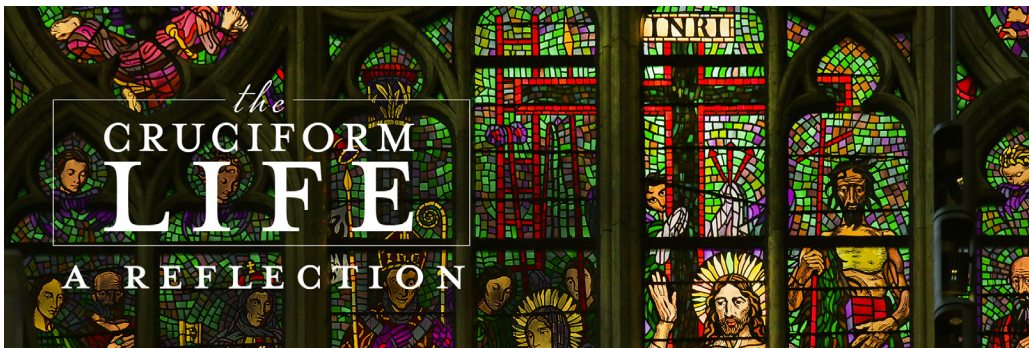




THIRD PRESS

April 2018



LETTER FROM COREY

Dear Third Church family,

The most popular class at Yale University is Psyc 157 taught by Professor Laurie Santos. Not only is it the most popular class currently at Yale, it is the most popular class in the history of the University. This January, nearly one-fourth of the Yale undergraduates were enrolled, nearly 1200 students. The name of the class is "Psychology and the Good Life," and Santos seeks to teach her students how to live a happier, more satisfying life.

When Santos was asked about why her class is so popular, she speculated that the majority of American undergraduate students are profoundly unhappy. Especially at a school like Yale, many of them have deprioritized their happiness for years in order to get admitted to a prestigious school, and in the meantime have adopted negative and even destructive habits. In fact, more than half of Yale undergraduates seek help for anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns.

Santos believes that her students, indeed most of us, have completely missed the mark about what makes for a good and flourishing life. What we thought would make us happy often ends up making us unhappy and even miserable. So many people are desperate to learn about what makes for a fulfilled life because so few of us experience it.

Since early February we have been in a series called *The Cruciform Life*, and we will continue to study 1 Corinthians through the end of April. The key question of this series is: what does the cross teach us about the art of living? If it is true that Jesus not only shows us God but also reveals perfect humanity, then we must affirm that Jesus embodies the good and beautiful life, the life that God intends for every one of us. Jesus reveals to us the wisdom of God about how to live a fulfilled and meaningful life.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Corey Widmer
Lead Pastor

Rev. Ed Satterfield
Executive Pastor

Derek Mondeau
Pastor of Discipleship & Parish Ministry

Laurie Jaworski
Mission Pastor

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

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
Pastor for Worship and Pastoral Care

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
Theologian and Missiologist
in Residence

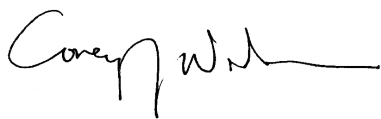
Rev. Nan Clarke
Pastor for Care Ministries

And yet, Jesus' life was marked by humility, obscurity, service, suffering and obedience even to the point of death. His entire life was oriented toward the cross (Luke 9:51). For Jesus, the way to a flourishing life was the way of the cross, which we know in the end resulted in a resurrection. The pathway to a triumphant life is a cross-shaped life.

Do we believe this? Even among those who call themselves Christians, few of us live as if the cross-shaped way is the way to a good and flourishing life. So many of us live instead believing that the way to a flourishing life comes through accumulation, reputation building, personal success and comfort. Just like the Corinthians, there may be more Corinth in us than there is of Christ.

Jesus calls us back to the way of the cross. As we have seen in our study, it is a way of service, humility, self-giving, and death to our own preferences and demands. It is the way of "downward mobility" as Henri Nouwen put it. But here is the good news- this is the way to life! Jesus' path to the cross culminated in Easter, and as we follow Jesus in the same path, we too will find joy and life. We must believe him with all our hearts that his way truly is the way of happiness, fullness and life. As he promised, "Whoever finds their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

May we find our life in the cruciform way.



A Note from the Third Family

Bear Third Church Family,

You don't know how much I appreciate your thoughts and prayers before my surgery for colon cancer. God heard them and answered them. I am doing well and there will be no necessary treatment. I just have to follow up later with the gastroenterologist. I also appreciate your cards, food, visits, calls, and your continued prayers throughout the surgery and recuperation.

May God continue to be with each of you and bless you as you do His work at Third Church.

*With Christian love,
Mary Ann Hancock*

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATES



Join us for Family Adventure Week, June 25-28!

Our morning Vacation Bible School program has transitioned to an evening adventure for families to attend together! Everyone in our church family is invited to come. Bring your children or grandchildren, invite friends and neighbors, or come alongside another family to travel with them. We want this to be an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together, learn more about Jesus together, and spend time getting to know other families. We also pray it will help equip parents and guardians to disciple their children and teach them more about Jesus.

Our adventure will begin each night with dinner in the Fellowship Hall and then we'll rotate to crafts, recreation, and Bible drama. We'll end each evening with a time of worship and will collect an offering to support a mission project. We will use a curriculum called Wildwood Forest and will learn more about our uncontainable, unmatched, and unforgettable God!

This year's offering will help support Third's very own students who are traveling to Mexico in July to build a house with Amor ministries. We will hear from students who have experienced this trip in the past and will learn about how we can pray for them.

Registration is required so we can prepare for dinner and crafts. Registration will open mid-April but if you have questions, please email Tracie (traciem@thindrva.org) or Kathy (kathyw@thindrva.org).

FAMILY ADVENTURE WEEK the details!

WHEN

Monday, June 25 - Thursday, June 28
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

WHO

You, your families, your neighbors, your grandchildren, your tutoring students (children just must be accompanied by an adult/guardian!)

WHERE

- Monday through Wednesday: Meet at the Fellowship Hall
- Thursday: Meet at the Pump Road Property (2340 Pump Road)

READY TO BE A PART OF THE CREW?

Volunteers are needed for dinner crew, nursery help, recreation, and crafts support. Adults can volunteer and so can youth, rising 6th grade and older.

Also, we would love to keep Adventure Week free for families to attend. If your family or business would like to sponsor dinner one night or help with some of the food costs (or something like this), please contact Tracie (traciem@thindrva.org).

MISSIONS UPDATES

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

A MISSIONS CONFERENCE AT THIRD

This weekend event will help us better understand the global migration crisis as well as what it might actually feel like to be one of those refugees or immigrants. We'll travel through an exhibit of what they may experience and then learn how to get involved directly in our area or abroad, assisting internationals through acts of service and giving.

Plan to come, learn, and engage with what it means to love the refugee among us (Deut. 10:19).



The conference will be comprised of different elements that families and individuals can attend or interact with. Come and join us— both events are free and open to everyone!

INTERACTIVE REFUGEE DISPLAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

This interactive display in the Fellowship Hall will allow families the opportunity to walk through an experience of what it is like to be a refugee or immigrant in another country. The display will be an installation of exhibits by artists and interns from World Horizons.

LECTURE FROM MARILYN BORST

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 14

6:00 p.m. - Refreshments outside the Parlor

7:00 p.m. - Lecture begins in Sanctuary!

Marilyn Borst, Associate Director for Partnership Development at the Outreach Foundation, will be with us to share on the current refugee crisis in areas around the Middle East. She works with churches in the United States to help them discern God's call to global engagement and then connects them to that work alongside the Global Church in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Middle East – a particular area of specialty for her.

NEWS & EVENTS

MEXICO MISSIONS TRIP

Join us this July as we head into Mexico with Amor Ministries to transform our lives and the lives of a family by building a home for them!

Over the course of four work days we'll construct a home from scratch (and without power tools), providing a family with a home that will provide safety and security for them in a way they perhaps never thought possible. While we work to meet the family's physical needs, the local church will follow up with the family proclaiming the Gospel and working to meet their spiritual needs. We hope you can join us on this life changing trip.

WHEN: July 1 - 7, 2018

WHO: This trip will coincide with the student ministry trip, but will be tailored differently for adults (anyone college age and older). We're looking for 15-17 adults to join us!

WHERE: Tijuana, Mexico (by way of San Diego)

SCHEDULE: Visit the thirdrva.org/events for the full schedule of the trip.

APPLICATIONS AND DEPOSITS DUE APRIL 8!

Looking for more info or want to sign up? Contact Rick Hutton (rickh@thirdrva.org).



MEXICO MISSION TRIP
JULY 1 - 7, 2018

JOIN US FOR THIS TRANSFORMATIVE,
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TRIP!

COMMUNITY POSTING

The National Association of Christian Recovery is hosting their regional workshop at Third this fall!

Thriving in a Wounded World: Seeking the Spiritual in Our Solutions

This conference will offer a safe place for people to come to find not just compassion, but information, resources, peer support and recovery that addresses issues related to our emotional, physical and spiritual well-being.

Topics that might be of interest to you include understanding shame, healing shame within a family system, detachment as a spiritual practice, boundaries, and the theology of recovery.

DATES: Friday, September 28, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 29, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Third Church

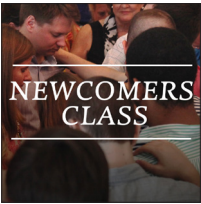
PRESENTERS: Dale Ryan, Associate Professor at Fuller Seminary; Teresa McBean, Executive Director for the National Association of Christian Recovery; and Juanita Ryan, licensed Mental Health Nurse Specialist

COST: \$50

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: nacr.org.

Questions? Contact Mary Damon (merryoh@gmail.com).

NEWS & EVENTS



APRIL 15, 20-21

NEWCOMERS CLASS

Are you ready to explore a deeper commitment to this church community? We'd love to get

to know you and provide an opportunity for you to learn about Third's vision for worship, discipleship, community, serving and outreach. At the end of the class, you'll have an opportunity to become a covenant partner of our church family.

Here's the schedule:

Sunday morning, April 15 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM in the Parlor

Friday Evening, April 20 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM, includes dinner

Saturday, April 21 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 29 – Joining during the Sunday Morning service you normally attend (for those deciding to become members).

To learn more and sign up, visit: thirdrva.org/newcomers.



APR. 17

MEN'S DINNER: OF GOD, MEN AND MOUNTAINS

**Tuesday, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Hear Rick DeJarnette, a life-long mountain climber and guide, share stories of how triumph and tragedy in the mountains has informed his understanding of faith, life's fragility, and forgiveness.

We'll have dogs, burgers, and chicken for dinner. Dress is casual. Bring a friend! Sign up (\$5): thirdrva.org/events.



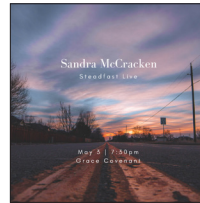
APR. 27-28

CLUB 56 RETREAT

**Friday, 6:00 p.m. –
Saturday, 11 a.m.**

5th and 6th grade students are invited to the annual Club 56 retreat. We will gather for games, food, fellowship, and a great speaker on the very important topic of integrity. Invite friends!

RSVP: thirdrva.org/events



MAY 3

SANDRA MCCRACKEN CONCERT: STEADFAST LIVE

**Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Grace
Covenant Church**

Join us for an evening of live music from Sandra McCracken, the prolific songwriter, producer, and modern-day hymn writer.

Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 the day of. Proceeds will go to Shalom Farms (shalomfarms.org).

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by City Church of Richmond, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Redeemer Anglican Church, Third Church, and West End Presbyterian Church.

NEWS & EVENTS



MAY 6

STUDENT MINISTRY DESSERT AUCTION

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join us for the annual Dessert Auction to raise money for our student's mission trip to Mexico! On May 6, treats will be set up for bidding in the Fellowship Hall for the whole morning.

Stop by before or after any of the Sunday morning services, place a bid, and take home a delicious baked good for a great cause.

Want to contribute a dessert to be auctioned? Contact Andrea (andreaw@thirdrva.org)!



JUNE 25

SAM JACKSON CHARITY GOLF OUTING

Monday, 9:00 a.m.

Each year T.G.I.F., Third Golfers in Fellowship, hosts an annual golf outing to honor Sam Jackson, a long time member of Third and gather together to raise funds for a local charity or non-profit.

WHEN: Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Lunch to follow.

WHERE: Richmond Country Club

WHO: This Captain's Choice is suited for all levels and is open to all: men, women, and teens.

COST: \$80; covers greens fees, golf cart, range balls, practice balls, lunch and a \$25 donation.

MORE INFO AND TO SIGN UP: thirdrva.org/events

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

We are bursting at the seams in our nurseries and would love extra hands to help with our little ones!

Would you be willing to help once or twice a month? Teens through grandparents – we can use you at any age! You just need a loving heart for Infants – 3 year olds. All volunteers provide support for paid workers and Sunday School teachers, so you would be there to assist, not take charge.

We are in need of 6 monthly volunteers, so please contact Kathy White (kathyw@thirdrva.org) if you feel called to this vital ministry.

*We **are** Jesus' hands and feet...thank you for your prayerful consideration.*





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



THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR MARCH: Friday, April 13. Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org