



Dear Friends,

Today, as we approach the Advent season, I'm writing with a request. **Would you invest in God's work in and through Regent College by making a gift this year-end?**

Making this request in this season, I am reminded that the good work done at Regent is, indeed, God's work. Advent reminds us of our dependence on God as we wait and hope. We wait for God's calling, God's leading. In hope, we seek to be transformed by God's Spirit.

Seeking transformation is a priority for the Regent community in this season. The College's new strategic plan expresses this as a desire to *deepen students' experience of spiritual formation as part of their holistic, transformative education in community.*

An emphasis on spiritual formation has deep roots in Regent's history, and it has emerged organically as a vital theme for the future. I am delighted by

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our strategic plan's strong reaffirmation of Regent's core values. **It is this commitment to cultivating Spirit-led growth in Christ that I hope you will support with a year-end gift.**

Over the past few years, many members of the Regent community have perceived a deepening thirst for spiritual formation. We have also recognized a need to embody this longing in the rhythms of our communal life. Last May, a group of students, staff, and faculty spent a day in prayer and conversation about this subject. Together, we recognized our shared heart for an ever-deeper experience of the life of the Spirit at Regent College—in the classroom, in the library, in the chapel, in the atrium.

I could not be more grateful for this community-wide emphasis on spiritual formation. A joyful affirmation of our dependence on—and longing for—God's leading has always been essential to Regent's identity. I see in today's students the same eagerness I witnessed during my own studies here.



Regent students desire not just to know *about* God, but to *know* God. And they desire to be shaped by the God they are coming to know.

As we cultivate a shared ethos of attentiveness to the Spirit, we are already seeing shoots of new growth. These include weekly gatherings for centring prayer, time for silent prayer in Chapel, new opportunities for intentional spiritual friendship, and an autumn leadership retreat focused on formation.

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When students tell me they've come to Regent to be formed by the Spirit, I can tell them they've come to the right place. **And I can tell you that these students are worth supporting.**

God has always been faithful to meet this community when we seek him. God has been faithful, also, to meet this community's needs, both spiritual and material. Again and again, God provides for us. Very often, he provides through donor generosity—through people like you.

So, would you participate in God's provision for the Regent community this Advent season? Would you make a gift this year-end? Your gift, of any size, will support the work God is doing in and through Regent's students, staff, and faculty: the work of cultivating the mind of Christ in the people of God.

In Christ,

Paul Spilsbury
Academic Dean

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Student Perspectives

The leaders of the Regent College Student Association are working hard this year to help embody a focus on spiritual formation in rhythms of community life.

Two RSCA Council members spoke about their vision for this work.

Sara Apostoaei

Member at Large for Spiritual Formation

As a council, we aim to listen and look—listening to God and each other, and paying attention to the invitations of the Spirit in the midst of our individual and communal life of study.

This year there has been an emphasis on spiritual formation. This emerged from faculty and students who recognized and named the spiritual needs of our community, including the need for rest, play, communion with God, and healing.

Spiritual formation is about cultivating a holistic life orientation, which then informs our choices and habits. It is a deeper alignment with God that will transform various aspects of our lives. My hope for Regent students is that they will experience the loving and transformative presence of God, which is readily available to all who seek him. I hope their time at Regent will serve as a catalyst for their walk with Christ, a season they can point to as the place they were met, changed, and loved into becoming who they were created to be.



Sean Beckett

Member at Large for Prayer

In every season of our lives, seeking God is our first duty and pleasure. Ministry or work without prayer is like farming without water. Nothing good happens outside of relationship with God.

One of the gifts of this year has been the new series of midweek prayer meetings called, “Lord, Teach Us to Pray.” Each week we gather in the James Houston Prayer Chapel, and a faculty member shares a life-giving spiritual practice and leads us in a special time of prayer. I am so grateful to be in a place where we can constantly pray openly with people from across the globe.

We need to be people of prayer, individually and as a community. The world needs us to be people of prayer, individually and as a community. Only a praying people can encounter God in a way that will transform them and their society towards God’s purposes. We need each other and we need each other’s prayers.

