

**TUESDAYS:** Our citizens who live in Ha-  
nover 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 con-  
struction. 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 Pe-  
tersburg, the town and city Councils and Manag-  
ers. All who work in banks and finance; all mak-  
ing 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 manufac-  
turing 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 spiri-  
tual directors. The Sisters of the Visitation of  
Monte Maria. All victims of abuse; all perpetra-  
tors 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. Universi-  
ties, 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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