



THIRD PRESS

August 2017

WHAT IS THIS WHOLE
"PARISH THING"
ABOUT AGAIN?

LETTER FROM COREY

Someone from Third recently asked me, "What is this whole 'Parish thing' about again?" in a passing hallway conversation. In fact, I find myself fielding questions all the time about the change we are making toward a Parish model of ministry at Third. Below are some basic questions and answers that hopefully you will find helpful, but we also encourage you to continue asking questions in the months ahead. It's important we are all in this together as we seek to make this important shift.

What is the "Parish model" that you all keep talking about?

Beginning in January 2018, our congregation will be organized into eleven geographic areas called "Parish Areas." Each Parish Area comprises about 75-115 adult covenant partners of Third plus children and regular attenders. The Parishes are being formed geographically according to where people live, and every person at Third will be automatically incorporated into a Parish. (See diagram on the following page.)

The primary purpose of the Parish Area is to serve as a vehicle for connection and care. Each Parish Area will have a team of several deacons and shepherding elders who oversee the practical and spiritual care of all those within the Parish Area. The Parish Areas also serve as a way for visitors and regular attenders to quickly get connected with someone else in the church.

Each Parish Area will also have a collection of groups called "Parish Groups." Parish Groups can consist of about 15-20 adults plus children, generally the amount of people that can fit into a home. Parish Groups are completely voluntary mid-sized communities of people who are seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus together and reach out to and love their neighbors.

Why are we doing this?

We are doing this for two important reasons: community and mission. Regarding community, we want to make it easy for people to enter into relationships at Third, receive care and love in community, and grow as followers of Jesus with other believers. Regarding mission, we want to empower the people of Third to love their actual neighbors in all the many different neighborhoods all over Richmond where we live, so that the grace and goodness of Jesus can be more fully known.

[Continued]

OUR STAFF

Rev. Corey Widmer
Lead Pastor

Rev. Ed Satterfield
Executive Pastor

Rev. Rick Hutton
Associate Pastor for Students
(grades 6 - 12)

Laurie Jaworski
Mission Pastor

Andrea Woie
Student Ministry Associate

Alan Ware
Director of Finance
& Administration

Tom Barila
Director of Adult Ministries

Tracie Meadows
Associate Dir. of Family Ministry

Kathy White
Associate Dir. of Family Ministry

Dr. John White
Director of Music

Kim Taulbee
Associate Music Director

Beth Nichols
Director of Connection Ministries

Becca Payne
Director of Communications

Alex Sawyer
Technical Director

Tim Latham
Director of Young Adult Ministries

Rev. Richard Haney
Parish Associate

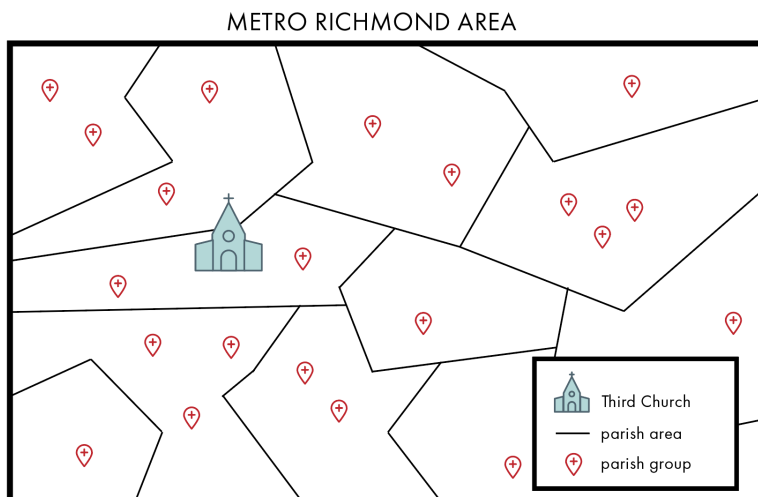
Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate Care Ministries

Will the 100 or so people in a Parish Area meet together?

No, at least not in this first stage. There may be a time when large-scale Parish-wide events take place, but we don't foresee planning for that in the immediate future. Right now, the larger Parish area is being used to help direct our care and connection efforts.

What work is being done on Parishes behind the scenes right now?

Working Group 3 is still working diligently and prayerfully on the logistics and planning for Parishes. Our plan is to publicly launch the Parish model in January 2018, so currently we are working on finalizing the exact boundary lines of the Parishes, and organizing and equipping teams of deacons and shepherding elders for each Parish.



This diagram demonstrates the relationship between parish areas, parish groups and our church to the rest of the metro Richmond area. ,

What about Parish Groups—I hear that some Parish Groups have already started. Is that true?

You're right! Some pilot groups are in place in certain areas to establish rhythms and give feedback on how things work for our launch in January. If you're interested in being a part of this process or want to see if there's a Parish Group in your neighborhood area, contact Beth Nichols (bethn@thirdrva.org).

When can I find out what Parish Area I'm in, who else is in it, and who the deacons and shepherding elders are that are leading my Parish Area?

Our goal, again, is launching the Parish model in January of 2018, so we're hoping all the details will be finalized and shared by then. As any maps are finished or leadership established before that time, we will share with you at that point—hopefully this fall!

What about my current small group? Are Parish Groups replacing existing small groups?

No. We are encouraging new people to join Parish Groups and will be seeking to start many more of them, but we know that different kinds of groups serve different purposes.

Will we keep having worship services on Sundays and Sunday morning classes?

Yes! Sunday morning will not look much different.

Who will be supporting this new structure on our staff?

We are currently searching for a new Pastor of Discipleship and Parish Ministry who will oversee this aspect of our church life. In addition, Tom Barila has been shifting his role to include support of the deacons and shepherding elders leading each Parish Area (in addition to Sunday morning discipleship), and Beth Nichols will be supporting the leaders and formation of the Parish Groups.

What can I do to be a part of this?

First, please pray! This is a big change and we need the Lord to build this—or else we labor in vain (Psalm 127). Pray that God would lead us to the right new pastoral leader, and that God would truly use this change to see people grow in Christ and come to know Christ.

Second, consider forming or being a part of a Parish Group. We will need many new leaders and people to get involved in these groups. Contact Beth Nichols if you are interested at Bethn@thirdrva.org.

Peace and love of Christ+

MEET JUAN LEDON:

ANTIOCH CHURCH PLANTING RESIDENCY INTERN

We are very excited to announce the beginning of a new 2-year church planting residency program at Third. We are calling it the "Antioch Residency Program," because Antioch was the site of the first truly multicultural church as the gospel expanded out from Jerusalem (Acts 11-13). As Richmond and North America become more culturally diverse, this Residency Program has a special focus on reaching the new diverse populations of our metro Richmond region. If you would like more information on the Antioch Residency Program, contact L J Jaworski at lj@thirdrva.org.



Q: How do you pronounce your last name?

A: Not the way it's spelled! It's actually French and phonetically would be Ledone – with a long "o" sound.

Q: Where are you from originally?

A: Cuba! My family moved to Washington state when I was five years old. We didn't end up staying too long; over the next few years we lived in Idaho and New Jersey and then moved to Miami. I lived there for about 40 years!

Q: Tell us about your family!

A: I have been married to my wonderful wife, Silvia, for 32 years – we met in college! We have four children who now all live here in Richmond also: Lizette – 28, Gabriel – 26, Daniel – 22 and Elise – 19.

Q: So how did you come to be in Richmond?

A: In 2012 a very good friend was taking a sales manager job here and extended an offer for me to come work with him. After praying, we felt like God was leading us here, but just as we were arriving we became aware of the company's impending demise. We were in crisis mode, trying to decide whether to stay or go back, but God provided somebody in the church we had started visiting who extended hospitality to us for 3 months while we put things together here.

Q: What brought you to Third?

A: Corey! He attended a conference in Tennessee where he heard a speaker who is a friend of mine. Corey asked if he knew of anyone in the Richmond area that would be interested in church planting and he recommended me. We met for coffee several times, and as Corey unpacked his vision for Third, I felt there was a compatibility there – a connection in line with things he had in mind. That was in 2014.

Q: What are you hoping for in this Residency Program?

A: Richmond is a unique opportunity. It has newly forming Latino and immigrant communities that are barely on the radar here. My heart goes out to them. I'm an immigrant; I respect the challenges they have to overcome. I want to be part of an outreach effort to them, likely in a new non-traditional way by sharing the gospel where they live, not necessarily in the churchy traditional approach. I don't know what it will look like in the end, but I want to engage immigrants through the gospel, bringing them together in an effort to make them feel at home in a strange land.

Q: How can we be praying for you in this?

A: Thanks for asking, I need a lot of that! I pray for God's definition and clarity as we try to follow. His lead on developing what this internship will turn into. I would particularly ask for prayers that God will show me what He's doing here and how we can join Him.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE: JUNE

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MOST RECENT SESSION MEETING ON JUNE 27:

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- Lorraine Joseph died on June 6 and was removed from the roll of Covenant Partners.
- Baptism was approved for Hunter Brave Allen, son of Josh and Jessie Allen.

EAST END FELLOWSHIP

East End Fellowship (EEF) Transfer of Rights Resolution was approved. EEF now has its own tax exempt status, insurance, bank accounts, accounting firm, online giving, etc. and has become a separate incorporated entity. This action transfers the Q Street lease from Third to EEF.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

For more detail on all of these Strategic Planning Updates, please visit: thirdrva.org/strategic-planning

Working Group 1 (Communicate our purpose)

Co-Chairs Val Kling and Mark Mendez offered a verbal presentation. WG1 has begun work with Kumveka (a communications strategy firm focusing on Christian organizations) to explore the implications of Third's vision and identity for branding, signage and communication, including consideration of the name of the church. This includes a comprehensive assessment of our context in Richmond, among other churches, and barriers that exist with our communication, the goal being that we may sharpen our communication to those who do not yet know Jesus Christ.

Working Group 2 (Staff and Session realignment) and Personnel Committee–

Jointly presented a motion on staff realignment, and the following changes in staff positions were approved for immediate implementation:

To facilitate Parish Ministry (approved in April, effective currently)

1. Hire a Pastor for Discipleship and Parish Ministry – search is currently in process to hire as soon as possible.
2. Realign duties for Beth Nichols and Tom Barila for tactical support for Parish ministry and the new pastor.

Director of Adult Ministries — Tom will focus on support of the Parish Leadership Teams (shepherding elders and deacons). This includes oversight of the communication of and management of care ministry since a large part of it will happen in the Parish. The remainder of his time will be in continuing centralized ministry with Adult Discipleship and Men's Ministry.

Director of Connection Ministries — Beth will focus on the support of the Parish Groups and their leaders. She will continue with connection ministries and Women's Ministry.

Other Changes: (to be implemented immediately)

3. Change Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Administration position to Executive Pastor – Ed Satterfield will focus responsibilities on leading staff and key leadership teams with Session and deacons; help manage yearly objectives, provide overall administration of the church's organization and maintain overall pastoral oversight for Care Ministries.

4. Add Care Ministry to the Director of Music and Worship position — In order to reassign some of the care duties from Ed, we would add to John White's Job Description the responsibility for Senior Care.
5. Provide overall custodial oversight — We have hired ServiceMaster as our new contract custodial service. Richard Womack is Third's sole facility employee and he will oversee the rest of the contract custodial team.
6. Decrease to one Finance Associate position — We expect to end our work relationship with Sue Hendrickson in the finance department as she retires sometime this fall. Lynley Steadman, our Finance Accountant, will pick up Sue's part time duties. We greatly appreciate Sue and all she has contributed to Third for many years serving as Director of Finance before her recent stint part time.
7. College Ministry — We have separated College Ministry from Young Adult Ministry. To better address ministry to our college students and support the College Ministry leadership team led by Karen Hayes and Andi Redmond, we approved the following staff changes:

Adjust Rick Hutton's job description to include oversight for College Ministry. Rick's role would focus on training, supporting and equipping the intern staff and volunteer leaders for College Ministry.

Hire an Intern to do the hands-on work of ministry. The position would run during the school year and could extend into the summer. The intern's responsibilities would focus effort in three ways: 1) supporting the efforts of the Anchors While Away ministry to connect Third members with students away at college and for summer activities and events, 2) develop relationships with University of Richmond students through our ministry partner connections the Center for Christian Study and InterVarsity, and 3) help develop Parish connections for U of R students.

Several other new positions were presented to be hired over the next 2 years that will be voted on at a later Session meeting. This represents the full staff realignment planning envisioned by Working Group 2.

SNEAK PEEK AT FALL CLASSES

The fall season at Third kicks off September 10! It's a great opportunity to check out one of our 10:00 a.m. Sunday School classes if you haven't already.

GOOD NEWS

This fall the Good News Class will be studying the book of Galatians, one of the key books of the New Testament. This class provides expository, inductive Bible teaching and discussion designed to help us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). It is open to people of all ages and backgrounds.

REFLECTIONS ON THE REFORMATION

How did the Reformation happen? What does it mean for 21st century Christians? Come see in our class as we walk among some giants that many know well (Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Martin Bucer), and some who are more obscure.

METAMORPHOSIS

We are a community seeking God's healing and wholeness for the brokenness in our lives and families through safe, authentic Christian relationships. This semester, we will be discussing "Unlocking Your Family Pattern: Finding Freedom from a Hurtful Past."

REVEAL

This fall, we will be studying the Acts of the Apostles. Our teaching team primarily uses expository Bible teaching to examine the scriptures. Their teaching is interactive and is underpinned by our Reformed heritage.

DOING GOD'S JUSTICE IN A HURTING WORLD

In this 8-week elective class, we'll explore the biblical foundations for "doing justice" that can be manifest in efforts to eliminate human trafficking and also in many other avenues.



THIRD & THE CHRISTIAN ARABIC CHURCH PICNIC AND BACKPACK DRIVE

We are having a picnic with the Christian Arabic Church to celebrate the collection of backpacks for area immigrants. Join us!

Saturday, August 26 | 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Pump Road Pavilion | 2340 Pump Road

Chicken and drinks provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Take advantage of tax-free weekend (August 4-6) to fill a backpack with school supplies for our sister church, who meets in our building on Sunday evenings. The Christian Arabic Church uses these backpacks as an outreach tool, giving them to new immigrant families in the area. Be a blessing to our community and give a backpack to help these families.

Then, bring your backpack to the picnic! If you cannot attend the picnic, bring your filled backpacks to the church and put them in the bins under the steps in the entrance coming in from the playground **by August 20.**



Fill your backpack with items from this list of needed school supplies:

- Notebook paper
- Spiral notebooks – 1-subject
- Pencil sharpeners
- Crayons
- Binders
- Rulers
- Writing utensils (highlighters, markers, pens and pencils)
- Math flashcards



Questions? Contact Tracie Meadows or Kathy White



JOBS *for* LIFE™

Restoring dignity. Changing lives. Transforming communities.

Our 4th Jobs for Life Class Kicks Off on September 11!

“Now suppose a believer has enough to live on and notices another believer in need. How can God’s love be in that person if he doesn’t bother to help the other believer? Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words.”

1 John 3:17-18

Jobs for Life is a 12-week, relationship-centered jobs training program. Each student is teamed with a Champion who will walk through the class and the months following as they journey from unemployment to employment, or from underemployment to better employment. Our teachers are business leaders who will interact closely with each student, providing practical job preparation training focused on character development, good work behavior, communication, and interview skills.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Monday evenings
September 11 - November 27
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Graduation: November 29

With reception to follow

LEARN MORE:

- Visit: thirdrva.org/jobsforlife
- Contact: Ginger James at 804-647-5348 or gingerjames1@icloud.com

HOW TO BE INVOLVED:

- **Students:** Do you or someone you know want to apply to be a part of the Jobs for Life class as a student? We're looking for help recruiting students, especially from our neighborhoods, friendships, and our geographic area.
- **Champions:** Walk alongside a student as a mentor throughout the 12-week class.
- **Dinner Sponsors:** Sharing dinner is a vital part of how we build community during the class. Volunteer to make and serve dinner. A great opportunity for families, small groups, or other ministry teams.

RECAPPING THE SUMMER

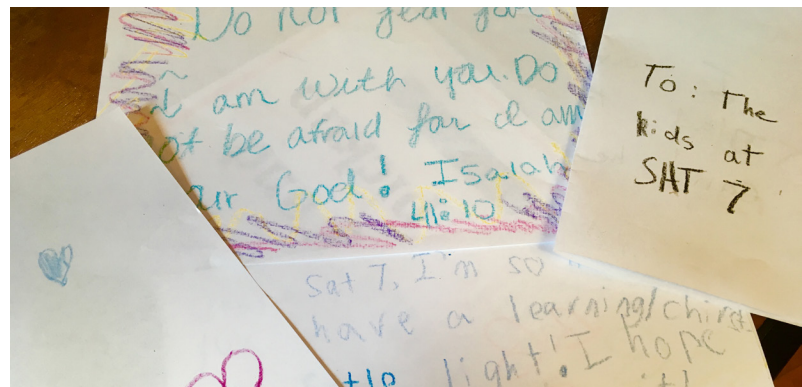
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The last week of June, children from Third Church and the Christian Arabic Church, plus children from our community, gathered for a week of Vacation Bible School. During VBS, we looked at the arc of God's story from creation through Jesus' death and resurrection, and we learned that:

1. The God who created everything wants a relationship with us!
2. Sin messed up everything, but God is still in control.
3. God sent his Son Jesus to be the Savior of the world.
4. Jesus gave his life to be my Savior.
5. Even though I mess up, God still loves me and will never leave me.

We had a great week full of amazing crafts, great music, and Bible teaching! And each summer, VBS chooses a mission project to support. With the help of our Mission Pastor, LJ Jaworski, we supported two mission partners, one local and one global. CrossOver Healthcare Ministry was our local partner, and our global partner was SAT-7, a satellite TV network, which is launching a 24/7 children's educational programming satellite this fall. The VBS gift to SAT-7 Academy is Third's first official gift to this ministry and will benefit children in the Middle East, many of whom are refugees. Through lemonade stands and car washes, daily offerings, donations from Pie 5 and Sweet Frog, T-shirt sales, plus donations from our church family and a match from Third's Missions Committee, we raised **over \$24,000 to be divided between SAT-7 and Crossover!**

Thank you for your support of the ministry of Vacation Bible School and our mission project. We could not do VBS without the prayers and enthusiasm from the Third family!



SPORTS SKILLS CAMP

During the week of July 10-14, we held our 5th Annual Sports Skills Camp. The camp has combined the fun and excitement of great sports training in soccer, basketball, and kickball with the great news of the Gospel. Sponsored by Third Church, the Christian Arabic Church and Community West Church, this week offered time for children to build sports skills and to learn about Christian character building from skilled college athletes, local athletes, and Sports Outreach Institute athletes.

Sports Outreach Camp has been a great child outreach event. Of the 95 campers who registered, over half were friends and guests of Third! We also had an amazing group of volunteers— 25 strong! Although it was plenty hot during the camp, we enjoyed our time together and learned more about the love of Jesus.

“My granddaughters have loved coming to Sports Camp the last two years! My daughter is thrilled to know her children are getting sports exposure as well as hearing the gospel from college students, whom they look up to. A win-win! I overheard my granddaughter in the back of the car one morning on our way to camp practicing the weekly Bible verse over and over.”



2017 Samuel W. Jackson Award for Golf Outreach and Fellowship

At our June gathering, Dr. Jerry Ramsey was this year's award recipient. The award recognizes those who use the game of golf to influence their sphere of influence for Jesus. The award is named after a beloved member of Third Church – Sam Jackson.



Dr. Jerry Ramsey



Tom Barila, John Mayo, Tommy Barila at the Golf Outing

AUGUST CALENDAR

AUGUST 13

BON VOYAGE: COLLEGE SEND-OFF PARTY

WHO: All college students

WHEN: Sunday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.

Gather for food, fun, encouragement and prayer before heading to school or starting your job.

Follow @thirdrva for more info!

AUGUST 13

MOSAIC MINISTRY POOL PARTY

WHEN: Sunday, August 13, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Home of Jonathan and Milby West,
6 Lower Tuckahoe Road W

Bring: you and your family and be ready to swim! We will provide ice cream, snacks and drinks.

Mosaic Ministry exists to support families with children who have special needs. We provide fellowship opportunities, special speakers, a Bible study, summer program scholarships, buddies for children in Sunday school, ways to connect parents who have children with similar special needs...and are open to new ways to offer support!

RSVP to Kathy White by August 10:
kathyw@thirdrva.org.

AUGUST 26

CAC & THIRD PICNIC AND BACKPACK COLLECTION

WHO: The Third and CAC families

WHEN: Saturday, August 26, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

A picnic to celebrate the collection of backpacks for local immigrants.

More info on page 6 or at thirdrva.org/events.

AUGUST 27

WELCOME COFFEE

WHEN: Sunday, August 27, 9:45 - 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Room 100, the Parlor

If you're new to Third, come to this monthly gathering to meet a few people, and learn about Third's vision, what we believe and how to get involved.

AUGUST 28

MEN'S MINISTRY \$5 STEAK DINNER AND CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

WHO: Men of Third

WHERE: Pump Road Pavilion

WHEN: Monday, August 28, 6:00 p.m.

Join the men of Third for this end-of-summer cookout.

STAY IN THE LOOP AND DON'T MISS ANY SIGN-UPS! VISIT:

THIRDRVA.ORG/EVENTS

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 10, 15-16

NEWCOMERS CLASS

WHO: Anyone interested in learning more about Third, or considering joining our Covenant Community

WHAT: This class is an opportunity to learn about Third's vision for worship, discipleship, community, serving and outreach. You'll hear from many leaders, and find out more about the community and missional life of Third. At the end of the class, you'll have an opportunity to become a covenant partner of our church family.

THE SCHEDULE:

- Sunday, September 10, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 15, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 16, 8:45 a.m. - Noon
- Sunday, September 17, the service you normally attend for those becoming members

SIGN UP: thirdrva.org/newcomers

SEPTEMBER 10

FALL SCHEDULE KICK-OFF

WHAT: Our fall season of discipleship, including new adult Sunday school classes, begins this Sunday. Be on the lookout for more info to come in the next month!

SEPTEMBER 13

CLUB 56 DINNER

WHO: 5th and 6th grade students and their families

WHERE: Third Church Fellowship Hall

WHEN: Wednesday night, September 13, 6:30 p.m.

At this annual Club 56 Kick-off dinner, we'll share the mission and vision of Club 56, introduce the Sunday morning teaching team, and give our students the chance to get to know each other. **RSVP to Andrea (andrew@thirdrva.org) by September 6!**

SEPTEMBER 20

ARABIC STUDENT HOMEWORK TUTORING KICKOFF

WHEN: Wednesday night, September 20, 6:45 p.m.

For this program, tutors are matched with a student, and each Wednesday evening, they meet together for tutors to help their students with their homework. We continually find ourselves with more students than tutors (last year we had over 60 students!), so your help is very much needed. No experience necessary!

Sign ups will open soon -- be on the lookout!

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

COLLEGE MINISTRY

Save the date for next summer! Mission trip to Mexico with Amor Ministries, July 1-7, 2018.

SERVE AT THIRD

We're looking for volunteers to help at the front desk of our offices on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Interested in helping out? Contact Miranda Patterson: mirandap@thirdrva.org.

COMMUNITY POSTINGS

The Cameron Gallagher Foundation is hosting the SpeakUp5K on September 9, at 9:00 a.m. in Byrd Park.

The purpose of the race is for people and families to come together and "speak up" for those that are suffering, and to challenge people to visibly and vocally support one another.

We're organizing a Third team, and if you use the code **Third** at checkout, you'll receive \$5 off registration.

Sign Up: ckgfoundation.org/richmond



Third Church
500 Forest Ave.
Richmond, Virginia 23229
(804) 282-4645



MEN'S MINISTRY — meet up and get involved

Some of the guys from our ministry regularly organize outings and events together. Get in touch with any of the people here to stay in the loop on their plans.

- **For bike rides on the Capital Trail:** Grant Holbrook (holbrookgh@gmail.com)
- **For service projects around the city:** Buck Rosenberger (ggrlaw@comcast.net)
- **For mentoring, spiritual formation, and community connections:** Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org)
- **For F3, Fly Fishing Fellowship:** David Skove (dskove@aol.com)

Any other questions? Contact Tom Barila: tomb@thirdrva.org _____

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER: Monday, August 7. Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org