For the spirit of the city RICHMOND GRACE STREET, 23223 2209 RICHMOND WINTER

TENDING THE SPIRIT

Strength for the Journey: **Expecting God**

Thessalonians 2:16-17 says, "16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, 17 comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say."

In January 2020, my nephew Kori, who lived with me, became very ill. We thought he had the flu, but it got progressively worse. As time went on, I said to him that he needed to go to urgent care and get some antibiotics because the over-the-counter stuff was not working. Well low and behold, he went to urgent care, and they told him to go directly to the hospital! Do not pass go, do not collect \$200 as in monopoly, but straight to the hospital. He went to the hospital, where they told him his heart was working at 15% capacity and from there we went on a journey that

would last eleven months into 2020. Kori was diagnosed in January 2020 with heart failure, but the doctors could not pinpoint what exactly caused this illness because he was in the gym four or five times a week. He was going to work every day and for the most part, taking care of himself, and the most the doctors could say to what was happening was, "It is some kind of virus, but we don't know what it is." Sixty days later, COVID-19 was announced to the world and while it was never confirmed, we suspect that Kori had been exposed to a virus that no one could explain, and we needed God to show God'sself mightily.

I share this story at this depth because every time I left the hospital I would lean into Kori and say to him, "We are praying for strength for the journey!" He said,

"Yes ma'am." This battle was one that went from January to November of 2020, with a brain bleed and two transplants. On Thanksgiving Day 2020, my 28-year-old nephew received a heart transplant and the day after Thanksgiving he received a kidney transplant.

I write this to encourage anybody who is going through any level of distress, any level of disappointment, any level of struggle, and needing God to turn a

> situation around in your life. Please know that the Creator of the world wants to meet you in every one of those dark places. The human condition can be overwhelming!!! So, as we enter into this season of Advent, we hold on to the promise found in Hebrews 13:5, where the Lord Himself has said [in Deuteronomy 31:6] "I will never let you go, nor will I by any means forsake you."

We can expect God to show up! We can pray and ask the Almighty and Everlasting God to comfort us when we are sad and to strengthen us when we feel weak and expect God to hear our prayers. We can pray and ask God to speak peace to our spirit when we are in a place of despair and hopelessness. We can

trust that the One who is able to keep us from falling is truly able to keep us from falling! We can ask the Ruler of the Universe to hold us in tender mercy and to keep our minds when we have no idea of which way to turn.

The reason I know this level of connection is available is because I tried Him, and I found out that His Word is true. I railed at God when the doctors told us that they were just going to keep Kori as comfortable as possible. I cried out to the Lord and wanted to know where He was when it seemed like we were going to have to make peace with the death of my nephew! I reminded God of His Word in Isaiah, proclaiming that by His stripes we are healed. I did not let not one prayer time at Richmond Hill go by that I was not calling my nephew's name out aloud. I trust God continues on page 2 even when I can't trace God!

Ve can to Show up!

Richmond Hill Council Members

President Katie Johnson Vice President Lorae Ponder Treasurer

John L. Taylor, III <u>Secretary</u> Cathy Woodson

Rev. Jocelyn Blount
Deitre Lynne Johnson
Rev. Katie Heishman
Rev. Micah Jackson
Rev. Dr. Alesia (Lisa) Johnson
Rev. Kelsey Hawisher-Faul
Yvette Rajput
Bill Weber
Rev. Gina Whitaker Cannon
Angela Ciccolo
Dr. Jerry Gilbert
Rev. Jamie Lynn Haskins

Community & Staff

<u>Co-Pastoral Directors</u> Rev. Dr. Alesia (Lisa) Johnson ljohnson@richmondhillva.org

Rev. Katie Heishman kheishman@richmondhillva.org

Associate Pastor for Development

 $Rev.\ Lindsey\ Franklin\\ lfranklin@richmondhillva.org$

<u>Director of Operations</u> Rev. Jocelyn Blount administrator@richmondhillva.org

Office Coordinator Rev. Kelsey Hawisher-Faul office@richmondhillva.org

Retreat Host
Rev. Daniel Willson
retreats@richmondhillva.org

Interim Individual Ministries Coordinator Rev. Sheryl Johnson

sjohnson@richmondhillva.org

<u>Donations Coordinator</u>

Debbie Winans
development@richmondhillva.org

Micah Coordinator Andrew Schwartz aschwartz@richmondhillva.org

IT and AV Coordinator Rev. Sam Thomas Arisapogu sarisapogu@richmondhillva.org

Associate Pastor for Facilities

Management
Rev. Ben Hadley-Goggin

facilities@richmondhillva.org

<u>Dining Host</u> Tomas Maximo-Walter dining@richmondhillva.org

<u>Co-Gardeners</u> Allison Hurst Beth Nelson garden@richmondhillva.org

Armstrong Leadership Program Yvette Rajput yrajput@richmondhillva.org

Marvin Roane alp@richmondhillva.org

<u>Musician</u> Jim Bennett

Residents Rev. Tim Heishman Rev. Peter Hawisher-Faul Allison Schwartz Ah'sha Maximo-Walter

TENDING THE SPIRIT

In this season of expectation, whatever you are going through, try God! Expect God! Believe God's Word! Practice resting in God's presence and receiving God's love. When the day is done and we do not know how else to pray, we can always pray the Lord's prayer and/or ask God to give strength to those who may be going through a tough space. Trust that the prayers of those who cry out in tribulation are not bouncing off the ceiling in your life. Know that every soul that is distressed God wants to grant mercy and relief. And if you cannot get a prayer out, know that God is with you and so are we.

Rev. Alesia (Lisa) Johnson, Co-Pastoral Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Departments

- 1-2 Tending the Spirit,

 Development Corner
- 3 Richmond at Prayer, 7 Ruah XX
- 4-5 Happenings of Note, Upcoming Events
- 6 Armstrong Leadership News
- 7 Dwelling of Enslaved Africans, Micah Initiative
- 8 Prayer Cycle

Richmond Hill Sojourn

The Richmond Hill Sojourn offers an opportunity for you to immerse yourself in the rhythms of Richmond Hill: our call to a life of prayer, hospitality, spiritual development, and racial reconciliation all in the name of healing Metropolitan Richmond. We invite you to consider joining for a one-month, two-month, or a three-month term. You can find information and submit an inquiry on our website.

Ora Et Labora Retreats

Come participate in "Ora et Labora," the Benedictine motto of prayer and work. We invite you to consider joining us fo a day, a weekend, or a week in supporting our ministry of hospitality by offering your time and talents and enjoying a retreat of your own in the space between. You can find more information and submit an inquiry on our website or reach out to Rev. Sheryl Johnson, at *sjohnson@richmond-hillva.org*

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Rooted and Grounded in Love

"...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love." Ephesians 3:17

Por the past three years, development efforts here at Richmond Hill have had one goal: to keep our ministry and mission financially steady amidst turbulent times. We've been honest about our needs — through pandemic, renovation, community transition, and unexpected floods — and the response from this community has been phenomenal.

By the grace of God and with the help of many hands, your gifts and prayers have faithfully stewarded this place and kept our mission strong.

This year, our Development Committee is asking ourselves a crucial question: how can we sustainably resource Richmond Hill for the long term? Inspired by Ephesians 3:17, how can we fund this place and community in a way that is rooted and grounded in love?

We envision a development practice built on the foundation of Richmond Hill's four pillars: grounded in prayer, confident in our hospitality, faithful to an ethos of racial reconciliation, and sustaining in Spirit. And, we imagine a financially sustainable Richmond Hill — where our buildings and grounds receive the continuous investment a historic building requires, where our growing community of residents and staff are cared for and faithfully compensated, where our programs have the funds needed to grow and thrive.

This is the vision that we as a committee are working towards, and this is the Richmond Hill that we are collectively investing in.

Will you join us? Your support is critical. As we embark on an exciting new chapter guided by our forthcoming strategic plan, we invite you to help make possible this vision for a financially sustainable Richmond Hill — rooted and grounded in love.

One way to do that is to become a monthly sustainer. Head to www.richmondhillva.org/monthly and click the button that says "monthly."

With your support, our work together — rooted and grounded in love — will bear fruit we have yet to foresee.

Rev. Lindsey Franklin Associate Pastor for Development

RUAH XX

metroprayrva.org

December 2023

Pray for the Persons in Financial Need in Metropolitan Richmond.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luker 4:18-19 NRSVUE)

December 3, 2023. We pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the unemployed and underemployed, for suitable work, living wages, and fair benefits for all workers in this metropolital city.

December 10, 2023. We pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the homeless and the hungry for the provision of safe affordable housing and low cost nutritious food, for the personal safety, dignity, and well being of those who are unable to work.

December 17, 2023. We pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the healthy relationships; for constructive, safe, and caring households, for the bringing up and nurturing of children and caring for the elderly.

December 24, 2023. 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 etropolitan Richmond.

December 24, 2023. We pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the effective, affordable, regional public transportation to support job access; and for sufficient employment to make healthy family life possible.

January 2024

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 NRSVUE)

January 7, 2023. We pray to over come 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, begining with what is in our own hearts.

January 14, 2023. We pray to over come 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 21, 2023. We pray to over come 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 28, 2023. We pray to over come 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; and to proclaim in word and deed the establishment of a beloved community in metropolitan richmond. For a spirit of unity, mutuality, cooperation, reconciliation, reform, and common ministry within the faith community.

Discernment

ear 1 of Ruah XX. Advent brings us to almost halfway through our first year. The focus this first year is personal development and listening. We are listening from inside out; reflecting and discerning the movement of the Spirit in our lives and those all around us. Each month we focus on a theme. The theme this month is Discernment. Things change. Uncertainty builds. Questions surface. Decisions need to be made; challenges and fortunes come our way. Discernment is what we do in these spaces. Discernment is what a Spiritual Director will accompany you through as you and God come into alignment. It's a natural part of life which sharpens as we commit to walk and deepen our closeness with the Divine/God. As we let go of our need to control and know everything and just trust God more fully, we become free. In this freedom we are able to sense more deeply, hear more clearly and experience what is real and what is not. This Advent season as we look back over the year and forward expectantly to the unknown, release and open yourself to God fully trusting the Divine plan and power of love

> Elnora Allen Ruah Dean

STAFF NEWS

Welcome Tomas Maximo-Walter

DINNING HOST

Iwant to start by telling you all. God is real! I heard about Richmond Hill through the "Indeed" job search app. When I told my wife Ah'sha about God guiding me to work at Richmond Hill, she looked up at me and said, "ask God, when do you start?" Of course, I researched the benefits and pay, and it was not anything to brag about. However, the people, chapel,



and daily prayers held three times a day did it for me and Ah'sha. To think that I was asking God, "are you sure you want me to go, work here at Richmond Hill?" I heard a still small voice from God saying, "yes" and asking me to interview at Richmond Hill. Once I arrived, I met Pastor Lisa and Pastor Katie, and my conversation with them encouraged me to join Richmond Hill. It is the best choice I ever made. Now, my wife and I have become residents here at Richmond Hill. Cooking is my love language, so I know I'm in the right place.

STAFF NEWS

Dear Labyrinth Elm

On Nov 2nd, 2023, a dear companion tree of Richmond Hill, Labyrinth Elm, was cut down. She was dying, releasing her large limbs to the ground, and posing a safety risk to those who walked the labyrinth path below. It was a difficult decision to make because our garden welcomes all aspects of the full circle of life ~ the emerging, the living, the dying, the decaying, and the new growth that follows. All through the process, we received comfort from Moon, in waning gibbous, who watched over us and held space for her transition.



In Labyrinth Elm's absence, we are given the opportunity to connect with grief ~ grief we may feel for those who are now missing from our lives, for those who were a meaningful part of our community, or even those aspects of ourselves that, either with intention or without, we allow to grow, die, decay, or release.

In Labyrinth Elm's absence we are given the opportunity to notice the gifts

of her 140 year life, to remember the witness that she was to all who walked, lived, worked, or worshiped on this land. We recall conversations and conversions that she observed and held space for. We remember the shade that she offered and her invitation to notice the seasons of Earth.

In her memory, we invite you to reflect on her presence in your life while here at Richmond Hill by writing an email to her that shares your stories, reflections, memories and musings with her.

Your email will join our historical archive of Richmond Hill Stories: the stories from our past, the present, as well as stories of future hope for life here on The Hill. Send emails to labyrinthelm@richmondhillva.org

*elements from collected stories may be shared in future publications, minus your identifying information

— Beth Nelson & Allison Hurst, Co-Gardeners

Do you enjoy woodworking, chopping wood, making crafts or being creative?

Join us as we creatively plan to repurpose the wood that remains from Labyrinth Elm.

Email Beth at gardenrichmondhillva.org

Richmond Hill is closed to the public December 22-January 1. We eagerly look forward to being with you in 2024!

WHILE OUR CHRISTMAS SABBATH IS UNDERWAY, WE ARE NOT BOOKING INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP RETREATS OR MEETINGS.

Thank you for your understanding and your support.

Welcome Jocelyn

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

ocelyn Blount is a licensed and ordained Baptist minister from Chesapeake, VA. Jocelyn is a graduate of Hampton University and Baptist Theological Seminary



at Richmond. Jocelyn is a qualified mental health professional with 10 years in the mental health industry. Jocelyn has served the Baptist denomination on the local, state, national and global field. She is also an author and certified wedding planner who owns an event planning and writing services business. When Jocelyn is not working, she enjoys time with her dog Chloe and taking trips to Disney World. She is grateful to be at Richmond Hill and is excited about the future of this sacred community.

Welcome Sam Thomas Arisapogu

IT AND AV COORDINATOR

Cam Thomas Arisapogu is an Oordained Baptist Minister from India. He recently graduated from Union Presbyterian Seminary with Th.M. at Richmond.



Sam has worked as an Assistant Professor of Old Testament in a Theological College in India. His heart is towards standing in solidarity with marginalized people. Sam is a self-taught technology guru and is skilled in providing technical assistance to Richmond Hill. When he is not working, he spends his time exploring delicious cuisines in Richmond and tinkering with computers. Here is what Sam Thomas has to say, "I am really glad that I am at Richmond Hill at this point of my life. It is a learning experience to be hospitable and caring toward people.

Welcome Andrew

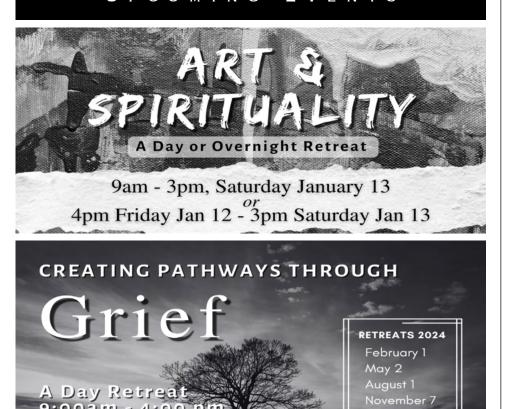
STAFF NEWS

Schwartz Micah Coordinator

My family and I moved into the Richmond Hill community this August. After many years of yearning for a new-monastic



expression, I feel deeply moved and grateful that we are here and settling into the rhythm of life and the call to heal the city, heal ourselves, heal our land, and experiment with more sustainable and generative life rhythms. I have been a United Methodist Pastor for the past 8 years and come from a long line of "system-tinkerers", folks on an ongoing spiritual pilgrimage of trying things differently. As the Micah Coordinator, I'm deeply hopeful and eager to explore what the Spirit has in store for the next chapter of Richmond Hill. Riding my road bike is one of my "happy places" and I can't believe I live 0.4 miles up the hill from the Virginia Capital Trail!



To register visit our website or call the office or email Sheryl Johnson @ sjohnson@richmondhillva.org

Save the Date: Volunteer Luncheon

Wednesday, January 10, 2023 — Richmond Hill would like to acknowledge and show appreciation for all of our hardworking volunteers. Your service in answering phones, greeting guests, helping set up and clean dishes, maintaining our buildings, and tending to the garden are all vital tasks that ensure Richmond Hill continues to do the good work of hospitality. If you have volunteered for us, please join us for a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner! Let us know you plan to attend at RichmondHillVA.org/RSVP/

RESIDENTS NEWS

Welcome Allison Schwartz

Wife of Andrew Schwartz

Allison Schwartz is married to Andrew and mom to daughter Anna-Leigh, middle son Holden and youngest son Hosea. She grew up in southeast New Mexico and moved to Virginia twelve years ago to start her chiropractic business. Andrew and she had been dreaming of when they could finally live in an intentional community that was mission



focused, and are excited that now is the time and Richmond Hill is the place!

Welcome Ah'sha Edward Walter

WIFE OF TOMAS MAXIMO-WALTER

If someone would have told me last year I would be living in a resident community in Virginia at Richmond Hill, I probably would have laughed out loud to be completely honest, but God ALWAYS gets the last laugh. Since being accepted into the community, the vision



has been pretty clear. God told me that change is coming, and you and your husband will be there to help. I see growth, development, breaking of generational curses, and more. Persistence plus reflection equals progress, and I'm grateful and thankful to God for his Word. There is much work to be done, but it's coming!

The Power of Belonging

hen we met to plan the first retreat of this school year, the concept that most captured our hearts and imaginations was belonging. Senior Jah'kirah Adams opened the retreat with a reading that began with: "Belonging is one of our most basic needs. We all need to know that we have a place in the world, that we matter to people who are important to us, and that we are part of something larger than ourselves. It makes us stronger, happier, more confident, more secure, and more at peace in our spirits. You are a beloved child of God, loved because of who you are, today, and always. Here, you belong." In that

very moment we watched belonging weave the shelter of safety around us. At first, Jah'kirah had some reluctance to read. Encouraged by the group, she claimed her gifts as a presenter which she named as a highlight at the end of the evening. This is the blessing of belonging: emboldened by the knowledge that we are loved and accepted, we risk what we otherwise would not. We discover in ourselves the gifts that have always been there, just waiting to be set free in a safe space. This is the blessing of ALP.

With belonging as our background, we explored the retreat theme of "I am my Ancestors' wildest dreams: kind, grateful, peaceful." On Saturday morning we continued our tradition of a walk to the James River, a never-ending source of wonder, gratitude, and peace for our students. It's a place to be still, to take in the power of the moving water and the beauty of the woods on both sides of the river; to find river rocks for painting, to be playful on the water's edge, or briefly in it, cold as it is. Back at the 4-H Center we talked about what gratitude, kindness, peace, and belonging really mean and how we might bring them back to Armstrong after the retreat. Using their Growth Mindset our students brainstormed a number of small steps to accomplish this goal, including morning announcements that offer a good word about these topics, and reporting back at ALP meetings times they have offered or observed gratitude, kindness, peace, or belonging with people at school or at home.

On Saturday afternoon we returned to the healing space of creation, with the low ropes course, followed that evening by a memorable campfire and s'mores, and a spectacular sunset that many students named as a highlight in our



closing circle. In between we returned to our tradition of "The Rivers of Life," when our students draw a river that shows where they've been, forecasting the dreams they

> have for their futures, and share their rivers with the whole group. This activity strengthens their awareness of who they are and who they hope to become, increasing their sense of belonging.

On Sunday morning Junior, Caleb Smith gifted us with an excellent reading about the power of unity in the African American community, ending with a quote from Alex Haley, "Find the good and praise it." Returning

to another ALP tradition we were gifted again with an exceptionally powerful message from Dr. Ballou in which he shared the challenges and achievements of his life journey, including the ways the program and the adults who lead it had shaped him, wrapped in the Word of love and encouragement. The morning ended with a quiet time of making African bead bracelets, painting river rocks, and the closing circle where we spoke the blessings of our time of retreat, renewal, and play.

We ARE our Ancestors' wildest dreams, creating and spreading kindness, gratitude, peace, and belonging.

— By Karen Donegan Salter, Retreat Facilitator

Special thanks to the Richmond Christmas Mother Fund & First Presbyterian Church for their generous contributions to brightening the holidays for our ALP leaders and families. Merry Christmas, Seasonal Greetings & Happy Kwanzaa

Accepting donations to further expand the work of the Armstrong Leadership Program: https://secure.givelively.org/donate/richmond-hill/armstrong-leadership-program

Are you interested in mentoring a young leader? Contact Us at alp@richmondhillva.org

Like us on

@ armstrongleadershipprogram-ALP/Follow us on
@ @ armstrongleadershipprogram

MICAH INITIATIVE

We have come this far by Faith...!

■ The Dwelling of Enslaved Africans at Richmond Hill is moving forward in 2024 with plans to create space for Richmond Hill visitors to learn about the history of urban enslavement in this land. On Wednesday, December 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., we had a program to highlight the newly reinstalled exhibit, "Unearthing



Buried Stories." The event was a success, and we hope you will visit, come back, and invite friends, family, and colleagues.

This past year, we've led many

tours of both the Dwelling and Richmond Hill to contextualize the history beneath our feet and the history that surrounds us. Spring and Summer seems to be our busiest time. Our gardener, Beth Nelson, has introduced us to the "re-wilding" process of our garden so that we might thoughtfully incorporate the garden space into the architectural design of the rehabilitated Dwelling. Interns from the University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University have researched the black church and social justice. Their work will be included on the website with the help of our faithful longtime volunteer, Eric Johnson.

Our archeologist, Tim Roberts, continues to unearth buried artifacts. In October, he engaged audiences with his findings and encouraged us to think about the meaning behind the remnants of history. Thanks to the work of our Associate Pastor of Development, Rev. Lindsey Franklin, working alongside a team including Pam Smith and Debbie Winans, we received a \$100,000 two-to-one matching challenge from the Cabell Foundation — specifically for the Dwelling! A fundraising campaign to meet this challenge will be underway in the new year. It will be "all hands on deck" to meet this match. And your hands are most welcome to join us.

The community advisory group meets every other month on Sunday from 7-8:30 p.m. We met in December for an update and will meet again on Sunday, February 11 or 18. Because February has so many events taking place, I wanted to offer an optional date for you to consider. Please let me know. In the meantime, please put on your thinking cap and help us raise \$100,000 for the Judy Project and the Dwelling of Enslaved Africans

Please come take a tour and hear a powerful story — one of reckoning with the history of the land we live on as we imagine a future of justice, peace, and the power of love.

> Dr. Lauranett L. Lee Director of Race and Social Justice

Greeting from the Wilderness!

¬he Micah Initiative has been in a season of wilderness for a while, due to the pandemic, the shifting and changing of the RPS (and culture in general!). So, this fall we have been exploring what a Micah reformation and meta-



morphosis might mean. As the new City-Wide Micah Coordinator, I have been making my way around Richmond, asking folks "Why Micah?" to get to the heart of what Micah has been through in its remarkable 25 years and about and a sense of the priorities moving forward. More importantly, Richmond Hill has held Micah in prayer asking the Spirit the same question. The electric energy forming in the spiritual and emotional space that kind of a surrendering question is opening is magnetic!

Experiencing the long-lasting power and transformation that a simple act of reading and consistent mentoring of an under-resourced child in one of Richmond's public elementary schools can have on all the people involved and on the systemic challenges at play is utterly phenomenal. Likewise, witnessing the abundance of need in our public schools is humbling and devastating.

I'm reminded of the beloved Mother Theresa's words "I can do no great things. Only small things with great love."

Showing up wholly to the movement of the Spirit of Life and Liberating Love is our calling and keeping these precious children at the heart of our why is our mission.

We are not operating out of our own power, resources, talents and weaknesses. We are being led by this Spirit of Liberation and therefore, whom should we fear and why in the world should we choose despair?

We had our first Micah city-wide regathering on November 17 and it was wonderful to see a broad array of 33 Micah partners present - from Micah volunteers, to RPS executives, to CIS & Richmond Hill leadership!

We are launching the Micah Advocacy Council in December and I am so excited about the passionate and experienced folks coming in close to build this movement with me!

2024, for the Micah Initiative, will begin with the continued surrendering to the Spirit and hearing the ideas the Advocacy Council is desiring to make happen, I have all hope that the Micah Initiative will bring life in this wilderness as we continue to seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Thank you for your continued support!

P.S., I'd love to come visit your church, organization, community group or board and share more about what is happening and explore how we can partner together!

In the love of the Spirit,

Andrew Schwartz Micah Coorinator

Email office@richmondhillva.org to schedule a Dwelling tour.



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

Donate you Vehicle

For many year, we have relied on the use of stafff and residents' vehicles to run Richmond Hill Programs, But that is less viable as fewer residents have cars to begin with. If you are interested in donating a vehicle, please contact Jocelyn Blount, Director of Operations, at administration@richmondhillva.org.

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Richmond, VA
Permit No. 1318

Winter 2023

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.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

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.





