



If only I can get that job. If only I get that raise.
If only my kid gets into that school.
If only we get into a bigger home.
If only... then my life would be different.
Then things would be ok. Then all will be well.

It is a deeply universal human experience to perpetually seek after that which we believe will finally bring fulfillment. In her memoir “Drinking: A Love Affair,” Caroline Knapp tells her story of battling anorexia and alcoholism for many years. She writes about how addicts like her delude themselves with false hopes.

“I lived by the words *if only* and I’d continue to do so for a decade. In my 20s the objects of desire were good jobs and thin thighs: if only I could write for a living I’d be happy; if only I were 5 or 10 pounds thinner my life would be different. In my 30s the focus would shift to men: if only I had a relationship, I thought. And then, months after meeting my boyfriend, if only the relationship were different, if only, if only...”

“If only” are words of longing. They are words that our hearts silently speak, pointing us toward whatever it is that we believe will make it all better.

In my own life, my “if only” has been about my personal and vocational success, reputation and approval, and a mythical image of what my life would look like as a successful pastor and leader. What is it for you?

THE FIRST WORDS OF JESUS in the gospel of John are a question: “What are you seeking?” (John 1:38). It is a question about our longings and our desires. Jesus wants to know what it is that we are after deep in our hearts. At our Ash Wednesday service this year, we all wrote on slips of paper the false objects of our seeking, those things other than Jesus that we believe that we need to satisfy our souls. Then, we brought those slips of paper to the table and dropped them in a firepit, asking God to burn away those things that falsely promise fulfillment.

This Easter Sunday, we’ll be looking at one of the last questions Jesus asks in the gospel of John: “Who are you seeking?” (John 20:15). Notice that the question is nearly identical to the first question that Jesus asked, but now the *What* has been changed to a *Who*. Therein lies the key. In this subtle change, Jesus reveals that in all the “whats” we seek, we are actually after a “who”: the risen King.

C.S. Lewis wrote that when you think the solution to your malaise is a new romantic partner, or a new house, or a new job to quell

the inner sense of emptiness, you are chasing the wrong answers to the right question. Our desires our noble, given to us by God. But often they are misplaced, as we believe the wrong things will save and satisfy us. They never do. Lewis went on to say that if nothing in this world seems to satisfy you or assuage your longing, then you must actually be looking for something *outside of this world*. You are looking for the Who, not the what.

This Easter, look to the risen King, who alone can give the life that is truly abundant (John 10:10).

Join us for Holy Week as we remember Christ's crucifixion and look toward the hope and resurrection of Easter Sunday.

HOLY WEEK

MOZART'S REQUIEM: A HOLY WEEK CONCERT

Our Sanctuary Choir is combining with two other churches to present Mozart's "Requiem" to begin Holy Week with a 90 voice choir and 22 piece orchestra. Featuring orchestra, soloists, and the combined choirs of Huguenot Road Baptist, Mount Vernon Baptist, and Third Church. Catch this concert on either Sunday or Monday!

When: Sunday, April 14, 3:00 p.m.

Where: Huguenot Road Baptist

When: Monday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Mount Vernon Baptist

MAUNDY THURSDAY

A special worship service in the Sanctuary with time for reflection, music, scripture readings, and the sacrament of Communion. *Childcare provided for 3 years old and younger.*

When: Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY

A brief worship service in the Sanctuary followed by a Lenten lunch at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

When: Friday, April 19, 12:00 p.m.

Where: Sanctuary

CONTEMPLATE THE CROSS

An invitation to personal reflection and prayer on Good Friday in the Sanctuary. Contemplate and consider Jesus' work on the cross. Drop by anytime between 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. to follow our prayer guide (for individuals, families, or groups) while screenings of artists' images of the crucifixion and sacred music plays.

When: Friday, April 19, 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY

Celebrate Christ's victory over the grave with us on Easter morning. This year, we'll be holding concurrent services in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. Feel free to worship in either space! **Due to the change in our schedule, we will not be holding Sunday school on Easter morning.*

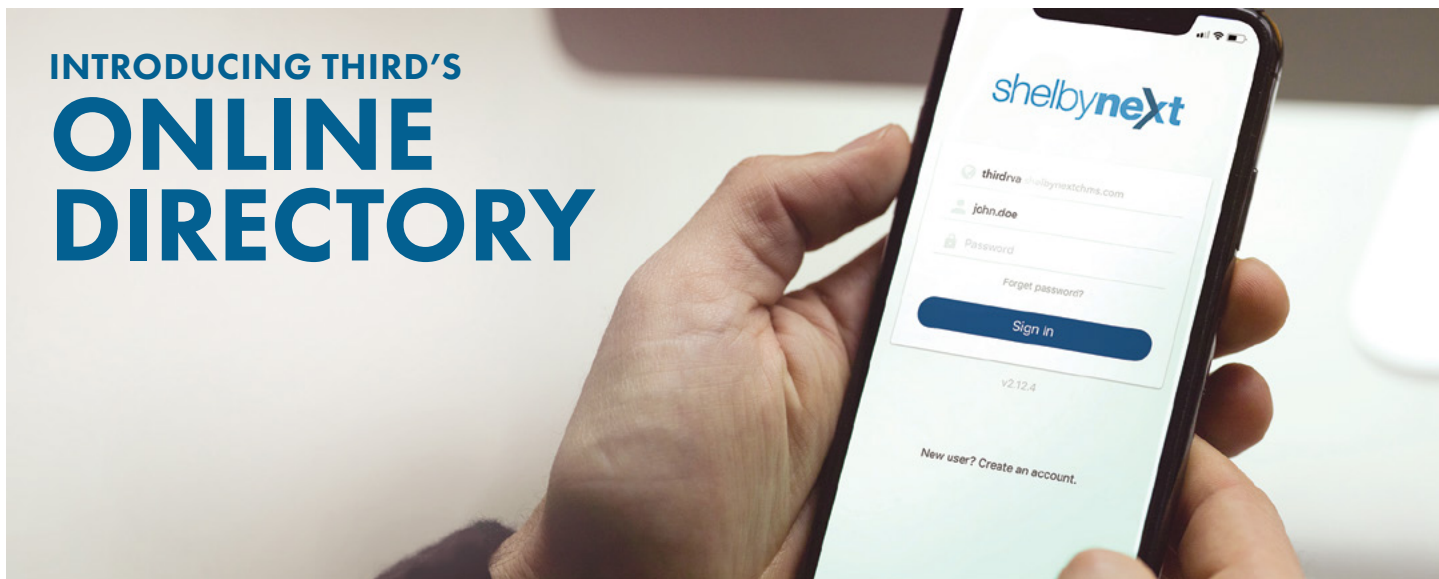
This Easter we are encouraging children to worship with their families. However, childcare for kids 4 years old and younger will still be available.

Bring bells from home to ring with joy every time we sing or say, "Alleluia!" We will also have some bells on site for you to use.

When: Sunday, April 21, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Where: Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

INTRODUCING THIRD'S ONLINE DIRECTORY



TIME TO GET EXCITED.

Have you ever wanted to connect with someone at Third but had to wait and hope you saw them on Sunday to get their number or email? Have you ever struggled to recall who it was you met at worship but could only remember part of their name? An end to these frustrations is coming!

Third is launching an online directory starting April 3.

This directory will provide all the same basic contact information as a paper directory but with some significant improvements. You'll be able to:

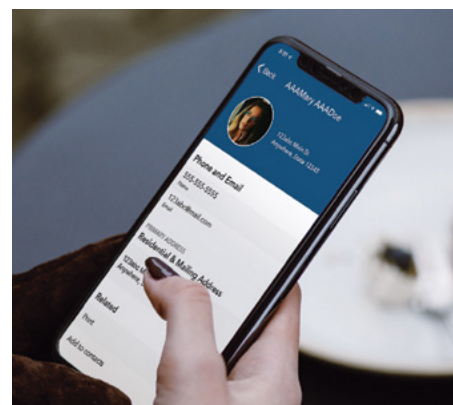
- 📶 Access it anywhere you have internet, either through an app on your phone or on your computer.
- 👤 Put faces to names through profile photos.
- 🔄 Be confident that it will be up to date and that you can always update your own info.
- 📍 Find directions to someone's home (even have it mapped out for you!).
- 💬 Dial, text or email at the touch of a button.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.

A directory is only as good as the information that's in it, which means we need you to opt in (you will not be in the directory if you do not opt-in!). By opting-in and choosing to allow your contact information to be part of the directory, you will be able to use the directory, and other people will be able to find you too. We expect that this will greatly enhance and encourage how we connect with each other in the days to come.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

We put together a brief FAQ at thirdrva.org/directory.



Enrollment opens on Wednesday, April 3 at thirdrva.org/directory.

*For anyone needing help or having trouble enrolling or navigating the app, we will have a Help Desk open on two Sundays, **April 7 and 14**, in the Commons where several people will be able to assist you in getting set up. They'll be available after each of our services.*

You can also contact Valerie Holland with any questions: 804-282-4645 x 136 or valerieh@thirdrva.org.

Over the past few months, we've been working hard to assess how we can better serve our visitors and newcomers at Third.

We know our building can be confusing, our parking lots too full, and our hallways a bit crowded. So we're trying to improve the first time experience here, making intentional decisions to create clarity for navigating Third and to help foster an environment where people feel welcomed from the first moment they arrive.

Do you want to help people find their way and feel welcomed here as they walk into our doors? Are you interested in creating a culture of hospitality at Third?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ON ONE OF OUR TEAMS.

To learn more about our parking team, contact Alan Ware: alanw@thirdrva.org

To learn more about our greeting team, contact Beth Marriott: bethn@thirdrva.org

In this spirit, you'll be seeing some small improvements to our signage and parking lots in the weeks and months to come.

- 🚗 Starting in April, we'll **have two parking lot attendants** circulating in the parking lots to help ease the frustration and confusion of finding a parking spot, particularly around the 10:00 hour.
- ➡ We have painted **circulation arrows** in our parking lots to help direct the flow and ease the congestion and back ups.
- 📍 We've added more **guest parking spots** in the two lots closest to the building. **Please leave these for our visitors!** (You just may be asked to move if you park in one of these).
- 📍 We'll be hosting **greeting tables** in the Commons and in the Parlor so we can meet new folks right as they come in.

We tell you this to make you aware, but also to invite you into this work. We want to challenge all the faithful members of the Third family to join us as we work hard to extend the love and welcome of Christ to every person who enters here.





CALLED AS WITNESSES

— A Missions Conference —

MAY 3-5 | THIRD CHURCH

In May of 2018 a small team from The Christian Arabic Church (CAC) and Third Church traveled to Egypt to meet with Egyptian congregations with the aim of developing a sister-partnership between CAC, Third and a church in Egypt. And as we've shared with you—we found one! We hope in the future to take teams from Third and CAC together to travel to Egypt to work alongside them and encourage them in ministry as they serve in a setting where Christian evangelism is illegal and punishable. We also hope in the future to host church leaders from our sister-church El Sharabia at Third and CAC.

How did the concept of sister-partnerships begin? Tom Widmer, serving as Third's mission chairperson, led a group of global leaders in our presbytery and there the idea was birthed. Tom engaged The Outreach Foundation to help organize these partnerships through Cairo Seminary and as a result, several churches in our presbytery now have ongoing relationships in Egypt and travel there with their congregations.

Furthermore, one of the objectives that came out of the Strategic Planning working groups was the conviction to commit more deeply in our relationship with CAC. So our partnership in adopting this sister-church is fruit of this working group and an added blessing.

Why does this matter? Throughout Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, God encourages his people to reach out to those from other tribes, people groups, and lands. This is dear to God's heart. I (L.J.) like to say that God is calling us to be World Christians. You can learn more about this by reading, *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations* by Walter Kaiser, or anything by Dr. Charles Van Engen, Professor of Biblical Theology of Mission at Fuller Seminary.

What can you do about it? Mark your calendars, May 3-5, for Third's annual mission conference! The theme of our conference is *Called as Witnesses* (Isaiah 43:10) and it will be hosted by CAC and Third. We'll explore together the call to witness and the cost of witnessing, specifically in the country of Egypt. Several members from both Third and CAC have spent countless hours planning and we want to extend a warm invitation for you to engage with us.

**We'll be exploring
the call to witness and
the cost of witnessing,
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country of Egypt.**

FRIDAY, MAY 3

7:00 p.m.

*Dr. Rev. Tharwat Wahba,
Cairo Seminary shares*

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Morning

*Interactive display in the
Fellowship Hall for families*

5:30 p.m.

*Authentic Egyptian dinner together...
RSVP on our website!*

7:00 p.m.

*Middle Eastern Gospel Musician
and Dr. Rev. Tharwat Wahba*

SUNDAY, MAY 5

12:30 p.m.

*Lunch with ECO Director of Global
Engagement, Rev. Jen Haddox*

All the details are available at
thirdrva.org/events.

BOB AND ELAINE

MISSION PARTNER UPDATE

Two decades ago, Bob served in Gov. George Allen's Cabinet and later as Deputy Attorney General. Our lives in Richmond were wonderful. We loved Third, but our hearts were restless. There were so many believers here in America, yet still millions "from every tribe and language and people and nation" who'd never heard the Good News. Was there somehow that we, ordinary laypeople, could help the Church grow more? And so our launch began. Third commissioned us in May 2000.

Since then we've seen God work across Asia, from Mongolia to Nepal to Sri Lanka. Our colleagues are pastors from 15 countries, working to equip and release young pastors so the Church can grow. We've wept with them in persecution and rejoiced as they stand strong in countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and Cambodia. These 19 years in Asia have been a great gift to us.

From 2000-2007, Bob taught in major law schools in China about the foundations of the rule of law in the West. We went to China with specific objectives, but in the process, China changed us! In Beijing, God gave us China hearts. We fell in love with the people who received us and we returned home to RVA as different people. As we stood by and prayed, God did great things. He introduced us to urban house church pastors, folks who didn't want to be found in 2000. Devastated by Tian'anmen Square, many students and faculty were searching for what was trustworthy. As they found the One True God, the third wave of the Church gained momentum in China. We learned God can use anyone, even unlikely white folks who didn't speak Chinese well.



He gave us front row seats as the urban church began to grow, just like in Acts 2. Those who were sharing Good News with their friends in 2000 grew into a band of brothers and sisters whose influence would spread across the Middle Kingdom. Our calling was to love and come alongside these young pastors and their families, sharing the "emotional bounty" that God had given us.

We can't **thank you** enough, Third Family, for your faithfulness in praying, loving and standing with us these 19 years! Thank you for sending Steve Hartman and Nelson Ould to teach there. God has used *you* as you've blessed his body in Asia as well as in America. Many of you have hosted and welcomed students for 10 years of Mid-Autumn Festivals and invited them back to your homes for dinner. Some of you have been conversation partners, or spoken at bag lunches with PhD students, or given baby showers. We hope you'll continue in these friendships. We hope to...but as volunteers, traveling and encouraging VCU alumni across the US and in Asia.

God is always reaching out to people, all around the world. He invites each of us to invest our "one wild and precious life" in his adventure. There are families and generations who will be changed forever because they've met the One True God. May we all be faithful to the end as we follow Jesus and love one another.

—Bob and Elaine



EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for families of Kindergartners and younger. Siblings are welcome to come help their little brothers or sisters and they will get a helper's prize! We'll have a bounce house and we'll also set up stations parents can visit with their children to share about the events leading up to the Resurrection.

When: *Saturday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.*

Where: *The farm of Christina and James Olmsted
1633 Devon Way, Manakin Sabot VA 23103*

Invite a friend or neighbor, and make sure to bring a picnic lunch and Easter basket. Drinks provided.

The event is free, however we do ask that you RSVP: thirdrva.org/events.



BE A BUDDY IN FAMILY MINISTRY!

Third Church Family Ministry is seeking people who love children to come and learn alongside them in our "buddy ministry."

As our church partners with foster families and welcomes children who have special challenges, we need folks to help children transition to Sunday school.

Commitments may be 6-8 weeks, or we might pair you with a student who has special challenges and needs, someone to help them engage and be a part of their class. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

We want to create an environment of welcome and hospitality to all children at Third and we need your help. The church family is a vital part of passing on faith to the next generation. What a beautiful gift we can give by coming alongside these little ones.

Please pray about partnering with us! Contact Tracie Meadows (traciem@thirdrva.org) for more information.

SUMMER UPDATE



Even though it's only April, we know our families are eager to make summer plans. In that spirit, we wanted to share with you the latest update for summer plans in our family ministry!

Last year, we saw great fruit from Family Adventure Week, parents learning alongside and worshiping and playing with their children. We also heard from many parents that they missed a morning program at their home church, and also that an evening program was not conducive for many families. So as we approached summers-to-come, we wanted to provide something that honored our family ministry mission statement, and was meeting the needs of our families. But we also desired to connect our children into community by involving members of our larger church, people who can teach them things they are interested in and also help build faith foundations alongside their parents.

SO, IN SUMMER OF 2020, WE PLAN TO INTRODUCE A MUSIC, ARTS, AND TECHNOLOGY CAMP WITH A BIBLICAL AND CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW.

This camp would be a four-day program with many of the same elements as VBS such as music, a theme for the week, and devotions, but children would choose specific interests (science, painting, etc.) and focus on that interest for the week. Camp would also include time for recreation and games. We are so excited about this venture, and plan to spend the next 18 months preparing for it.

SO WHAT ABOUT THIS YEAR?

Don't worry! We are still planning some fun family activities, so mark your calendar! We hope these events will introduce you to other people in our community, and also be opportunities to invite your friends and neighbors to, and be a great time for your children to have fun with you!

FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday, June 29

Join us at the Pump Road Property (home of Community West Church) for an old-fashioned family picnic. We'll provide the fried chicken, you bring a side to share. We'll have games, inflatables, and fun activities for all!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Friday, July 19

Join us for a holiday movie and family fun. We'll eat pizza together, decorate cookies, and have a hot chocolate bar! We will also include a service component to bless one of Third's ministries.

GOD AND NATURE CAMP

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on July 24, 31 and August 7, 14

For 4 year olds and current Kindergartners. Children will learn about the amazing creative God we love and serve as they discover nature.

PANCAKES, PASTORS, AND PRAYER

Saturday, August 24

Join us for a pancake breakfast, hear an encouraging word from Derek and Sue Mondeau, and pray together as our children and teachers begin a new school year.



We are so excited to see what the Lord has in store for us in the months and years to come, and how he continues to be faithful to us and to our children. As always, if you have any questions, we are always here:

Tracie Meadows, traciem@thirdrva.org

Kathy White, kathyw@thirdrva.org

Derek Mondeau, derekm@thirdrva.org

A LETTER FROM THE DEJARNETTE FAMILY

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since Rick's accident; harder still to believe he has made such a strong recovery in such a relatively short period of time!

We cannot thank you enough for the steadfast love and care you have showed our family over this past year. When Anna first stood in the ER and heard the extent and severity of Rick's injuries – seven broken bones in all including his neck and back - she didn't know how she was going to survive. Yet within moments we were surrounded by family and church friends. Lyric Hassler met Anna in the waiting room of the ER and was a life saver in so many ways. Corey showed up shortly after and came to visit in the hospital regularly. Many more of you stopped by and blessed us with your conversation, care, gifts, and prayers.

After being in the hospital for a week, the nurse told us it was time to go home. We nearly panicked. How was Anna supposed to care for a hospital-bed and wheelchair bound husband AND care for our two young boys? Yet when we got home, a meal train was already in place five days a week. Words can't describe how much each meal and grocery delivery meant. Further still, Josh Bishop volunteered to build us a wheelchair ramp for free so we didn't have to buy or rent one. He spent a Saturday away from his family to selflessly serve ours.

Over the next few weeks, people we had never met at Third sent checks to help us survive the financial stress of the accident. Many more sent encouraging notes and Scripture verses. That kind of support was completely unexpected and reminded us of God's faithfulness and his desire to meet all our needs.



Thank you for your overwhelming generosity, love, and support. It not only ministered to our family during a critical time, it was also an incredible witness to our unbelieving friends who came to visit and learned about your love and care for our family.

With Love and Thankfulness,

The DeJarnette Family
Rick, Anna, Monroe and Jack



THIRD CHURCH
500 FOREST AVE.
RICHMOND, VA 23229
(804) 282-4645



Called together for the renewal of all things through Jesus Christ.

OUR MINISTRY STAFF

REV. COREY WIDMER

Lead Pastor

REV. ED SATTERFIELD

Executive Pastor

REV. DEREK MONDEAU

Pastor of Discipleship & Parish Ministry

REV. 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

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 MARRIOTT

Director of Connection Ministries

BECCA PAYNE

Director of Communications

ALEX SAWYER

Technical Director

DREW CLEVELAND

Director of Young Adult & College Ministries

REV. RICHARD HANEY

Theologian and Missiologist in Residence

REV. NAN CLARKE

Pastor for Care Ministries

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR MAY: FRIDAY, APRIL 12. SUBMIT TO: BECCAP@THIRDVA.ORG