

UPDATE



For the spirit of the city

2209 E. GRACE STREET, RICHMOND VA 23223 | SUMMER 2022

TENDING THE SPIRIT

Sacred Seeing

Every other week, the residential community shares in a time of spiritual formation. Recently, I was leading and I invited people into the practice of Visio Divina or “sacred seeing.” It’s a practice which invites us to pause and take in a piece of artwork or behold a scene in nature. I sent the residents out into Richmond Hill with a short list of questions to help guide them through the process and welcome in the Holy Spirit, then after about thirty minutes we’d return to our meeting room and share about the experience.

Knowing that I wanted to behold nature, I headed out to Richmond Hill’s garden not sure of where I would end up. But I found the Holy Spirit nudging me to visit the Black Madonna and baby Jesus on the edge of the garden. I sat down on an adjacent bench and began to rest with them.

Visio Divina invites us to look deeply at a work of art and, like Lectio Divina, listen to the Holy Spirit’s guidance for a treasure or special teaching meant just for us in this moment. As I took in Mother Mary and baby Jesus, I was drawn to the way that she was holding him – his head in the crook of her elbow and his belly resting on her forearm, protected by the shadow of her cloak and her body. I recognized that hold because that is how I hold my 3-month old, Asa, when he’s feeling fussy. I nestle him, belly down, into the crook of my arm and he calms right down. The Spirit reminded me that this is the gentle, nurturing love that God provides to us.

I sat with Mary a while longer, allowing her and the Spirit to speak to me. As a working mom, who is struggling to balance pumping in the midst of a busy work schedule, I worry about maintaining my milk supply in order to feed my young son, especially in the midst of a nationwide formula scarcity. I sat watching Mother Mary, worrying about my own milk supply, and the Spirit brought forth that though my supply may wane – God’s nourishment and providence will never run dry.

Living into a theology of abundance, rather than scarcity, is a continuing struggle for the people of God. I’ll speak for myself that fears about where the next resident or staff member will come from is often on my mind. Worry can creep in, but at just the right moment a colleague reminds us all that God is “Jehovah Jireh” – the God who provides. Truly, we can’t live into this mindset of abundance without the help of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Whether it’s through the Spirit-filled reminders of God’s providence that we can give to one another, or in showing up for each other in our low moments, or in

the breaking and multiplying of bread around the table. When two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name, the God who provides shows up.

I’ve been thinking a lot about community and abundance as the collaboration between Richmond Hill and Mending Walls continues to take shape. About 500 feet of Richmond Hill’s South facing graffitied wall will be filled with a mural collaboratively designed by five artists who have been learning about Richmond Hill for months. It’s an honor to be partnering with Mending Walls, whose mission is to bring together “public artists

continues on page 2

*Spirit reminds
us of the gentle,
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God provides...*

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TENDING THE SPIRIT



from different cultures and backgrounds to create murals that address... how we can move forward together through understanding and collaboration." They've been described as a "healing art project." It's been a rich experience to partner together on this healing art project which will help revitalize Taylor's Hill Park, shine a beautiful beacon from Richmond Hill into Shockoe Bottom, and invite conversation and deeper understanding around this beautiful mural.

Once completed, I think the mural will be the perfect spot to come and practice Visio Divina. The five artists have created a beautiful work of art that features so many meaningful symbols and metaphorical images that will be rich to behold and contemplate.

We hope that you will join us in the work of sacred seeing—the work of truly seeing the world around us, allowing it to speak to us, and inviting the Holy Spirit to dialogue with us. In our seeing, may God's never-ending presence be assurance and the providence of God be a promise in our collaborative, nurturing communities of abundance.

*Rev. Katie Heishman,
 Co-Pastoral Director*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Departments	
1-2 Tending the Spirit, Revive Richmond	6 Armstrong Leadership News
3 Richmond at Prayer, Development Corner	7 Community Wall Collaboration
4-5 Happenings of Note	8 Prayer Cycle
Upcoming Events	

REVIVE RICHMOND

Metanoia: a transformative change of heart

The Greek word for change is metanoia. My introductory sermon for my licensing to preach was titled, "Lord, I Need a Heart Transplant." My text was taken from Psalm 51:10 — *Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me.* I promise you, I had to live that word, before I could preach it. What I did not realize, 20 years ago, was that this was not a one-shot deal. We are constantly, consistently, daily, being changed. Sometimes this transformation happens from the outside, in. At other times, it's an inside job, that manifests outwardly.

What I really wasn't aware of, even preaching, was I was living beneath my privilege in who God had created me to be. I was living a LIE. I was living the lie that the enemy whispered to me as a little girl, when he told me that I was damaged goods; that I wasn't worthy of love; that no one was going to ever want to be with me; and the list goes on and on. Believing these lies, and not having the language as a child to tell my parents how I was feeling, I began to live with some horrible dysfunctional behaviors. I began to compromise who I was and what I was sent into the earth realm to accomplish. I was having an identity crisis because I didn't know who I was in Christ.

Because of my beliefs and some of my life situations, I lived in that space for a really, really, long time without my family and friends being aware of what I was experiencing. I masked my pain in over-achieving, performance addiction, people pleasing, and in entertaining people and things that were completely outside of the will of God for my life. Nothing was legitimately killing the pain; but it was definitely, intensifying it.

Why am I sharing this with you? I share because, my entire ministry is based on transparency. And because God loves you as much as he loves me, I want you to know that it is going to take a change of heart for you to get the weight off you, that is holding you down. If you want change, you must do the inside work to find out who the Lord says you are. If you want to know what it feels like to love who you are, it's going to be a journey of changing your mind, your heart, and sometimes the people who surround you for you to experience any real freedom. Be ye transformed, by the renewing of your mind! I promise you, if you start the journey, the Lord will meet you there! Take real good care of you!!!

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

metroprayrva.org

August 2022

Pray for the Workplaces and Businesses of Metropolitan Richmond.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil 2:12-13 NRSV)

August 7, 2022. We pray for the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: For financial institutions, sustainable and just investment policies, and effective development efforts to benefit the entire community.

August 14, 2022. We pray for the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: For economic development in depressed portions of the city, for the establishment of businesses that will create new employment opportunities.

August 21, 2022. We pray for the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: For owners and managers: for servant leadership, civic responsibility and ethical decision-making.

August 28, 2022. We pray for the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: For full employment opportunities for our young people and heads of families, for the long-term unemployed, and for the under-employed.

September 2022

Pray for Schools and Educational Institutions of Metropolitan Richmond.

Only take heed, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children. (Deut 4:9 NRSV)

September 4, 2022. We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all Superintendents, School Boards, School Administrators, PTAs, teachers, students, and staff. For curriculum that is grounded in truth and meaning; for space to nourish the creative seed in both teachers and students.

September 11, 2022. We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all public, private and religious schools; for students, teachers and support personnel, including cafeteria workers, building and grounds staff, and school bus drivers; for all, pre-schools and daycare centers, and for children in home schools.

September 18, 2022. We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all universities, colleges, seminaries, trade, technical, graduate, and professional schools; for the students, faculty, and staff of these institutions.

September 25, 2022. We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For healthy relationships between parents, teachers, and students; for cooperation between Superintendents and Administrators of public and private schools throughout this metropolitan city.

I began my role here as Associate Pastor for Development amidst the tumultuous spring of 2020. I was still new to ministry, not yet ordained. I had a strong but untested hunch that fundraising could be ministry — that working to steward our resources as people of faith could connect us more deeply to one another, to God, and to our mission of seeking God’s healing of our metropolitan city.

I’ll admit that during that first spring — when COVID closed our doors, our retreat revenue dried up and uncertainty was overwhelming — I feared I had been mistaken.

Then, we asked our community for extra support and you all showed up in a big way. Your prayers, your love, and your financial support embodied faithful stewardship, shepherding our mission through the roller coaster of two pandemic years.

You then stepped up again to strengthen the foundation of this place and ministry with the successful completion of a \$2.75 million capital campaign and renovation. With God’s help, together we stand on a stable foundation as we enter into the next generation of ministry here.

On our 35th year here on the Hill, it’s now time to invest in this next generation of ministry. To invest in the people and programs that are carrying this mission forward.

If you haven’t been to Richmond Hill in awhile, you might not know just how alive it feels with the Spirit of God. The hum of activity is palpable. Retreatants find respite once again in this healing place. A new history exhibit deepens our understanding of enslavement here on our land and ignites our passion towards justice. Children of our newest residents dream up rainbows and butterflies in chalk on our pathways, while Richmond Hill outreach ministries work to ensure that all our kids in this metropolitan city can dream of a bright future.

The Spirit is indeed at work in this place, transcending our walls and transforming our city.

I realize now that not only is my work a stewardship ministry, you all minister to this city each and every day when you offer your prayers, your time and energy, and your funds keep this transformative work moving.

You, too, are part of this transformation. Thanks be to God!

*Rev. Lindsey Franklin,
Associate Pastor for Development*

For more about our work this past year, check out our 2021 Annual Report at www.richmondhillva.org/report

UNEARTHING BURIED STORIES

for Truth-Telling at Richmond Hill

The Unearthing Buried Stories Exhibit is live now through the end of August! Come see this well-researched and well-curated exhibit detailing the history of enslaved Africans on the property now stewarded by Richmond Hill. Come read through the more than 20 panels unearthing history, view items which our archeologist has discovered, and listen to audio reflections through the QR codes. While you're here, visit the chapel to view the architectural renderings of The Dwelling, the building on our campus where enslaved Africans lived, and add your voice to the conversation. Please leave your comments on the posted white paper in the back of the chapel, along with your name and phone number or email address, if you like. Your voice matters.

For more information about the Exhibit, check out the website: www.thejudyproject.info



Richmond Hill is closed August 1-15.

We eagerly look forward to being with you this Fall!

While our Summer Sabbath is underway, we are not booking individual or group retreats or meetings. Thank you for your understanding and your support.

Hello's, and good-byes

We are excited to announce the newest addition to our Richmond Hill Family. **Rev. Kelsey** (Office Coordinator), **Rev. Peter** and **Mabel Hawisher-Faul** joined the residential community in May.

Rev. Victoria Bethel is leaving her position to move closer to family and take on pastoral duties in Portland, OR. **Anthony Gaboton** is undertaking Anglican Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary this fall. We are grateful for their gifts and service here at Richmond Hill.

Looking to join Richmond Hill's healing mission?

Richmond Hill has the following open Residential positions.

To explore, visit

richmondhillva.org/positions

**Individual Ministries Coordinator
Marketing Coordinator
Retreat Host
Urban Service Corps**

U P C O M I N G !

Micah Back-to-School Gathering Thursday, August 25

Micah is excited to return to classrooms in the upcoming school year! Our Back-to-School Gathering is **Thursday, August 25th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at First Unitarian Universalist Church**. Please help us recruit new volunteers! If your faith community was active with Micah before Covid-19 and could use a Micah reboot, please join us! We will have a special session for new volunteers. Or if you've been with us all along and have news to share, we'll have a circle to greet old friends. Updates, workshops, free new Micah "toolkit" bags, and more!



Register @ micahrva.org



RUAAH SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Apply Now!

New class begins
September 2022

The RUAH School is a two-year program which exists to identify and develop the charism of spiritual guidance. This cohort is specifically designed for clergy and ministry leaders. Participants will discern their call to the practice of spiritual guidance; develop their gifts and skills; prepare to offer spiritual guidance in their own context; receive spiritual guidance from someone trained in this ministry; and deepen one's own theological, historical, scriptural and experiential background in soul care.

Details @ RichmondHillVa.org/clergyruah



Art & Spirituality

Creativity Retreat

Oct. 15,
2022
Saturday
9am – 3pm

To register for the Art & Spirituality Open Studio, visit RichmondHillVa.org/art
Call (804) 783-7903, ext.110 or email: rsvp@richmondhillva.org
Facilitator: Brenda Giannini. Suggested donation: \$40 (includes lunch)

JOIN US

We are open for retreats!

Schedule your group or
a personal retreat today

visit RichmondHillVa.org/retreats

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.



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.

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 August 16,
September 6 and September 20.

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

Save these Dates!

Clergy Convocation 2022

"Lift Every Voice"

Thursday,
October 20th, 2022

Celebrate 35 Years
on the Hill

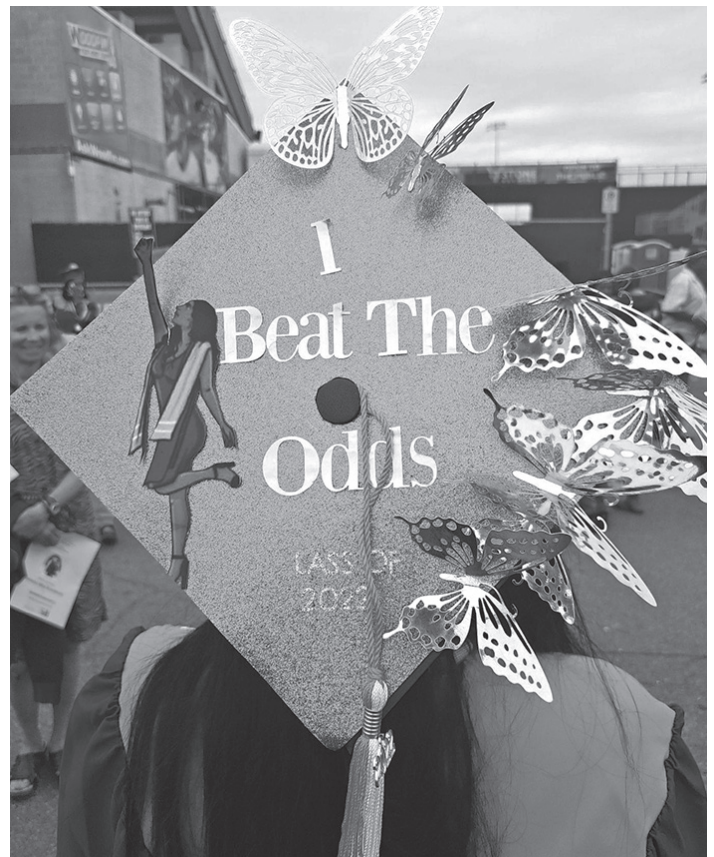
Tuesday,
November 29th, 2022

Props and Big Shout-Out to Armstrong Leadership Program

Congratulations to the graduates of the Armstrong Leadership Program and Armstrong High School. Your four years were not easy with so many obstacles and challenges,— however, your resilience and perseverance has proven to “beat the odds.” It was our great honor to acknowledge all of our students at the 2022 Awards & Closing Ceremony. The celebration was filled with lots of love, joy, happiness, and quite a bit of joyful tears! To the Class of 2022, thank you for demonstrating strong leadership, commitment, and courage. We applaud each of you for never giving up on your dream, and being an example for your teammates. Thank you for your commitment to this program and for passing the torch to the next group of leaders. As you move forward, reflect upon your accomplishments, celebrate your success, and continue to *Dream, Believe, and Achieve!*

Our graduating seniors received certificates, senior gift bags, keychains, graduation medals, donned with Kente resilience stoles, and a scholarship for books and/or career preparation. Additionally, all of our college-bound students were provided with a College Shower hosted this year by **First Presbyterian Church, Faith Community Baptist Church, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP** and **SCHEV**. Students received dorm room essentials (laptops, microwave, refrigerator, fan, bedding, towels, supplies, gift cards, scholarship for tuition and books, etc.) to make their transition to college a bit easier. All of our graduates have post-graduate plans including admissions to Virginia State University, Reynolds College, Richard Bland College, and into the workforce. We would also like to congratulate **Tyquan Jenkins**, this year’s recipient of the Rev. Janie Walker Leadership Spirit Award. Tyquan spent 4 years with us, learning and thriving despite the many challenges he faced in his young life. Tyquan received a \$1500.00 scholarship along with his award. Tyquan, we wish you well in your future endeavors, we are proud of you!

Farewell and thank you to **Alexandra Keniston**,



VCU social work “Intern Extraordinaire” for her excellent administrative support, social media skills as well as the social and emotional support offered to the students. Alex will begin the Master’s in Social Work program at VCU in the fall and intern with Department of Social Services. We appreciate your commitment, hard work, flexibility and love!

Lastly, to the greatest support system in the world, we say THANK YOU to you too! We are so grateful for all the blessings your support has made possible. Whether it is academic support, mentoring, sponsorship, volunteering, or just simply being there to stand in the gap when days are harder than others, your contributions have touched the lives of our students in a myriad of wonderful ways. Happy Summer!

— *Peace & Blessings, Yvette Davis Rajput and Marvin Roane*

Are you interested in participating in the Armstrong Leadership Program?

Contact: **Yvette Davis Rajput, Director** at work: 804-783-7903, ext. 113, cell 804-314-2622, or yrajput@richmondhillva.org

Marvin Roane, Assistant Director, 804-484-0736, or alp@richmondhillva.org

Like Us on Facebook @ArmstrongLeadership



Transcending Walls and the Power of Collaboration

This year, Richmond Hill is thrilled to partner with *Mending Walls*, a public art project advancing social justice through collaborative, community-engaged art by connecting artists and community members from different backgrounds in conversations to foster empathy, understanding, and healing. Led by *Mending Walls* co-directors **Hamilton** and **Taekia Glass** and working with five different artists, together we are transforming the south side of our southern wall into a beautiful mural — all around the theme of Transcending Walls.

This collaboration is three years in the making. Conversations with Hamilton Glass, a prolific public artist here in Richmond, began in early 2019 as we together explored various ways to address the graffiti covering our entire 500-ft southern wall. In those early conversations, we recognized that community input and support would be vital to any plan, and began meeting with neighbors from **Friends of Taylor Hill Park**, the **Church Hill Association**, and the **Richmond Parks Department**. While those initial conversations were put on hold during the pandemic, the seeds for collaboration took root. After

Mending Walls was born in 2020, we began the conversation anew.

In any community art project, particularly one designed to bring people together across differences, the process is as important as the final product. And it is quite a process to engage a whole community of people, inside and outside our walls, in such a massive public project! As we plan, design, and ultimately paint the mural, the theme of “*Transcending Walls*” serves as our north star. Working with artists and community members to create a mural that reflects our collective voice and spirit, we continue to build empathy and connection across the walls that divide us, transcending walls that are physical, social, personal, and systemic.

As this *UPDATE* goes to print, our five amazing artists — Nadd Harvin, Sam Skrimpz, Lizzie Brown, Rian L. Moses, and Hope Morgan — are finalizing the design. Now many hands will begin the hard, good work of prepping and painting the wall as it begins its transformation. We cannot wait to share it with you!

For more information about *Mending Walls*, check out their website: www.mendingwallsrva.com

For the spirit of the city



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



RICHMOND HILL is joining other local Non-Profits this September by participating in the AMAZING PRAISE, September 20-22. Visit theAmazingPraise.org to learn more.

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Summer 2022

Metro Richmond at Prayer



metroprayrva.org

In August: *Pray for the Workplaces and Businesses of Metropolitan Richmond.*

...and in September: *Pray for Schools and Educational Institutions of 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.

You can find us, like us, share us: **Facebook: RichmondHillVA Instagram: RichmondHillVA YouTube: RichmondHillVA**
Share your comments, or sign up to receive our printed UPDATE newsletter here: rrumble@richmondhillva.org

