Divine Treasury

The search for the treasures of heaven is a daily one. That is a part of its character. There is nothing static about it. It is a daily commitment, a daily discovery, a daily mystery, a daily prayer.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is trying to teach us into the Kingdom. His teaching has a mysterious quality. Its meaning is allusive. It stimulates inquiry and interpretation on a continuing basis. Treasures in heaven, treasures in heaven — the phrase rolls off the tongue as if its meaning were clear. But it is not. What is clear are the characteristics of the treasure which may be sought. The treasure is true wealth. It has a heavenly or divine quality and blessing. It is indestructible, ever-living, and permanent. No one can take it from you.

Every day, millions of people go to some source of information — now it is almost certainly web-based — to see what is happening to the value of various stocks, bonds, commodities, and financial instruments. A split second’s delay (literally) in reaction to a change in monetary value can make the difference between profit and loss for an investor or manipulator of money. To succeed at the accumulation of monetized wealth in this fashion demands total attention and dedication. (Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.)

There are people — and I know some of them — who can give this kind of attention to the markets and yet put their hearts toward the treasures of the kingdom. They are very special people, and they have been made special by the difficulty of this intense conflict of value.

In one form or another, this intense conflict of value confronts everyone, not just persons engaged in financial markets. Each of us finds at least one particular treasure which tries and tempts us as our primary competition for the treasures of heaven. Temptation teaches. It ups the ante. It makes us aware that we have hearts, and that there is choice to be made. The temptation treasure can ultimately become a sacrament for the treasures of the kingdom, but only when it is first renounced for its own sake. You don’t get to keep primary allegiance to the obsession that encapsulates your heart by renaming it a sacrament, or by sending a few charitable donations to heaven.

I think that the quest for the treasures in heaven must be a daily one. There is something alive here. The quest is not a denial of attention to one’s life and the things of this world. Rather the quest for the treasures of heaven demands an attentive presence to one’s own life — to the concerns which one has, and to the persons and situations which one confronts.

Is it possible that a search, day after day, for the treasures of the kingdom might awaken hope, or train the heart, or familiarize the ears and eyes to the signs of opportunities for divine investment? Surely we hope so — that as we pray our way into each day and seek to respond to its possibilities, we might be more and more on the path that leads through the emporium of true wealth.

The business of heavenly treasure is a commitment to a lively and constant rediscovery of the kingdom. It doesn’t stay found. About all we can do is learn to mark the territory: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (Matthew 13:44)

Continues on page 2
The treasure of the kingdom is not something that we possess, but rather something of which we ourselves become a part. There is a collective treasure here. The very quality of heavenly treasure is its collectivity. It benefits oneself and others - the benefits are expansive, non-discriminatory.

We never stop having the opportunity to put things into the divine treasury. The different stages of life, with their different tasks, provide different opportunities. When we are sick or in bed there are some unusual, deeply powerful opportunities for this wealth for ourselves and others. And when we are actively involved in our lives, there are not only the daily deposits which we may make, but also the incredible entrepreneurial opportunities. We cross what seemed to be solid lines of stubborn negativity and break forth at last with others into the wealth which Jesus had in mind from the beginning.

I suppose one day the wealth of the kingdom will simply overwhelm the riches of this world, working through its own mediums of exchange to bring about a kind of leveraged buyout of the Kingdom of this World.

It will happen, if it does, because of the choices which people are making daily as they come to see the only treasures which make any difference at all, the only treasures which have true value, the rhythm and melodies of the songs of Heaven.

The Rev. B. P. Campbell
Senior Pastor

Godly Use of Influence

A local principal of a high school here in the area frequently uses the phrase: “Let’s dream for the children until they can dream for themselves.”

By use of this phrase, she is constantly conveying the message that she has a vision for the students and sees herself as being influential in the realization of the vision. Such godly influence is to be commended. To be commended also is “vision.” Vision is especially important in promoting change.

Revival in Metropolitan Richmond could be envisioned as one large movement designed to promote change that is easily recognized by everyone. Less daunting, maybe, would be to envision several smaller movements in specific segments of our culture. To do so could be to link our vision(s) to that of those persons around the world who are intentionally using “seven areas of influence in culture” [Business, Arts, Religion, Education, Family, Government & Media] for prayer emphasis and to create strategies for actions.

Envisioning of the latter would beg two critical questions: What specifically are you praying about? And: Where do you have influence?

More often than not, prayer and godly action are closely linked.

The biblical story of Queen Esther is a good example of how prayer and godly action are closely linked. (Esther 4-10). When the nation of Persia was in great turmoil, ravaged with violence and conspiracies of all kinds, and the Jewish people were subject to annihilation at the hands of Haman, Queen Esther was challenged to use her influence with the King to save her people. The whole nation of Jews fasted and prayed with Esther for deliverance.

Until Esther gained a vision of herself as a person of influence, she was fearful and unwilling to use her new found position of influence. Once the vision was obtained, she went forth in a spirit of boldness and determination.

God answered. The people were delivered from the plot of annihilation. Revival came to the nation.

Education and employment are two segments of our culture in which we are especially challenged in our metropolitan city. Given that we all have God-given potential for influence, it is incumbent upon us to pray and seek opportunities to influence decisions in segments of our own culture, recognizing that God is the ultimate influencer.

And, God still answers prayer.

As we use our influence in godly ways, God will use us to advance revival in our city as well as God’s Kingdom in the earth.

The Rev. Janie Walker
Co-Pastor
**Metro Richmond at Prayer**

**Pray for Health Care in Metropolitan Richmond.**

Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” (Matthew 11:4-5)

**March 1, 2015.** We pray for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: For persons living with HIV/AIDS and for their families, friends, and communities; for persons working to find a cure.

**March 8, 2015.** We pray for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: For all the sick and their caregivers, doctors, nurses, hospice workers, home healthcare workers, and all who minister to the health of others.

**March 15, 2015.** We pray for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: For emergency response personnel and all emergency room staff. For hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice programs; and for persons diagnosed with terminal illness.

**March 22, 2015.** We pray for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: For clinics, medical personnel, and institutions that serve persons who are uninsured or underinsured.

**March 29, 2015.** We pray for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: For the full restoration of health, wellness, and well-being to all people residing in our metropolitan community.

**Community News**

**Grateful always**

We’re grateful for a church donation which allowed for the purchase of new blinds in the retreat rooms. Another individual 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 Burning”**

7:30 pm Monday, March 23

The second of three lectures in a series marking the 150th anniversary of the Burning of Richmond. In this lecture, the Rev. Ben Campbell, Senior Pastor at Richmond Hill and author of *Richmond's Unhealed History*, explores the historical events surrounding the burning of Richmond in 1865.

The 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.

**Richmond’s Unhealed History**

by Benjamin Campbell

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**Richmond Hill Studies in**

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**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

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**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.

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**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
Please register in advance. Space is limited.

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**Groups**

**Centering Prayer Groups**

**Tuesdays, 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.**
Deborah Streicker, Facilitator
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

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**Drop-In Grief Group**
Monthly, 4th Fridays, 10 – 1 1:30 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 Richmond Hill to register 804-783-7903 or retreats@richmondhillva.org

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**Holy Week at Richmond Hill**

**March 31 - April 2, 2015**
Join us for silent retreat from 7a.m. Morning prayer through 6 p.m. Evening prayer, Tuesday through Thursday of Holy Week, for prayer, study, and meditation. Come for any or all of the time. A simple lunch will be served each day following mid-day prayer.

**Good Friday Vigil, April 3**
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. Simple lunch at 11:30 a.m.
Donations appreciated
RUAH XIV
SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE
New Class Begins September 2015

The RUAH School of Spiritual Guidance 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 received 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 RU AH 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 May 1.

To inquire or apply, please contact
Rev. Janie Walker at (804) 783-7903 or jwalker@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.
I never realized the power and wisdom of God until I observed Psalm 139. It helped me understand that there is no one like God. No one who knows all about everything. Come with me on a journey to explore the chief musician David:

O Lord You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up. You understand my thoughts afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down. You are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue behold O Lord You know it altogether.

You have hedged me behind and before and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is high I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven You are there. If I make my bed in hell behold you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea even there Your right hand shall hold me. If I day “surely the darkness shall fall on me.” Even the night shall be light about me. Indeed the darkness shall not hide from You.

For You formed my inward parts. You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret and skillfully wrought in the lowest part of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance being yet unformed.

In your Book they were written. The days fashioned for me when as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts of me O God how great is the sum of them. If I should count them they would be more in number than sand. When I wake up I am still with You.

Search me O God and know my Heart try me and know my anxieties and see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Selah. Think on these things.

Rev. Dr. Alice W. Harris
Pastoral Counselor
In Direction

Dispelling independence

Richmond Hill is a place where I am able to grasp the reality of my interdependence through the practice of community. Sharing meals together supports our mission of hospitality, spiritual development and racial reconciliation. We welcome others and share a piece of ourselves across boundaries. A table, a simple meal and good conversation with new friends is transformative. This is one of the few spaces in my world where I can eat with others daily without being interrupted by my cell phone or being sidetracked or ignored because of someone else’s. We call it “real-time FaceTime” — and I am seen. I am also able to see others. Whatever has gone on in my day seems to be suspended as I engage in another’s story, or laugh or listen to some element of my own life that is familiar. Prompted by the curiosity of others, I am also able to explore elements of my own experience for the first time. In these conversations, I am reminded of my own uniqueness, of story, experience and perspective. I am also invited to encounter these things in others. I am constantly brought outside of myself into something larger than myself.

There is a collective “we” here that forms the basis of our lives. It is possible but incredibly burdensome for one person to wash all the dishes after our Monday community meals of 50 people, but with 3-5 people, in sync complementing one another, it happens in minutes. During retreat weekends, we huddle around the round desk to talk through who will do what, as we divvy up our hosting duties. The gate to our entrance often gets stuck, and it’s impossible to open or close it manually without the help of another. The collective work is emphasized, the individual’s role is necessary.

I was about to go and give a Transit presentation in January. Andrew offered to accompany me, as he thought it would be a tough group. I said, “Why do we both have to be there — if I am going you don’t need to.” He said, “I know you can do it by yourself, but there is a reason Jesus sent them out two by two, Ebony.” He got me on that one. I could have done it by myself, but it did matter that someone was there with me, a friendly face in the crowd that provided strength and comradery on the way there, during and back. It mattered. I am grateful that this is a place where the illusion of independence is continually shattered when I offer my own uniqueness in service, receive the gifts of others and work toward the shared mission of hospitality and prayer for the healing of Metropolitan Richmond.

Reflection on Ministry

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION —
Praying and working for the coming of the Kingdom of God in metropolitan Richmond.

One of the most challenging areas in Christian Social Transformation is the process of forgiveness. You know how it goes. We make the choice to forgive a person or persons of an injury, think all is well, and then something will creep in and we are left with resentment, fear, anxiety, shame, self-deception, etc. There are times when think and feel as if we will never make it through. But the good news is that once we have chosen to start on this journey, we are already within the unfolding experience of forgiveness.

So, what do we do during this process of forgiveness, when resentment creeps in and a bitter-root or a inner vow is discovered? Something such as: no one listens to me, I will never need anyone, or people always take me for granted, is exposed? We recognize the problem for what it is, how did it get there, what is the need at this particular time. And, in the time of prayerful self-reflection and in the unconditional love given by the Lord, seek His truth and turn away from the untruth.

In Matthew 5:3, Jesus says; “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Blessed means two things in scripture: 1. To be happy and fulfilled, and, 2. To be empowered by God’s love to undertake a task. Blessed are those who recognize their total need of God. We cannot do this alone for we are not the source of our own healing. (Flora S. Wuellner, Forgiveness, The Passionate Journey, 9 Steps of Forgiving Through Jesus’ Beatitudes).

In the continuing process of forgiveness, we lift up the offender and then ourselves to the Lord for forgiveness and then we lift up the offender and ourselves for the healing grace of God’s blessing.

The process of forgiveness is an ongoing, step-by-step walk in all of our lives.

Lord Jesus, We ask you to come and pure your love and healing power over all of the injuries in our lives. We ask that you take those injuries and we thank you for taking them and dealing with them. We thank you for your mercy and grace.

DeBorah Cannady
Healing Prayer Coordinator
March 2015

Metro Richmond at Prayer

In March:

Pray for Health Care in Metropolitan Richmond.

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