For the spirit of the city RICHMOND HILL

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in this idea that who

we are is what we

own, Jesus reminds

us otherwise.

2209 EAST GRACE STREET, RICHMOND, VA 23223

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020

TENDING THE SPIRIT

God is not Money

"You cannot serve both God and money." - Luke 16:13, NIV

few weeks ago a good friend and I somehow ended up having a long conversation about money. We noticed we were headed into vulnerable territory but proceeded anyway, trusting our friendship to hold the

conversation. We come from very different economic backgrounds, were raised in families with very different relationships with money, and have had vastly different experiences that have created our current financial positions.

And yet, the most powerful feeling we both have in our relationship with money is the exact same: shame. Across all these differences—each of us caught in different places in the systems of injustice that dictate the distribution of wealth in our country—shame is our common denominator. We both realized that our particular shame deepened when we allowed our relationship with money to impact our own sense of self-worth.

Our relationship with money is so loaded. It is layered with our in-

dividual experiences and family history, generational inheritance and generational trauma. It is then compacted by the history of enslavement, white supremacy, and unequal access to wealth here in metropolitan Richmond, across the country, and around the globe. Somehow, no matter the particulars of our stories, whether we come from scarcity or abundance, our relationship with money so often becomes tangled up with shame.

Shame blocks us from having conversations about money. It blocks us from being honest about money. It keeps us talking to ourselves about money instead of talking to one another. It keeps us from sharing our stories with one another.

Jesus, it turns out, isn't ashamed at all to talk about money. He talks about money all the time. Of the roughly forty or so parables in the gospel stories, about half of them reference money in some way. Jesus consistently calls us to be whole-heartedly, radically, and intentionally generous with money. He calls us to recognize that we make ethical decisions every time we use it. And, of course, Jesus' teachings never fail to remind us that he always stands on the side of those who do not have very much of it.

The parable in Luke 16 is confusing. A rich man is unhappy with his steward. The steward, ashamed and in panic, goes and makes some good deals to the man's debtors. The man is commended for being shrewd, we hear some

words that seem wise but complicated about dishonesty, and just as we are furrowing our brow in confusion, this famous line has us nodding vigorously with enthusiasm: you can't serve God and money.

It seems that this parable itself is as complicated as our relationship with money, so I will try to keep it simple: this lesson teaches us that shame about money leads us to unfaithfulness. In trouble and in shame, the steward talks to himself instead of anyone else—he even states to himself that he is "ashamed"—which then leads him to be dishonest and unfaithful. When we are ashamed, we close up, we clam up. We shut down. It is difficult to be honest and faithful with money if we are filled with shame.

But if our shame is rooted in this

idea that who we are is what we own, Jesus reminds us otherwise. You cannot serve God and money, he says. It is an admonition, yes, but it is also an assurance of grace. God is not money. Thanks be to God.

God is not money. God is love. God's love has nothing to do with money. And, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, nothing, neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God. Somehow, when we are dealing with money, that can be so hard to remember.

So how then do we relate to money in a way that is faithful, rooted not in shame, but rooted fully in God's love? Reading this parable in light of all of Jesus' other teachings about money, we are called to try to intentionally align our money to where and how God is working in the

continues on page 2

Richmond Hill Council Members

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Office Assistant Marvette Tate

TENDING THE SPIRIT

world. If we are called to serve God and not money, perhaps we are invited to put the money we have in the service of God.

This parable calls me to direct my money towards our mission here at Richmond Hill, towards the healing of metropolitan Richmond through prayer, hospitality, racial reconciliation, and spiritual development. It calls me to support a place where the deep work of healing is held and nourished.

It also calls us at Richmond Hill to align our fundraising efforts with our values of justice. A healthy community is not supported by a few individuals with a lot of wealth and power, where conversations about money only happen behind closed doors. A healthy community receives many gifts of all shapes and sizes, given in love, by all different kinds of people. A healthy community is honest about our own stewardship, asking for money when we feel confident that we can put it in the service of God.

So I write now, in this season of giving, confident in the mission of Richmond Hill and unashamed to be asking you to join me in supporting this ministry. Whether it is fifty cents, five dollars, or ten thousand dollars, it will serve this vital mission. Anything prayerfully given will be gratefully received and honestly tended.

But more importantly, remember that your worth has nothing to do with money—what you have or what you give. Jesus tells us that we cannot serve both God and wealth to remind us that God is not money. Our worth as beloved children of God has nothing to do with money. God loves you, no matter who you are or what you own. And nothing can separate you from that love.

Thanks be to God.

Lindsey Franklin Interim Associate Pastor

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REVIVE

Restoring the streets

s a public transportation advocate working toward a more frequent and far-reaching regional public transportation system, I think about Isaiah 58:12 a lot. That verse talks about rebuilding ancient ruins and restoring streets, a picture of my work in Richmond helping to restore and rebuild the way people get around. Many, many years ago, our region had a thriving public transit system. However, decades of racist policies—both at the local and state level—broke that system and left us with a racially segregated region served by two, unequal, transportation systems. The first, for car drivers, a highway system built and subsidized with hundreds of millions of dollars of state and federal money. The second, for everyone else, an anemic bus system that had its funding cut decade after decade.

However, our region has started the long process of rebuilding our public transit system and restoring our streets. 2018 saw the launch of the Pulse (our region's first Bus Rapid Transit line), the complete redesign of our bus network, and the biggest public transit expansion in Henrico County in a quarter century. Next spring, Chesterfield County will launch a pilot bus line on Route 1 from the city limits to John Tyler Community College—its first local service bus in over a decade. While we've got so far to go, we've definitely got momentum.

For so many folks in our region, how they get around is such a huge factor in their ability to access jobs, education opportunities, healthy food, medical care, our region's cultural resources—really any of the things needed to live healthy, thriving lives. Written above the doors into Richmond Hill is Jeremiah 29:7, which says, in part, "seek the welfare of the city... for in its welfare you will find your welfare." By advocating for and building an equitable and just, frequent and far-reaching regional public transit system, that's exactly what we're doing.

Ross Catrow Executive Director RVA Rapid Transit

Pray for the Families of Metropolitan Richmond.

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

(Genesis 12:3 ESV)

December 1, 2019. We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, and for households that are communities of friends; for elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions.

December 8, 2019. We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For persons who are lonely or have no family; for persons who are estranged from their families; for persons who are grieving the loss of a loved one; and for all who need to feel the love of God.

December 15, 2019. We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For the care and protection of infants, children, and youth; and for the intimate knowledge that each one is a beloved child of God.

December 22, 2019. We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For an end to child abuse; for healthy relationships between children and their caregivers; for families going through divorce; and for all in the midst of life transitions.

December 29, 2019. We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For peace, reconciliation, forgiveness and accord among family members, whatever the distance, and however old the hurt or grievance.

Pray to Overcome in Christ's Name the Heritage of Racism in Metropolitan Richmond.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

(Galatians 3:28 NRSV)

January 5, 2020. We pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: For the elimination of discrimination in living patterns, public education, employment, political jurisdiction, transportation, and churches in Metropolitan Richmond.

January 12, 2020. We pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: To experience the victory of Jesus' resurrection over all personal and institutional results of racism and racial inequity in this metropolitan city.

January 19, 2020. We pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: To overcome ignorance, indifference, resentment, and bitterness with regard to race in both private and public life.

January 26, 2020. We pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: To proclaim in word and deed the establishment of a beloved community in Metropolitan Richmond.

ARMSTRONG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Purpose, Mission & Ministry

As this transformative ministry continues to make an impact on the lives of the youth, our students gave back to the community by hosting a Harvest Party for younger students at the Fairfield Boys and Girls Club. For a peek at the pictures, please visit our Facebook page.

December 2019

Volunteers from **Travelers Insurance** facilitated the first session of their series on Career Development with an interactive skill development workshop on effective interview techniques.

Rev. Jeanne Pupke of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond facilitated a workshop on the power of words and a better understanding of how value systems are based on positive characteristics and interactions.

YWAM hosted an awesome team-building session with exercises designed to build connectivity and problem solve as a group.

Richard Commander led an engaging workshop on the importance of learning how to learn. The students were very attentive and appreciative of the session and are excited to have

him come back in the spring.

Lastly, we are so grateful for the invitation to bring our girls to the Black Girls Rally hosted by Girls for A Change at Virginia Union University. The evening showcased the film, Push Out: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. We even had the opportunity to hear from the creator, Monique W. Morris. Girls for A Change facilitated Richmond's first-ever community planning session where Black girls and other parents, educators, organizers, and policymakers of colors worked together to provide big ideas and recommendations that will help end the criminalization of Black girls in Virginia schools.

In gratitude, Yvette and Marvin

College Shower Initiative: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The College Shower Initiative was an amazing experience for all of our students preparing to leave for college this fall. The hosts showered students with lots of items (laptops, supplies, microwaves, refrigerators, bedding, gift cards, scholarships, bicycles, clothes, advice and so much more) needed to get off to a wonderful start in pursuing higher education. We extend our deepest appreciation to this year's list of hosts.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Hunton and Williams, LLC

Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Winfree Memorial Baptist Church, Eastminister Presbyterian Church

Laura Boucher, Faith Community Baptist Church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church New Kent, Shih-In Ma, Andrea Almond, Dr. Mary Stone

Holly Powell and Supporters of Corvell Poag, Richmond Times Dispatch Scholar Athlete of the Year (over 20 community members made contributions)

We thank you for your continued assistance and support and look forward to another successful College Shower season this spring!

If you are interested in participating in the Armstrong Leadership Program, please contact
Yvette Davis Rajput, Director at work: 804-783-7903, ext. 13,
or cell 804-314-2622, or yrajput@richmondhillva.org
Marvin Roane, Assistant Director, 804-484-0736,
or alp@richmondhillva.org

Like Us on Facebook @ArmstrongLeadership

January

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 Tue. 4 p.m.– Sun. 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.

Recommended donations: Basic \$80 per 24 hrs. / Guided \$100 per 24 hrs. Contact DeBorah Cannady, 804-783-7903 or dcannady@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 Mary Lewis 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 Mary Lewis at Richmond Hill to register 804-783-7903 or retreats@richmondhillva.org
Please register in advance. Space is limited.

GROUPS

CENTERING PRAYER GROUPS

Tuesdays, 4:15 - 5:00 p.m. Olivia Brown, Facilitator Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Jerry Deans, 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: David Vinson at 804-783-7903 or facilities@richmondhillva.org

DROP-IN GRIEF GROUP

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

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

Preregistration is helpful but not required. Contact Mary Lewis at 804-783-7903 or retreats@richmondhillva.org to register.

Connect creatively with your spirit

If you want to awaken your own creativity, join us from 4 pm Friday, Jan. 17, to Saturday, Jan. 18 at 3:00 pm. Bring your thoughts, a project of your own to work on, or try a new medium within the inspiring surroundings of Richmond Hill.





beginning at 4:00pm

January 18, 2020 Saturday from 9:00am-3:00pm

To register, please contact Mary Lewis, at (804) 783-7903 or email: retreats@richmondhillva.org Facilitator: Brenda Giannini. Suggested donation: \$110.00 (Friday overnite through Saturday) or \$30.00 (Saturday day only)

Groups

Schools

Retreats

Classes

Groups

Schools

COME JOIN US

School of Race & Justice

"CALLED TO BE RECONCILERS"

Tracing Enslaved Ancestors

One Day Seminar January 18, 9am-4pm

Understanding your family's history is essential to understanding yourself and crucial to dismantling systems of oppression. We cannot reform what we do not acknowledge.

Researching enslaved African Americans is challenging, but it is possible with the right tips and tools. If you're curious about your family's history but unsure about how to start looking, join us for this day-long workshop useful for both blacks and whites – blacks searching for enslaved ancestors and whites searching for enslaver ancestors.

James Baldwin wrote, "The great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us [and] are unconsciously controlled by it..." Unburying our collective stories gives us the agency needed to move forward together.

Koinonia is designed to equip people in three ways: by engaging in transformative, self-reflective work; by teaching dialogue skills for handling tough conversations; and by preparing participants for social justice engagement with the wider community.

Also, save-the-date of February 25 to attend Tuesday night worship and dinner followed by a special Koinonia program in honor of Black History Month. More details to come. RSVP for either or both....

Suggested donation: \$50.

To register, call (804) 783-7903 or email retreats@richmondhillva.org.

RETREATS

Brother Lawrence
RETREAT
JAN 14-16
Tuesday-Thursday

oin us for 48 hours of monastic living in the spirit of Brother Lawrence who found the presence of God in the simple tasks of cleaning. The retreat will follow the normal rhythm of life at Richmond Hill including daily prayers, time for reflective work, meals together, and a comfortable place to sleep. Between prayers in the Monte Maria chapel, there will be an opportunity to prayerfully participate in simple tasks to help

Prother Lawrence, a 15th century Parisian monk, wrote in his letters, "that we ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed."

with our winter cleaning; sweep the kitchen floor, wash the refectory windows, dust the woodwork in the cloister.

There is no cost for this retreat. Your service to Richmond Hill will cover your room and board while with us. *The retreat begins with Community Worship on Tuesday evening and concludes at 4 PM on Thursday*.

Space is limited.

To apply please visit our website or contact Mary Lewis at 804-783-7903 or retreats@richmondhillva.org by Friday, January 3, 2020.

WORSHIP SERVICES

DAILY PRAYERS

Morning 7:00 - 7:15 a.m. Noon 12:00 - 12:15 p.m. Evening 6:00 - 6:15 p.m.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

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.

PRAYING WITH THE SONGS OF TAIZÉ

First Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Jim Bennett, Leader

Taizé worship is contemplative and meditative in character, using short songs, repeated again and again in a candlelit chapel. The songs express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the heart. The hope is to draw closer to God. Our practice of Taizé includes singing, prayer for Metropolitan Richmond, and a period of silence. Jim Bennett, a skilled musician, leads this time of worship with a variety of guest musicians and instruments.

SOAKING PRAYER SERVICE

1st Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. DeBorah Cannady, Leader

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.

GENERATIONAL HEALING SERVICE

5th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Paula O. Parker, Leader

Once a quarter, Richmond Hill offers a service for Generational Healing. This is an opportunity to invite God's healing into your family, including generations that have gone before, as well as generations that will come after you. Participants are encouraged to bring the blessings as well as the pains and traumas of their ancestry written on a piece of paper (not to be shared). However, careful preparation of your personal genogram will help you pray more specifically for your family members.

CIRCLES: PRACTICING THE WAY OF COUNCIL

Men's Circle: 2nd Thursdays at 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Women's Circle: 2nd Thursdays at 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Rev. Joel Blunk, Leader

People of all ages and stages of life are invited to participate in this monthly gathering at Richmond Hill to practice The Way of Council, an ancient spiritual practice of storytelling and deep conversation. The process is simple. Plenty of silence creates spaciousness for meaning—both spoken and unspoken—to be offered and received. We hold the space with intention. The time is closed with a prayer, a group gesture or a few moments more of silence.

RETREATS



Need help navigating a life transition? Richmond Hill is pleased to offer another practice to assist you with discerning God's direction for your life. Discernment Circles, or Clearness Committees as they are called in the Quaker tradition, offer safe space in the company of trusted others for listening deeply to what needs to be heard. This is an opportunity to be trained in the process and learn the skills necessary to facilitate and hold sacred space for those seeking clarity in a life choice.

Suggested donation: \$95.

To sign up, contact DeBorah Cannady at 804-783-7903 or dcannady@richmondhillva.org.

What legacy will you leave?

When you consider your legacy, you think of the people, lives and experiences that have shaped you, as well as the lives you have influenced. As you contemplate your legacy, please consider a bequest to Richmond Hill.

So many of us feel we can only afford to donate a limited amount to charity from year to year. But including Richmond Hill in your long-term plans may enable you to do more than you thought possible. In 1998, a friend of Richmond Hill committed a generous legacy gift that was recently received. While we mourn her passing, we also celebrate her life and her long-planned contribution to Richmond Hill.

Estate gifts are simple to establish and allow you the financial flexibility to adjust your plans depending on your needs. Your financial adviser can help you designate Richmond Hill as a beneficiary. Please be sure to send us a copy of any paperwork so we may know how to fulfill your wishes when your gift arrives.

Leaving a portion of your estate to Richmond Hill creates a lasting legacy. A legacy that will help tomorrow's spiritual leaders benefit from Richmond Hill just as you have. A legacy that will help shape metropolitan Richmond for the better.

To start a legacy conversation, please contact Tim Holtz at 804-783-7903 or administrator@richmondhillva.org.

HOLIDAY NOTICE

RICHMOND HILL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Office Closed: December 24 - January 1

Daily Prayer in Chapel:

7:00 a.m. | 12:00 Noon | 6:00 p.m. (except Tuesday, see below)

Community Worship:

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. | December 24 & December 31



Thile racial discrimination has defined our nation from the beginning, there have always been individuals willing to confront the injustices, heal the divisions and practice a better way. Are you one of them?

This retreat, held in the heart of what was the Confederate South, will offer safe space for healing dialogue to happen in the pursuit of reconciliation and wholeness. Through storytelling, information sharing, and experiential learning, we'll build community and empower one another to be our best selves in pursuit of a better world.

Join Reverends Robert Dortch and Joel Blunk at Richmond Hill, an historic monastery & residential retreat center, for this intensive 48-hour men's retreat to include:

- A theology of love and redemption
- Real-life examples of strength, courage and resilience
- A tour of Richmond's Historic Trail of Enslaved Africans
- Immersion in Richmond Hill's monastic rhythm of life
- An exploration of implicit bias
- Contemplative practices to promote wholeness, elevate consciousness, and build bridges



authentic men.

Co-sponsored by Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development and Richmond Hill's Koinonia School for Race and Justice, this retreat is open to men of all ages, races and walks of life. Some financial assistance may be available upon request.

Register today!

Suggested donation: \$225. (CEUs & limited scholarships available) **Register:** Online, or call Mary Lewis at 804-783-7903,

or email retreats@richmondhillva.org

Now offering Council Circles for Women as well as for Men — 2nd Thursdays @ 7:30 pm. (See details on page 6)

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December 2019 / January 2020

Metro Richmond at Prayer

In December: *Pray for the Families of Metropolitan Richmond.*

...and in January: Pray to Overcome in Christ's Name the Heritage of Racism in Metropolitan Richmond.

RICHMOND HILL MISSION STATEMENT

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 residents; for the establishment of God's order in our community.

MONDAYS: Our residents 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 residents 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 residents.

THURSDAYS: Our residents 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 residents 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 residents 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 residents 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.





