

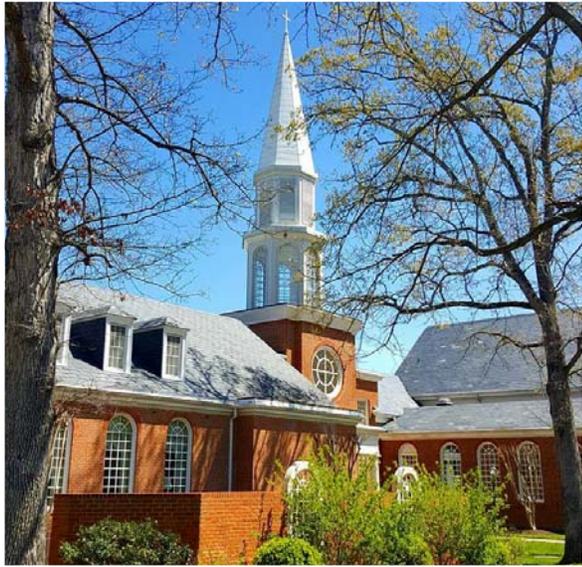
River Road Presbyterian Church

804-740-7083

8960 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229

rrpcusa.org

January 1, 2018



People of the Book

You are invited to a year-long Bible Book Club!
Please join us on this faith journey.

New Director of Music

After an extensive search, the Session is delighted to announce that Landry J. Duvall will start as our new Director of Music on January 1. Mr. Duvall received his B.S. in Sacred Music (Organ Emphasis) in 2013, and his Master of Sacred Music degree (Choral Conducting) from Baylor University in 2015. He plays the organ, piano, handbells, and other instruments. He has served as the Director of Music at University Presbyterian Church of Austin, Texas and as Minister of Music and Outreach/Organist at University Baptist Church of Austin. Originally from Tennessee, he is excited to be returning east and

leading our music program.

The Session thanks June Van Thoen for her great work as our interim director, Dee Bartel for conducting on Sunday mornings in Advent, our part-time assistant directors of music for their flexibility over the transition period, and all of the staff and others who assisted the search committee in the process.

Please welcome Mr. Duvall at a special refreshment time after the 11:00 a.m. worship on January 7, as well as at Wednesday Night Supper on January 17. Be sure to make reservations for supper by January 15, at noon.

Helping Without Hurting

“Despite an estimated \$2.3 trillion in foreign aid dispensed from Western nations during the post-World War II era, more than 2.5 billion people, approximately 40 percent of the



world's population live on less than \$2 per day.” Churches are in a unique position to help remedy this situation. In his video lecture, Dr. Brian Fikkert explores poverty alleviation, its stages, and appropriate uses of limited resources: time and money.

Offered by the Mission and Service and Christian Education Ministries, our hope is everyone will join one of several series to listen, learn, and rethink our own personal and collective “mission for mission.” A new February session has been added: Sundays (February 11, 18, and 25). Check out SignUp Genius for a listing of all sessions (www.signupgenius.com). See you there!

A brand new book group is coming to RRPC!

Join the Christian Education Ministry Team's challenge as they kick off 2018, reading the Bible cover to cover. Sign up for *People of the Book* and discover the spiritual nourishment gained from reading the Bible alongside theologians, church educators, and friends. Best of all, CE offers the convenience of reading on your time schedule with your preferred reading method (electronic or paper). Make the commitment to grow in your spiritual faith by digging deeper in this “library” filled with genealogies, love songs, letters, history, and novellas.

How to get started?

- Mark your calendar to begin in January! Don't worry if you miss, you can join the group at any time. Visit the RRPC website (rrpcusa.org) and follow the link to *People of the Book*. There, you will find the monthly reading assignments.
- Each month will feature one or more books, an RRPC theologian/educator, a brief overview, and assigned readings.
- Questions about the reading material? Go to *People of the Book* online and feel free to ask the Bible leader your questions.
- Weekly bite-sized chunks of material keep the reading manageable.

Become a *People of the Book* and join us in January, as Dr. Raymond Roberts kicks off with the Book of Mark.



Thank you for the pledge of support that you have made to River Road Church. Your pledge of your financial treasure helps support all that we do at River Road. The church could do nothing without the faithful support of its members. Together, we are the Body of Christ. When we are giving, we are being the faithful people God calls us to be.

Thank you once again for your faithful support of our small church.

Thank you to the following people for ushering in December: Hugh Adams; Caroline, Huck, John, and Julie Blauvelt; Bob, Katie, and Kimberly Dawson; Curtis Manchester; Cory Rayfield; Darren Rounds; Andy and Bob Spicknall; Ann Spiers; Angie Stewart; and Ben and Kathy Welch. Your service to RRPC during the holidays is very much appreciated.

Sandy Spicknall
December Usher Captain

PW Women's Retreat

The annual Women's Retreat will be held February 23-25, 2018, at Roslyn. More information and registration forms are on the pick-up tables.



Nativity Figures

Many thanks to Lois Hedberg for breathing life into the vision of the Nativity Figures that helped us prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. They were wonderful!

A Wonderful Christmas Pageant



The spirit of Christmas was in full display at Wednesday Night Supper on December 13. Thanks to everyone from the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry for hosting a wonderful meal.

Thanks to the families who brought their

precious children to the pageant. Thanks to those of you who joined us in the Sanctuary even though you didn't have a child in the pageant. Thanks to everyone who supported the pageant

from planning, shepherding, singing, playing music, running sound, and taking pictures. It was terrific!



Youth Group Celebrates Christmas with Tacky Light Tour

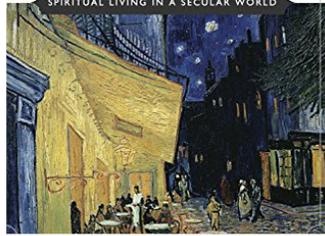
The Middle and High School Youth Groups boarded buses and headed around the area to see the Christmas lights on display. Along the way they stopped at a couple

of houses for dinner and dessert. Thanks to all the families who hosted them. It was a great night!



HENRI J. M.
NOUWEN

Life of the Beloved



“*Good Reads -
from the CE Bookshelf*”

Joys and Concerns

Deacons have been assigned on a rotating basis to contact people on our weekly Joys and Concerns list. These individuals are willing to provide assistance in circumstances where other help might not be available. Please call Susan Hockman in the church office or one of the team members if you have a joy or concern to share.

January - Kirsten Gregory

Join Our Church Family

The Session of River Road Presbyterian Church cordially invites anyone who believes in Jesus Christ to become a member of the Church. New members are received typically on the third Sunday of the month. If you are looking for a church home, please contact Susan Hockman at 740-7083 a week prior to the third Sunday to obtain information about the church and joining our church family.

Lectionary

January 7-Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5; *Psalm 29*; Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 14-Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:2-20; John 1:43-51

January 21-Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; *Psalm 62:5-12*

1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 28-Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; *Psalm 111*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

The Christian Education Ministry asked the staff and friends to share some book recommendations for 2018. Special thanks to Rev. Bob Shenk for getting us started in a great way. See his book review below.

Life of the Beloved by Henri Nouwen will grab you from the start as Nouwen explains the spiritual life in language understandable for a broad audience, religious and secular. Crafted in the form of a letter, it's informal yet personal style speaks to a concept that we too often forget: that we are God's beloved children. As Christ was deemed God's beloved Son after his baptism in the Jordan, we too share with Christ in this identity and are called to live out of it as the foundation of our being. Nouwen reminds us that the great foe of this endeavor is an overarching and ever-present sense of self-rejection. How prone we are to mistakenly appropriate the idea that we are not worthy, that we are not chosen! In the face of this incessant tempest, Nouwen serves as a sound, reliable, and encouraging spiritual companion and director. Without question, the spiritual life is about regaining love for self in a world that would have us believe otherwise.

I recommend this book for several reasons:

1. It is a relatively quick read and not technical. At the same time, it is deep and immediately applicable to life.
2. It returns us to our true identity: that we are deeply loved creatures of God.
3. It speaks to a broad audience. Anyone wishing to deepen the walk with the Lord will relate to the concepts that Nouwen so clearly details.
4. It contains a section at the conclusion of the book for guided discussion, making it suitable for small group study.

Enjoy this timeless classic as it illuminates God's unconditional, unshakable, and unstoppable love.

Happy New Year!

Upcoming Important Events

January 7 - Refreshments after 11:00 a.m. Worship to Welcome Landry Duvall

January 14 - Ordination and Installation of Andrew Whitehead at 4:00 p.m. with a reception to follow in Saunders Hall

January 17 - Welcome Landry Duvall at Wednesday Night Supper

January 21 - Ordination and Installation of Officers at both Worship Services

January 24 - Thank you to Outgoing Elders and Deacons at Wednesday Night Supper

February 18 - Annual Meeting of the Congregation at 10:45 a.m.

Extended Session

This year the Extended Session time will do a survey of the Bible using the Spark Story Bible. This engaging Bible for children will be used along with a simple craft and/or some coloring pages and worksheets. You can follow the schedule in the newsletter or online. Extended Session is geared for K - second graders.

Stories this Month

January 7 - The Baptism of Jesus

January 21 - The Beatitudes

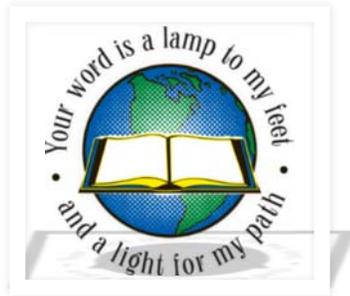
January 14 - The Disciples

January 28 - The Lord's Prayer

Adult Sunday School Classes

Discipleship (formerly Faith and Family)

This class is open for all adults. What does it mean to be a Disciple? What should I know...what should I do? This class meets in the Parlor in the main building.



God in Action

This class explores how the Bible is relevant in all aspects of our lives using a rotation schedule and meets in Kemp Hall. Upcoming topics include:

January 7 - Jenn Cornell leads Praying the News.

January 14 - Linda Thomas continues the History of the Christian Church.

January 21 - Jim Ring teaches Knowing God, a topical Bible Study of the Old and New Testaments.

January 28 - Mary Stefanik finishes the study of the book, Waking Up White.

Martin B. Williams

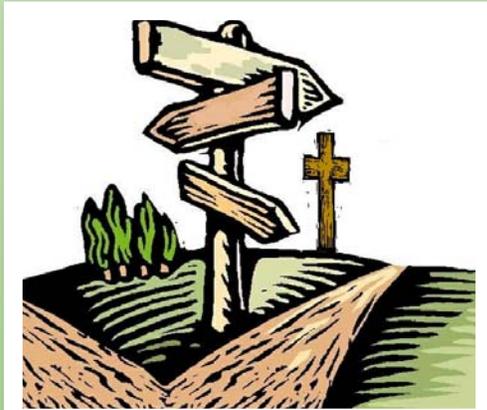
This class studies the Bible using the Present Word, a curriculum based on the Uniform Lesson Series and meets in room 01. Upcoming lessons include:

January 7 - A Sincere Faith - Daniel 1; Floyd Cotton, teacher

January 14 - A Bold Faith - Daniel 3; Andrew Sanders, teacher

January 21 - A Prayer for an Obedient Faith - Daniel 9:1-19; Pat Ellison, teacher

January 28 - A Strong Faith - Daniel 10;11; Tim Ailsworth, teacher



Pathways Sunday School (Kindergarten - Fifth Grade)

All elementary aged children begin in Hillside Theater each Sunday for music by our M4K music staff. A Storyteller shares the Bible story (or stories) for the day to the whole group. Following the story, the children break into age groups to participate in activities designed to allow them to interact with the Bible story in creative ways. These activities may include crafts, worksheets, videos, technology, cooking, and more!

January 7 - The Baptism of Jesus
(Thing #48)

Sherry Scudder, Storyteller

January 14 - Jesus lost in the Temple
(Thing #47)

Sherry Scudder, Storyteller

January 21 - The Call of the Disciples
(Thing #56)

Janie Smith, Storyteller

January 28 - The Beatitudes
(Thing #66)

Jennifer Hanes, Storyteller

Session Actions

At the Stated Meeting on November 19, 2017, Session took the following actions:

- Approved the minutes of the Meeting of the Congregation on November 12, 2017.
- Approved the movement of Beth Rocheleau and her adult children, Lauren and Brad, from the Active Roll.
- Examined and approved Elder Ellen Guinther for installation as Elder, Class of 2020, on January 21, 2018.
- Approved the installation of an upgraded playground fence.
- Approved a lecture series entitled *Helping Without Hurting*, for presentation in January 2018.
- Approved plumbing work in the Monroe Wells Building to provide an additional sink and hot water capabilities for the Childcare Center.
- Approved dates for the celebration of the Lord's Supper in 2018.
- Approved the employment of Landry J. Duvall as Director of Music, effective January 1, 2018, and commended the Music Staffing Task Force for their outstanding work: Curt Manchester (Chair), Joanna Avant, Abby Baird, Ellen Guinther, Jane Hostetler, Dave MacMillan, Jim Wright, and Dr. Roberts (ex officio).

At the meeting on December 10, 2017, Session took the following actions:

- Examined the following officers-elect and approved them for ordination and installation on January 21, 2018:

Deacon (Class of 2019)

Ken Hitchens*

Deacons (Class of 2020)

Cathey Brown* **

Mike Donavant*

Laura Murray (will be examined at a later date)

Melissa Schein* **

(will be examined at a later date)

Ruling Elders (Class of 2020)

Ellen Guinther* ** (examined 11-19-17)

Brooke Hearn

Dan Murray* ** (will be examined at a later date)

Cory Rayfield

Sherry Scudder*

Shel Thomas*

- Approved *A Vision for River Road Presbyterian Church*.
- Re-elected the following persons for 2018:
Linda Thomas, Clerk of Session
Sharon Cherry, Assistant Treasurer
Linwood Cobb, Treasurer
Cheryl Duff, Assistant Treasurer
- Approved a proposal to modify the HVAC return duct system in the main church building to eliminate the subsurface return air system, for the purposes of humidity control.
- Called an Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, February 18, 2018, at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary for the purposes of electing at-large members to the Congregational Nominating Committee and reviewing the pastor's terms of call.

Complete approved Session minutes are available in the Church Library.

Church Officers

Clerk of Session: Linda Thomas
Treasurer: Linwood Cobb
Assistant Treasurer: Sharon Cherry
Assistant Treasurer: Cheryl Duff

Session Class of 2017

Rebecca Felton Ellen Guinther David MacMillan
Dan Murray Betsy Riopelle Andrew Sanders

Session Class of 2018

Terry Byrne Pratt Cherry Jim Cuthbertson
Lee Ann McGhee Dana Moore Jim Stewart

Session Class of 2019

Patricia A. Avery Lee Branch T. J. Childress
Lesley Glotzl Curt Manchester Kristen Raper

Deacons Class of 2017

Cathey Brown Jennifer Hanes
Melissa Schein Ann Spiers

Deacons Class of 2018

Kimberly Dawson Jeff Glotzl
Kirsten Gregory Scott Thornhill

Deacons Class of 2019

Judy Busch Tim Evans
Nancy Gleason

River Road Presbyterian Church

Defining Vision: Reach, Nurture, Send, and Serve

Vision—River Road Presbyterian Church is to be a vibrant congregation spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. As a Christ-Centered Church, firmly grounded in the basic tenets of the Apostles' Creed, we will foster and encourage the spiritual growth of all in their faith journeys.

Mission—To introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him; To deepen the faith of those who know Jesus Christ; and To demonstrate His way of love in service to the world.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor and Head of Staff.....Dr. Raymond R. Roberts (ext. 301)
Associate Pastor.....Andrew Whitehead (ext. 304)
Director of Christian Education.....Leigh Anne Ring (ext. 306)
Director of Music.....Landry J. Duvall (ext. 311)
Assistant Director of Music/Organist.....Marianne P. Crean
Assistant Director of Music.....Philip S. Tickle
Director of Operations.....Susan G. Hockman (ext. 300)
Administrative Assistant.....Brenda Chavis (ext. 302)
Sexton.....Larry E. Coleman (ext. 308)
High School Youth Intern.....Morrigan E. Brannan
Middle School Youth Intern.....Caitlin M. Hahn
Childcare Center Director.....Melanie M. Davis (ext. 319)

Telephone: 740-7083 Fax: 741-7787 E-Mail: askus@rrpcusa.org
Website: www.rrpcusa.org Concern Mailbox: 740-7083 ext. 352
River Road Presbyterian Childcare Center Telephone: 740-2003

Pastor Emeritus: Dr. Richard L. Sommers

Prayers Day and Night

Petitioners, RRPC members or non-members may make prayer requests through voice mail by simply calling the church office at 740-7083, ext. 352.



Deacon's Corner

Any member of RRPC unable to attend church who would like communion at home, please contact the church office at 740-7083 or Kirsten Gregory at 282-0772 to make arrangements. If you have a need for meals delivered to you, please contact Susan Hockman in the church office.

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

January 16 for February 1
February 13 for March 1
March 13 for April 1
April 16 for May 1
May 15 for June 1
June 18 for July 1
July 16 for August 1
August 14 for September 1
September 14 for October 1
October 16 for November 1
November 13 for December 1
December 12 for January 1, 2019



Nickels for Hunger

Please note the Nickels for Hunger offerings are collected on the last Sunday of each month.

Be sure to regularly check the RRPC Church Calendar online at www.calendarwiz.com/rrpcusa.

**RIVER ROAD PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
8960 River Road
Richmond, VA 23229

January 1, 2018