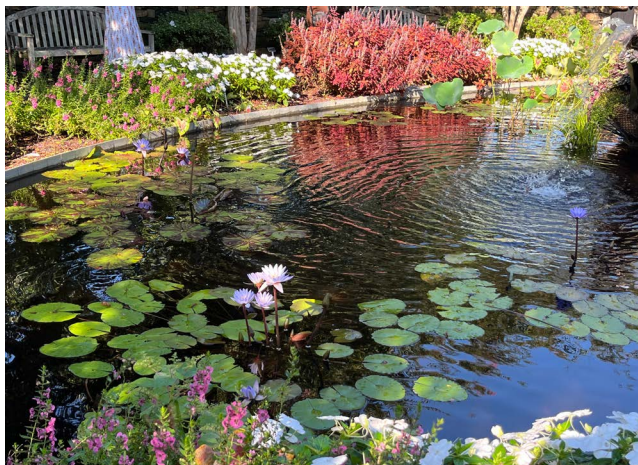




SCHOLÉ HOUSE

in the company of friends

Fall at Scholé House



Fall at Lewis-Ginter Botanical Gardens

Dear Scholé Friends,

The leaves are coming down and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I would love to take this rainy afternoon to briefly share with you about our semester at Scholé House at VCU.

We had two excellent and well attended lectures this semester:

Angel Adams Parham, PhD, Sociologist from UVA spoke on *The Black Intellectual Tradition* and its relevance for our own troubled and polarized age. Most of us were unfamiliar with this rich history, especially many of its lesser-known heroes, works of literature and thought leaders. In addition to teaching at

UVA, Parham founded and runs the non-profit called Nyansa Classical Community. Dr. Parham is a prolifically published author and we were delighted to have her. We were able to offer her latest book at this event.

Stephen Day, PhD, an award-winning Economist from VCU spoke on the *Economics in the Kingdom of God*, in addition to publishing professionally and running a blog that explains how to communicate economic principles to children. Dr. Day's lecture pointed out that while Jesus spoke frequently about money and its dangers, he also used broader economic language and concepts constantly to explain how things are and how they should be. Some examples of economic concepts found in the teaching of Jesus include:



- The concept of choice under (always) limited resources. Economists call this “scarcity.”
- Every choice has an opportunity cost. This means the cost of something is what you give up to get it.
- People respond positively to incentives: rewards or consequences encourage people to act. If incentives change, so do people's behavior.
- Economic systems have rules that may be both written and unwritten. These govern how people cooperate—or not.
- In a voluntary trade, both sides expect to benefit.
- Risk, or the negative or positive consequences of economic decisions lay in the future.

Who knew that all these concepts were found in the teachings of Jesus? It was very interesting. We hope to post the PP slides as well as the recording of Day's talk on our website within a few weeks.

This semester, Scholé House hosted morning prayers, run by CCO partner Will Clark, and a Graduate Bible study led by InterVarsity GFM staff Annelies Rowell, who sadly is moving to Harrisonburg. We will miss her! Because of this loss of one of our partners, we have had to put our Lectio Divina on hold until the spring.

We ran a four-week reading group on the iconic Wendell Berry book, *Jaber Crow*.

It is a wonderful book and this was a great group who shared their thoughts and insights in to the many rich topics brought up in this fiction: community, faith, doubt, calling, marriage, friendship, sense of place, war, grief, and even gardening. I gained a lot myself from leading the group; Isaiah Knopp, a VCU grad and SH supporter, helped facilitate.



One thing that we have worked hard on this semester was making our physical space more welcoming by being beautiful, peaceful and hospitable. We are slowly getting there. Just in the last few months, we have received multiple donations of gently used furniture, beautiful rugs, a baby grand piano and even two new chairs made possible by the donations of multiple women asked to join in a “chair raise.” We were able to raise the money for the new chairs in about 10 days! The generous arrangements with the Baptist General Association of Virginia allows us the space; we continue to try to transform the space into a home on VCU to students, faculty and staff as well as the surrounding academic community.

In Hope.

Missy



Top, IV Grad Bible Study

Left, we finally got a sign out front

Below, this donated antique desk fit our spot perfectly



Contributions to Scholé House are entirely tax-deductible. Checks can be made to Scholé House, c/o Wendy Kliever, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Box 842018, Richmond VA 23284-2018 or on our website at scholehousestudycenter.org.