RICHMOND HILL

2209 E. GRACE STREET, RICHMOND VA 23223 | WINTER 2021-2022

 ${f W}$ ith my hands lifted

up and my mouth filled

with praise; with a heart

of thanksgiving, I will

bless Thee, O Lord.

TENDING THE SPIRIT

With a Heart of Thanksgiving

The lyrics to this familiar song written by Esther Watanabe paint a great picture of our attitudes at Richmond Hill. As we come to the close of 2021 and reflect on the many ways God has shown up throughout this year, we cannot help but say, thank you! 1 Thessalo-

nians 5:18 says in ESV translation, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." We are grateful to God for many things and many people, and we do not want the year to end without you knowing that you are deeply appreciated. There are some places where things didn't go as planned or some people who we were unable to reach. But, when we make a list of all that God has done to bless this place and enrich our lives, which has all been done under the leading of the Holy Spirit, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your remaining and/or joining us in the journey of the work of Richmond Hill.

Oprah Winfrey once stated, "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." Our minds have a way of causing us to focus on what we believe is missing, so we are often not able to see what gifts, opportunities, and friendships we already have. Psalm 136:1 admonishes us to give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever. We are witnesses to this scripture coming to life and Oprah's words ringing true. Marcel Proust encourages, "Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

Our \$2.75 million Capital Campaign goal has been

met because of the generous giving of many of you and we are grateful. We are excited and awaiting your visits to see all of what has been done through your sharing of your treasures. Our souls are not only blossoming, but in full bloom because of the substantial giving done with our community of friends, partners, family members, and people who simply believe in the work we are doing from this beloved place called Richmond Hill.

We crossed the anniversary date of November 30th,

marking thirty-four years since the purchase of this property and we are elated that we get to participate in the continued work of healing on this land. We shared in this Advent Season with the thought, "The Art of Anticipation." How do we wait for God? What are we anticipating or expecting God to do?

Here, we are uncovering stories of our past, remaining aware of what is happening in the present moment, and not missing the opportunity to engage in areas that challenge and call us to a new, future level of consciousness. This affords us the opportunity to be a part of the healing and repair in

many places of brokenness as an organization and in our own personal lives. We recognize that we cannot take people where we ourselves are not willing to go. Therefore, as an organization and a place of healing – we take note of the importance of doing our own inner-work, so we are better equipped — to not only be a place for healing, but also a demonstration of God's healing work for others.

Proverbs 11:24-25 says, "One person gives freely, yet gains even more," "a generous person will prosper," and "whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." This is our fervent prayer as we press into what God has in store for us and offer a place of restoration to God's people.

— Rev. Dr. Lisa Johnson, Co-Pastoral Director

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Richmond Hill Council Members

President
Cathy Woodson
Vice President
Rev. Janet Legro
Secretary
Adeline Clarke
Treasurer
Matt Dolci

Ida Braford
Nikki Fernandes
Anthony Gaboton
Roy Hoagland
Tim Holtz
Rev. Micah Jackson
Rev. Dr. Alesia (Lisa) Johnson
Katie Johnson
Lorage Ponder
Yvette Rajput
Vickie Seymour
Pam Smith
John L. Taylor, III
Margaret Woody

Community & Staff

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Interim Co-Pastoral Director Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper mcooper@richmondhillva.org

Associate Pastor for Development Rev. Lindsey Franklin

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Administrator

 $\overline{Tim\ Holtz}$ administrator@richmondhillva.org

Associate Pastor for Hospitality Rev. Victoria Bethel retreats@richmondhillva.org

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<u>Co-Gardeners</u> Allison Hurst Beth Nelson

Armstrong Leadership Program Yvette Rajput yrajput@richmondhillva.org

Marvin Roane alp@richmondhillva.org

Micah Association & Resident Historian Pam Smith psmith@richmondhillva.org

<u>Musician</u> Jim Bennett

Resident
Mary Lou Rumble

COMMUNITY NEWS

New Co-Pastoral Director

A fter a nine-month search process, our Council last month. extended a call to Rev. Katie Heishman to serve as our next Co-Pastoral Director, working alongside Rev. Dr. Lisa Johnson, our other Co-Pastoral Director. The residential community provided full support for this action. And Katie expressed, "It is a joy and an honor to be joining the Richmond Hill community as a co-pastoral director. I am so excited to learn from this amazing ministry and contribute to the work of modeling the beloved community, providing hospitality to all, and joining the work of racial reconciliation and healing in Richmond."



Originally from Weyers Cave, Virginia, Katie has lived a life of Christian service. She has experience working with youth, organizing national conferences, and most recently co-pastoring with her husband, Tim, at Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren in Ohio. While there, she worked around issues of racial justice and engaged congregants in understanding the effects of social injustice and systemic racism.

Intentional communal living is not new to Katie, having spent two years with Brethren Volunteer Service. Then, as program director of a Brethren retreat center, she worked to cultivate intentional community through retreat experiences and training and also created a Peace and Justice Director's position to educate campers about peacebuilding and justice work from a Christian faith perspective. Much of the work she was involved in, such as planning workshops, worship services, hosting retreats, is quite similar to what we do here behind the scenes at Richmond Hill!

"My calling and vocation," she writes, "have been at the intersections of hospitality, justice work, community building, and pastoral ministry." A personal passion for environmental stewardship and simple living are additional hallmarks of Katie's worldview. She explained her "soul soared when seeing [the Richmond Hill] job posting because of our continued discernment about intentional Christian community for our family and because of our commitment and calling to racial reconciliation work."

Katie's undergraduate degree at Bridgewater College was in Sociology, with a minor in Peace Studies. She earned her Masters of Divinity at Bethany Theological Seminary. She and Tim are proud parents of Phoebe, an adorably fun 2-year-old who already loves the fountain and goldfish in our garden. And they are expecting a baby boy to arrive in late-March! The Heishmans are preparing to move into Richmond Hill in January.





Thank you, DeBorah Cannady!

It's often been said that you come to Richmond Hill for a season. DeBorah Cannady stayed for may seasons! But now she will be transitioning out of residential community at the end of this year, and moving into ministry service with the Shalem Institute.

Hailing from Warsaw, Virginia, DeBorah found her way to Richmond Hill more than 11 years ago. She has served in many roles here, from Moderator to Retreat Coordinator to Individual Ministries Coordinator. But at her core, she has always served in some capacity as a healing prayer minister. As a seeker and life-

long learner, she returned to seminary and completed her M.A.C.E. degree in 2019 and her M.Div. in 2020. She was ordained at St. Paul's Baptist Church this November and will embark on her new journey this January. Thank you, DeBorah, and blessings on your way!

METRO RICHMOND AT PRAYER

metroprayrva.org

December 2021

Pray for the Persons in Financial Need in Metropolitan Richmond

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-19 NRSV)

December 19, 2021. We pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For healthy relationships; for constructive, safe, and caring households for the bringing up and nurturing of children and caring for the elderly.

December 26, 2021. We pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the inclusion of all (regardless of race, age, or residency) in the economic health of Metropolitan Richmond; for effective, affordable, regional public transportation to support job access.

January 2022

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 2, 2022. We pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: For racial reconciliation, healing, and justice in Metropolitan Richmond; for an end to all personal and structural racial prejudice and discrimination.

January 9, 2022. We pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: For the elimination of discrimination in housing, policing, education, employment, transportation, and churches in Metropolitan Richmond.

January 16, 2022. We pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: To experience the healing power of Jesus's resurrection over all personal and institutional results of racism and racial inequality in this metropolitan city.

January 23, 2022. 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 30, 2022. 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.

Please Support the Richmond Hill Annual Fund

Keeping a place-based ministry running in a historic monastery requires substantial financial resources. Your gift could not come at a more critical moment, when our capacity to host guests continues to be limited and our fundraising efforts have been largely focused on the successful completion of our Capital Campaign.

Each year, your Annual Fund gifts sustain the programming, operations, and spiritual life of this sacred place.

Head to www.richmondhillva.org/give to make your year-end gift to Richmond Hill's Annual Fund today!



Celebrating the Richmond Hill Capital Campaign

t all started back in 2017 when the small but urgent projects around the building began to add up. The unstable porches. The teetering wall. The chipping paint. An idea emerged— is now the time for a capital campaign?

The council, residents, and key early donors and foundations soon got behind the idea. An ambitious goal — \$2.75 million!— was established, and the *Richmond Hill Capital Campaign: Preparing for the Next Generation of Ministry* was born.

Four years, dozens of volunteers, hundreds of donors, and a global pandemic later, the Richmond Hill community together has successfully reached its ambitious fundraising milestone!

God is good, indeed.

In true Richmond Hill fashion, many hands went into the conception, planning, and implementation of this campaign. A committee, chaired by longtime volunteer **Don Cowles** and first, by then Co-Pastoral Director **Rev. Janie Walker**, drove the strategy. With Janie's retirement, Council President **Cathy Woodson** took over as Co-Chair. Richmond Hill's Council initiated a comprehensive structural assessment, selecting the architectural firm Glavé & Holmes. **Debbie Winans** secured some early and significant Foundation grants, and **Tim Holtz** kept the books organized. **Bob Hetherington's** steadfast faithfulness kept everyone rooted in the Spirit.

Then, twenty-five volunteers went out, two by two, to do something many had never done before— to invite people to invest in the future of Richmond Hill.

Hundreds of you stepped up, making bold, stretch gifts to ensure the success of this campaign. (If you missed out on being one of them, it's not too late! Check out RHcampaign.org)

Thank you, thank you-- to everyone.

When you make your way back to Richmond Hill, you will discover a deck with stunning city views. You will wind along new paths that provide greater accessibility through our beloved garden. You might rest in a new rocking chair on our restructured—and now, safe—porches.

We cannot wait to host you on your next visit, and look forward to making many more memories with you here at Richmond Hill for generations to come.

Rev. Lindsey Franklin, Associate Pastor for Development

HAPPENINGS OF NOTE











What an amazing & blessed time was had by all... ...thank You, Lord!







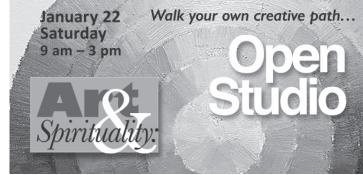






To register for the January 2022 First Friday please contact Victoria Bethel, at (804) 783-7903, ext.135 or email: retreats@richmondhillva.org Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper. Suggested donation: \$40

To register for the Art & Spirituality Open Studio please contact Victoria Bethel, at (804) 783-7903, ext.135 or email: retreats@richmondhillva.org
Facilitator: Brenda Giannini. Suggested donation: \$40



JOIN US

=KOINONIA=

School of Race & Social Justice

or 2021-2022, Koinonia is exploring efforts in the U.S to suppress the truth of our nation's past and present wrongs, counter efforts to face them with courage and honesty, and join the national campaign to create a culture of repair. Come explore how you are being called to act.

REPARATIONS SUNDAY RVA

WEEKEND OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 17-19, 2021
VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON





Friday, Dec. 17
Panel:
Reparations &

Moral Injury 7:00-8:30 pm via

Zoom

Saturday, Dec. 18Black Music

Workshop: Unpacking African American Spirituals

1:30-3:30 pm at Richmond Hill 2209 E Grace Street Sunday, Dec. 19

Concert & Commentary:

A Celebration of Black Life in America

> 4:00-5:30 pm at Virginia Union University Chapel

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION: RICHMONDHILLVA.ORG
CONTACT: PSMITH@RICHMONDHILLVA.ORG OR FDCOSBY@VUU.EDU











CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Patricia Garrity, Jim Thorsen, Tish Watson, Facilitators

Centering Prayer is a form of contemplative prayer where we deepen our relationship with God through inner quiet and stillness. Through this prayer we create an oppor-

r h

tunity to step back from our active and busy lives to rest in God's presence. The benefits of centering prayer are often carried forth into our everyday life.

Many who engage in this prayer individually enjoy the feeling of community as we meet together at Richmond Hill or remotely via Zoom. Whether you are new to the practice or have been centering for years, you are welcome! Following the 20 minutes of centering prayer, there is an interactive group discussion on a spiritual topic, song, or pertinent literature. We close our time together with a short period of intercessory prayer.

Centering prayer has been ongoing at Richmond Hill for over 20 years. Please consider joining us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Zoom link for those unable to attend in person is available on the website calendar.

Next meeting dates are December 21, January 4 and January 18.

Contact: Richard Rumble at 804-783-7903, ext.124 or rrumble@richmondhillva.org



Men of all ages and stages of life are invited to participate in this monthly gathering on Zoom to practice The Way of Council.

For details and a Zoom link, contact: Richard Rumble at 804-783-7903, ext.124 or rrumble@richmondhillva.org

ALP: A Season of Gratitude

Our new season has begun and we are very excited about the safe transition back to in-person activities with our students. Please join me in welcoming the VCU Social Work Intern, Alexander "Alex" Keniston to our team. She is a great addition to the team and the students have already begun bonding with her.

Since the beginning of school, we have been working alongside with our teachers, administrators and students to recruit new members for the team. So far, we participated with a team building activity at YWAM in Fulton. Students were able to bond, develop better communication skills and solved problems together. We visited the new Emancipation and Freedom Monument on Brown's Island to learn more about Richmond's history. Our students were in awe of the richness and intricate detail of the colossal statues. The highlight of the evening was a walk over the Potterfield Memorial Bridge, where our students were blown away by the breath-taking sunset and the natural beauty of the James River. They participated in a workshop entitled the Rebellious Lives of Mrs. Rosa Parks; it was not only very informative but offered a platform for the students to discuss community issues and solutions from their perspectives. The students were engaging and thoughtful. Some even shared their interest in learning more about African American history and the social justice field.

Special thank you to the MICAH Initiative and the Koinonia School of Race and Social Justice for the invitation to join this workshop by the Zinn Education Project! Also, special thanks to Chef Jason for preparing hot delious family meals for our students. We had a great time making the deliverers and meeting new family members. Thanks First Presbyterian Church, The Beirne Carter Foundation, The Richmond Christmas Mother, The Jackson Foundation and individuals for your recent donations.

If you would like learn more or become a mentor for one of the amazing ALP leaders, please contact us at Richmond Hill.



Peace & Blessings, Yvette Davis Rajput and Marvin Roane

Photo taken at the play Pipeline at Va Rep Theater

If you are interested in participating in the Armstrong Leadership Program,
please contact: Yvette Davis Rajput, Director at work: 804-783-7903,
ext. 113, 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

Micah: A Season of Adaptation

There was a Holiday Party for the Micah family on Thursday, December 16th at Richmond's First Baptist Church, where the Rev. Jim Somerville is pastor and where first lady and retired educator Christy Somerville has been active in helping Micah to develop professional



development workshops for the coming months.

It's been a long haul for all of us and Micah volunteers and our colleagues deserve some good cheer! While most volunteers have been unable to be back in classrooms yet (the RPS timeframe is now spring 2022) that doesn't mean they haven't been active! Volunteers have responded to all kinds of needs such as supplies, books for the new book vending machines, gardening, and more. In other Micah news, we were pleased to have Ursula Wolfe-Rocca from the Zinn Education Project to offer a dynamic lesson on educational equity that incorporated strategies for reading with young children so that all children see themselves as part of the story. Her workshop was so well-received that a Part II was added by popular demand!

Pam Smith, Micah Coordinator

Oblates: A Season of Anticipation

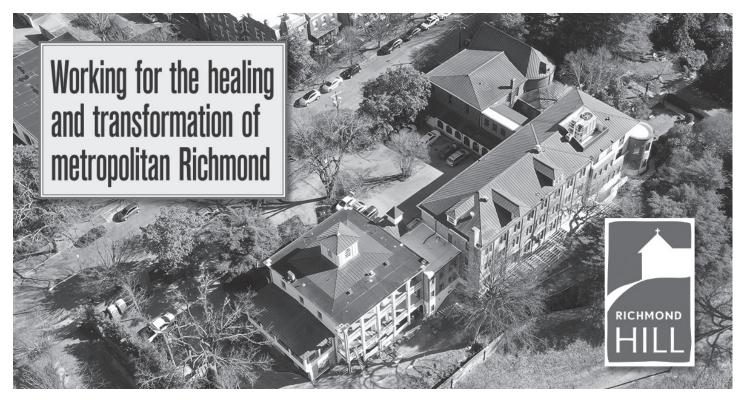
T he Companions of Richmond Hill Oblate Program is being developed for all those eager to foster a closer relationship with God in concert with the Richmond Hill Community. On Saturday, March 26th, 2022 from 10:00 am to noon, we will launch the inaugural gathering of the Companions.

That Saturday, which falls during the season of Lent, was chosen intentionally to be the first stepping stone of one's ongoing spiritual journey. Going forward, meetings for the Companions of Richmond Hill will happen here on the fourth Saturday of every month. This program offers a formal, reciprocal relationship for those living outside the residential community to stay connected and involved in the mission of Richmond Hill.

Participants are invited to pray alongside Richmond Hill and covenant to live the rule and mission of Richmond Hill where they are. Prayer includes setting aside time daily to pray for oneself, the Richmond Hill Community, and the world. A commitment to the rule and mission of Richmond Hill involves practicing hospitality toward others and working for the healing of racial wounds in one's local context.

Stay tuned! Watch our web site for more details and a sign-up registration form!

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Join us on this journey of reciprocal healing

You may have heard it said that when we heal the land, we heal ourselves. One aspect of this work is caring for the garden and grounds of Richmond Hill by more and more often using practices that mimic the processes of nature. Here at Richmond Hill we began the journey of supporting the natural flow of water on our footprint during work in the garden supported by the Capital Campaign. We soon discovered it was just the beginning of what is needed: a plan to address stormwater flow and irrigation needs across our entire footprint.

We are excited to announce that \$38,000 in grant funds was recently awarded to Richmond Hill by The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through their Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, Small Watershed Grants (SWG) program to support this necessary work.

These funds will be used to survey the garden and grounds of Richmond Hill and create a concept plan for green stormwater infrastructure (rain gardens, water harvesting systems) that will help more water soak into the ground as well provide ways for rainwater to be used by the gardens, rather than sending it down the hill to Taylor's Hill Park to be absorbed by the City's stormwater system. One of the most exciting aspects of this work is that it will be done in partnership with Groundwork RVA's Green Team, a workforce development program that employs local young adults in green infrastructure implementation and stewardship.

You are also invited to walk on this journey with us! If you have a love of the land and water, and have an interest in being out in nature and observing what you see, we need you. Beginning in January, a group of volunteers will join us in observing the land during periodic visits to the garden and grounds in order to make note of what they see about how water moves here. Email Beth Nelson, grant project manager, at greeningwater@gmail.com to let her know you're interested.

Heal the land, heal ourselves. Join us on this journey of reciprocal healing.

— Beth Nelson, Co-Gardener



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

Winter 2021-2022

Metro Richmond at Prayer metroprayrva.org

In December: *Pray for the Persons in* Financial Need in Metropolitan Richmond.

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

We are open for retreats!

Schedule your group today at retreats@richmondhillva.org or RichmondHillVa.org/retreats Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Richmond, VA Permit No. 1318

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.





