

ThirdPRESS

AUGUST 2019

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OASIS

A New Community of Faith Reaching Immigrants in Richmond

One of the core values that drives and guides our community at Third is *Catalytic Culture*. This means, that over the more than 150 years of our incorporation as a church, we have endeavored to 'foster an entrepreneurial and risk taking culture to equip and release Spirit-led leaders to seed our region and world with new ministries, communities and institutions for the common good.' Throughout our history, this is the drive that we have seen manifested in the planting of many new churches out of Third, as well as unique new ministries starting, and non-profits being launched in the far reaches of our city.

Today, this catalytic culture is no more apparent than in the fruitful work coming out of our Antioch Church Planting Residency. Our Covenant Partner Juan Ledon and his wife Sylvia have been faithfully moving toward planting a church for the past two years. Now, they're truly getting into it – with meetings on the calendar and relationships being formed. Learn more about Oasis, this new church plant, and how you can be involved!

Tell us about Oasis. What are you hoping to do and where will it be?

Oasis is a missionary outreach to the immigrants of our city. This non-traditional community of faith will meet in the southside of Richmond (where Juan and Sylvia live), and will meet in homes and community spaces throughout the week rather than in a church building on Sunday mornings.

What is the vision for Oasis?

Growing an organic community of Jesus followers throughout our city who:

- ✓ Care for the alien and marginalized among us
- ✓ Develop a discipleship movement throughout the immigrant community
- ✓ Build authentic relationships with one another by doing life together in the power of God's Spirit

This is so great! When will meetings begin?

They are already happening! It's a rolling schedule so we're meeting as people's availability (and work schedules) permit. If you would like to come to a meeting, please reach out and we'd love to include you.

How can I be a part of what's going on with Oasis?

PRAYER SUPPORT TEAM

Nothing happens without this. Please under-gird us with your prayers.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TEAM

We are seeking to raise funds as missionaries rather than work toward a self-funded ministry.

VOLUNTEERS

Childcare is specifically needed! Most families will have small/young children. Spanish speakers are preferred!

JOIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Spanish speaking is required as we are reaching out to immigrants who speak little to no English. Consider a 12-month commitment with Oasis!

GET IN TOUCH

To get in touch with Juan about any of these opportunities, or to join his mailing list or talk further about Oasis, please reach out: jfledon@gmail.com or (786) 837-6116.





From May through July we held experimental monthly Parish Area worship gatherings in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. These worship services, held at 11:15 a.m., invited one or more Parish Areas to worship together in a more laid-back and community-led service.

This experimental effort asked two questions. First, how can we continue to create opportunities for Parish Areas to gather together on a larger scale and worship together? Second, could this be a way for us to alleviate some capacity pressure in the sanctuary?

DEBRIEFING THE

PARISH WORSHIP INITIATIVE



And as we wrap up this experiment, we are confident of a few things. These worship services were unique and fruitful. Kids were welcomed in with their families, neighbors sat side by side, and everything from the teaching to the prayer time felt more interactive and intimate. Our parish group leaders and shepherding elders were given a chance to flex their leadership muscles, and we created a worship service that felt different, and yet reflective of the areas they represented.



So what does this mean going forward?

Well, we're not sure yet! We are surveying those who participated and listening to your feedback. We are looking at how these times impacted Sanctuary worship, and we're weighing the capacity it took to coordinate and manage these services. So while we're not quite sure what this means for our service schedule and if Parish Area worship will be a part of our regular rhythms or not, we will continue to discern the best ways to grow together as parishes and make room for all in our sanctuary. More to come, Third family!



PARKING UPDATE

We trust that these changes will continue to help us be a more inviting place to come.

We also hope that it will improve safety in our busiest lot and provide the most needed spaces for those who should have the closest and smoothest access to the building.

Over the past few months, we hope you've noticed efforts to help make Third a more welcoming place. For guests who have never been on the property before, finding one's way is a challenge. Knowing that, we have made significant and intentional efforts to make the way easier by improving parking lot signage, adding lot attendants, and greeters by the playground doors. These small but important additions have provided immediate connection for folks, and a personable way into life at Third.

New Parking Lot Changes Coming in August

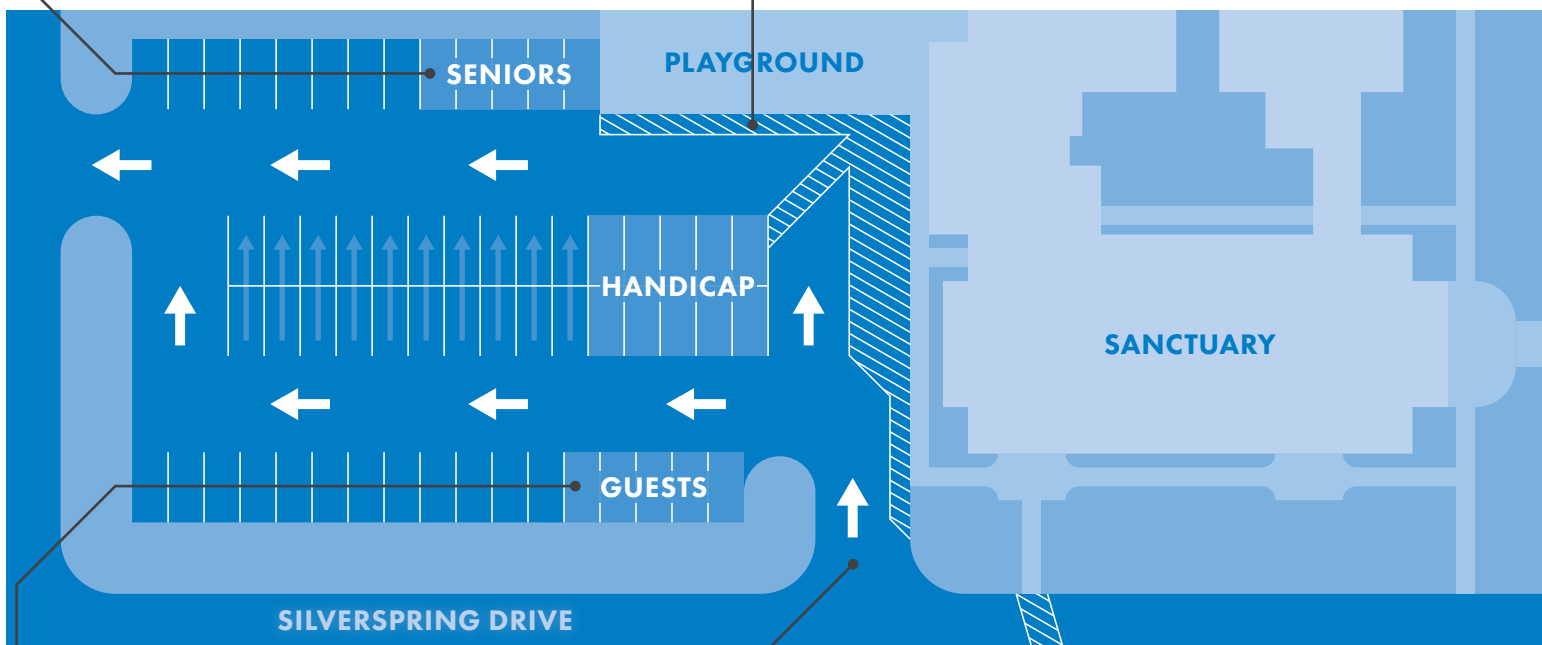
We will make a few additional changes to our parking lots this August as we prepare for our busy fall kickoff. We've been paying attention to parking rhythms and obstacles and are learning from them. We hope that these changes in Parking Lot B (the Playground lot) will further improve traffic flow and protect pedestrian traffic into the building.

SENIOR PARKING

PARKING FOR SENIORS will be placed and marked on the row beside the Playground providing the shortest distance into the building with a walkway that crosses no traffic to enter the church building.

PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS

PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS will be striped on the pavement to mark access toward and into the building from our lots. This will better delineate pedestrian space and protect all who are walking in spaces currently shared with cars.



GUEST PARKING

PARKING FOR GUESTS will be moved to the area directly next to the entrance of the lot making it simpler and requiring less explanation for guests and those unfamiliar with our lot.

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC FLOW

Traffic flow has been routed to flow **ONE WAY** – in at Silverspring by the building by one lane and out at the back of the lot onto Silverspring.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

FAMILY MINISTRY THIS SUMMER

We have had some fun Family Ministry events this summer, but summer isn't over yet and we have more fun to come.



LOOKING BACK

THIRD FAMILY PICNIC: FAMILIES IN COMMUNITY

On June 29th over 100 people gathered at the Pump Road Pavilion for fried chicken and fun! We had a bounce house, an inflatable obstacle course, hula hoops, chalk, bubbles...and the highlight was a visit from the ice cream truck! What a great evening to reconnect with friends, and get to know new folks!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: FAMILIES IN SERVICE

Pizza, a hot chocolate bar, making Christmas cookies, watching the Grinch movie...what a fun night! But the night had purpose too as we worked together on a service project with Third's "Forgotten No More" ministry that blessed the organization, "Worthdays." We gathered items and made cards for the birthdays and special milestones of children in foster care. Fun, fellowship and ministry, all rolled up in one!

WILD & WONDER-FUL CAMP

Children in preschool and Kindergarten are going to camp this summer...at Third! Our "Wild & Wonder-ful Camp" has been teaching over 50 of our awesome little ones to see God in nature...everywhere they go! They gather on Wednesday mornings and sing the songs they have learned on their Wild & Wonder-ful CD, then go to science and art where they learn and do activities based on the 7 days of creation...they've learned the honey bee's waggle dance, how polar bears stay warm in the icy waters of the Arctic, how a spider doesn't stick to his web, and different bird calls. Through these projects they are learning that OUR GOD IS AMAZING! We are halfway done, with two Wednesdays to go in August. Thank you to all of the 40+ teen and adult volunteers for helping to make this happen!

JOIN US THIS MONTH

PANCAKES, PASTORS AND PRAYER: FAMILIES IN PRAYER

We will wrap up this special summer with this event, a pancake breakfast on August 24! Our focus is on prayer and we will hear a message from Pastor Derek Mondeau and his wife, Sue! We'll pray for our children's school year and families will be given a Prayer Journal to use with their children, which lists the Bible verses they will be learning in Sunday School this year, and will help them teach their children about prayer by featuring a new prayer practice every two months. Sign up online: thirdrva.org/events.

What a joy to be able to spend time with Third's families this summer! We're looking forward to our Sunday school kick-off and the beginning of our ministry year in September. What a great privilege it is to serve in Third's Family ministry!

GOLF OUTING RAISES \$4250 FOR URBAN HOPE!

For 21 consecutive years, Third Golfers In Fellowship (T.G.I.F) hosts the Sam Jackson Memorial Charity Golf Outing. The charity we supported this year was Urban Hope and we are grateful to our Lord who allowed us raise a total of \$4,250.00 for this great organization!

During the awards, T.G.I.F. recognizes the annual Sam Jackson / Tom Barila GOLF Impact Award. The recipient, by attitude and action, models our "G.O.L.F" pillars that are the underlying criteria for the annual award.

Our "G.O.L.F" pillars - God, Others, Love, Fellowship - for the award follows:



God takes 1st priority. We place our primary trust and confidence in God and God alone. We seek to put God first in our decision-making at home and in our community.



Others are 2nd. We've been given the great privilege and challenge to love and serve others. God is 1st, others are 2nd, and I am 3rd. We model servant leadership in our thoughts and actions.



Love is our motivation. Jesus is our primary exemplar. Jesus always walked towards others in love.



Fellowship. We deeply care about people in our sphere of relationships. We steward our gifts for the benefit of others. We create relational space for our family, friends, and neighbors.



We're pleased to announce the 21st recipient of the Sam Jackson/Tom Barila G.O.L.F. Impact Award is Jonathan Kennedy, Jr.! Jonathan and his family have been attending Third since January 2017 and models the G.O.L.F. pillars.

Congratulations, Jonathan!



MEN'S STEAK NIGHT

This is our Men's Ministry kickoff event to start the ministry year. Enjoy a good steak and connection with other men and introduction to the events for the upcoming year.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 21
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Pump Road Pavilion: 2340 Pump Road

RSVP: thirdrva.org/events

A NOTE OF THANKS

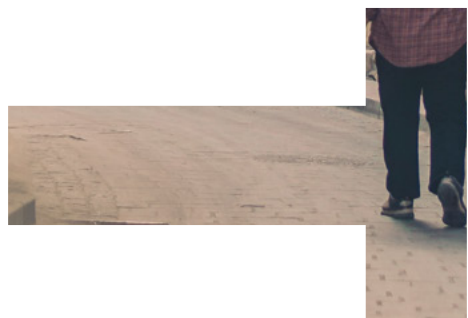
Dear Third Church Family,

Your thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers, visits, food and transportation have meant so much to me and my family following my fall on March 21. I have made great progress and I'm so thankful that God has been with us through all of this. God is so good and faithful.

I'm still not getting out very much because I still have to have more therapy at Sheltering Arms. It will be nice when I can drive again and join you for worship in the sanctuary.

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*



Calling all medical professionals and those with a heart to serve! **In March 2020**, Third and the Christian Arabic Church (CAC) are hosting a short-term mission trip to come alongside, encourage and serve our sister-church, El Sharabia, in their community in Cairo.

We are looking for medical professionals to join us and serve in their medical clinic that provides treatment for low-income individuals in the community. The clinic serves as an outreach center for many non-Christians in the area. We welcome all medical professionals, whatever area of specialty: nurses, pharmacists and medical students. However, you do not need to be a medical person to attend the trip—all are welcome, and there are many other opportunities to both learn and serve.

We'll also have opportunities to engage with our sister church, their community and hear about their vision for the future. We will serve with El Sharabia in their neighborhood engaging with neighbors and continuing the good work they've begun of making friends and showing the love of Christ. We'll host friendship making events at the church, dinners, concerts all the engage in community development. And there will be several translators, so you do not pick up Arabic before then—CAC is bringing several of their congregants that are looking forward to translating. We'll visit various tourist sites during our stay (or as an additional tack on) seeing the pyramids, Cairo History Museum and much more.

Would please commit to pray with us?

In May we hosted a mission conference focusing on Egypt as a way of highlighting our partnership. For those of you who attended, you may remember that we stressed that the sister-church movement in our presbytery was established through The Outreach Foundation and Tom Widmer, in particular. (We had the privilege of honoring Tom one night, completely surprising him!) Please pray that this good work that has begun at Third, at CAC, at Christ Presbyterian, at St. Giles (among many others) will grow. Pray that churches from one area of the world to another will be able to share in the blessings of mutually supporting each other, engaging in ministry in different locations but yet still together.

One of the most exciting things I experienced at my last visit to Egypt, and to El Sharabia, was to see the looks on their faces when we told them they are not alone.

We are standing with them, praying for them. Linked hands separated by miles—encouragers of each other.

LJ Jaworski
lj@thirdrva.org

INTERESTED?

We're planning an informational meeting on August 25 at 11:15 a.m. Have questions in the meantime? You can contact LJ at lj@thirdrva.org.

In June of 2018 I finished an academically grueling four years at Maggie Walker Governor's school augmented by an especially difficult senior year as my mother battled breast cancer. The Lord called me to take a breather before jumping into my university studies, so I decided to take a gap year volunteering in Latin America. After spending a month in Spanish classes in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, I volunteered with a Catholic mission in San Lucas Toliman for 6 months. My work there involved the construction of wood houses and translating for visiting mission groups. I have just returned from spending six weeks as an assistant English teacher with a Presbyterian church and school in Girardot, Colombia. I lived with the family of Pastor Leonel Martinez and was very blessed to make this connection through the help of Tom Widmer and the Outreach Foundation.

About four months into my gap year, after language school and my first three months at the mission, I came home for Christmas and was blessed to attend the Urbana Global Missions Conference with Third. At Urbana, the work I had been doing in San Lucas was contextualized by a flood of information. Urbana explicitly named what I had been doing as missions, which in hindsight seems obvious, but at the time was an epiphany.

At Urbana we dived into the book of Revelation, in which John describes "a great multitude" in heaven "from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the lamb" (Rev 7:9). Later John writes about the "tree of life," whose leaves "are for the healing of the nations" (Rev 22:2). These verses have resonated with me throughout the final 5 months of my gap year. I felt this "great multitude" in San Lucas when working side by side with the construction guys and when singing with a praise band from the Catholic church. Although the locals and I came from different cultures and sects of Christianity, we concluded that the fruit of our work and our praise was more important than our differences. In heaven we will not be grouped as American English speaking Protestants and Guatemalan Spanish speaking Catholics; we will all be part of the Lord's great multitude, singing and working as a unified whole.



From these experiences, I believe that the purpose of missions is to live within a community and become rooted there, forming deep relationships so that we come to know another culture and are changed by it. The way I saw this lived out was through intercultural discussion. As I worked and worshipped in San Lucas, difficult conversations arose around topics such as racism, differences in our faith, and the United States' historically controversial presence in Latin America. Instead of tiptoeing around these topics, together we discussed questions that have no clear moral answer, mourning together the brokenness of the world and becoming closer in our relationships as we acknowledged that brokenness. I came to realize that missions is not about measurable work; the number of houses I helped build or the classes I taught didn't make a huge difference in the world. But the relationships I created are what will spark Revelation's healing of the nations.

I, as a privileged Christian who lives in abundance, must be a force of healing, which means using my privilege to be an ally to my black and brown brothers and sisters around the world. It is so easy to become comfortable here in the West End of Richmond, but we must become global citizens who are deeply invested in creating a united "great multitude."

WILMINGTON

student ministry missions trip recap

For a new experience of going on a mission trip, this one was definitely one to remember. The biggest highlight of the Wilmington trip for me was getting to worship every night with Daniel (YouthWorks representative) as the worship leader. His voice and the choice of songs, new and old, helped me to find myself drawing closer to God through singing. Another highlight was getting to know and connect with all the people that went on the mission trip. I saw a lot of people in a new light and was able to strengthen my relationship with them through serving at the worksites and just hanging around the church in general. One of the hardest things that I faced on the trip was dealing with the heat. At the worksite I was at, we were inside of a house where the air was stagnant and stuffy. Plus all the insulation that was floating about didn't do anything to help.

For me, I saw God at work in the way that he was present in everything we did. It could have been the smallest thing like a kind word to someone, or the way that people worked together through the heat, God was there in all those moments. One of the most important ways I saw God working in my life was how he made it clear that no matter what I do, what hobbies I take up, and how I act, my life will never be fulfilled without him.

There is a gap inside that can only be healed by accepting him and giving him control of my life instead of me so desperately trying to change and control my life to be the one that I want. I need to remember that he has a plan for me and that whatever happens in my life is being drawn out through his will. One of the lessons that we were taught was the Parable of the Prodigal Son, at first I was like, 'I've heard this story so many times, who cares.'

As I was listening, I feel like God made it clear that I am the son even if I try not to associate myself with him. We all make decisions that turn us away from God, but when we return, his arms are open wide and he celebrates our return. The song Reckless Love helped illustrate the story even further. The son couldn't earn the fathers love and he didn't deserve any love after he left, but the father still loved the son and rejoiced when he came back.



My biggest takeaway was that I can rest easy knowing *I am loved* and that *God has control of my life.*

I realized that even if I push myself away from God, he will pursue me. He has had a plan for me before I was born and that his love will fight for me even when I might turn away from his teaching. When we sang Reckless Love, I got such an overwhelming sense of emotion that God has been with me and that his love for me is endless, even when I feel like I don't deserve it. My biggest takeaway was that I can rest easy knowing I am loved and that God has control of my life.

Peyton Meadows
9th grade

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SEPTEMBER

AT A GLANCE

September continues to be an exciting time of year for our community at Third.

To help you plan as we move toward this busy time of year for everyone, we're offering you an early glance at September at Third. It's not exhaustive, but we're excited and hope you are too!

SEP 8 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 KICKOFF SUNDAY!

All of our children's and student's Sunday school classes are beginning, as well as an all new slate of classes for adults.

SEP 8 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 PARISH AREA GATHERINGS

Each Parish Area across the metro Richmond region will be convening again to share food, build community and welcome the fall season together. It's the perfect opportunity to meet your neighbors who go to Third, regardless of whether you're involved in a Parish Group.

SEP 9 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 JOBS FOR LIFE: FALL 2019 KICKOFF!

The next class of Jobs for Life is kicking off. Interested in learning more about this transformational, jobs-readiness ministry? Learn more on the following page.

SEP 11 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 CLUB 56 KICKOFF DINNER

Our Wednesday night meetings for Club 56 is beginning again with this kickoff dinner. All 5th and 6th graders and their families are invited to learn more about the ministry of Club 56, meet the Sunday morning teaching team, and learn about the Wednesday night meetings! 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

SEP 15 SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 15 NEWCOMERS CLASS

Our Newcomers Class is meeting again. If you're interested in taking a deep dive into Third, what we believe and how to belong, grow and contribute here, this is your next step. At the end of the class, you can choose to join the church as a Covenant Partner.

SEP 17 TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 17 AN EVENING WITH REBEKAH LYONS

Third's Women's Ministry is partnering with Needles Eye Ministry and Changing Seasons to bring author and speaker Rebekah Lyons to Richmond! This is an incredible opportunity to hear from a renown speaker right at Third. Save the date!

SEP 18 WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 18 HOMEWORK TUTORING

We're kicking off this year's Immigrant and Refugee Homework Tutoring program, which matches over 90 students with tutors to help them with their homework on Wednesday nights. Join this ministry as a tutor or a sub!

RSVP and find the full details for any of these events at thirdrva.org/events.

Within the context of the Jobs for Life program, the great commission to make new disciples of all the nations is happening at Third.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19–20

LIVING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION

On May 15th, Third graduated eight Jobs for Life students who were from six different countries; Protestants, Catholics and Muslims. We had a Pharmacist from Iraq, a lawyer from Brazil, an accountant from Venezuela, a medical researcher from Sudan, a labor worker from Egypt and three Americans that have worked in education, medicine and both the music/non-profit fields.

Our ages, education, experiences, life styles and goals were all different. We spent 12 weeks caring for, encouraging and praying over each other. Our different backgrounds were unifiers not dividers as we developed a deep connection, respect and affection for one another. We were literally living in the world we are all praying will exist one day on earth but most assuredly in Heaven.

Over the last seven semesters, our graduates have come from 16 countries located on 5 different continents with backgrounds in a wide variety of professional and labor fields. Within the context of the Jobs for Life program, the great commission to make new disciples of all the nations is happening at Third.

If you want to be a part of God's work and to help others in their vocational journey, sign up now to be a Champion. This key role walks beside the student through the class, supporting and encouraging them while building strong relationships of faith and trust.



If you're interested in being a part of this amazing ministry as a Champion, contact Ginger James at 804-647-5348.

If you know someone who is unemployed, under-employed or unhappy in their employment, this is the class for them!

The new semester kicks off September 9 and runs for 11 weeks. Classes are held on Monday nights from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

All materials, meals and childcare (if needed) will be provided free for students. Online applications open mid-August and will include a personal interview. For more information, call the church office at 804-282-4645.

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

AUGUST 11

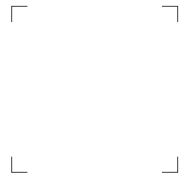
10:00 A.M. Catherine Joy Nance, daughter of Rich and Frannie Nance (*City East Parish*)

11:15 A.M. Thomas Tullidge Innes, son of Philip and Sarah Gray (*Grove Parish*)

In this monthly feature in the Press, we share the scheduled baptisms and dedications for the upcoming month. As a church family, we know it's important for you to be able to attend these sacraments for people within your community, your parish area, or perhaps a new friend you recently met. We hope this gives you the insight you need so you can plan to bear witness to these special occasions.

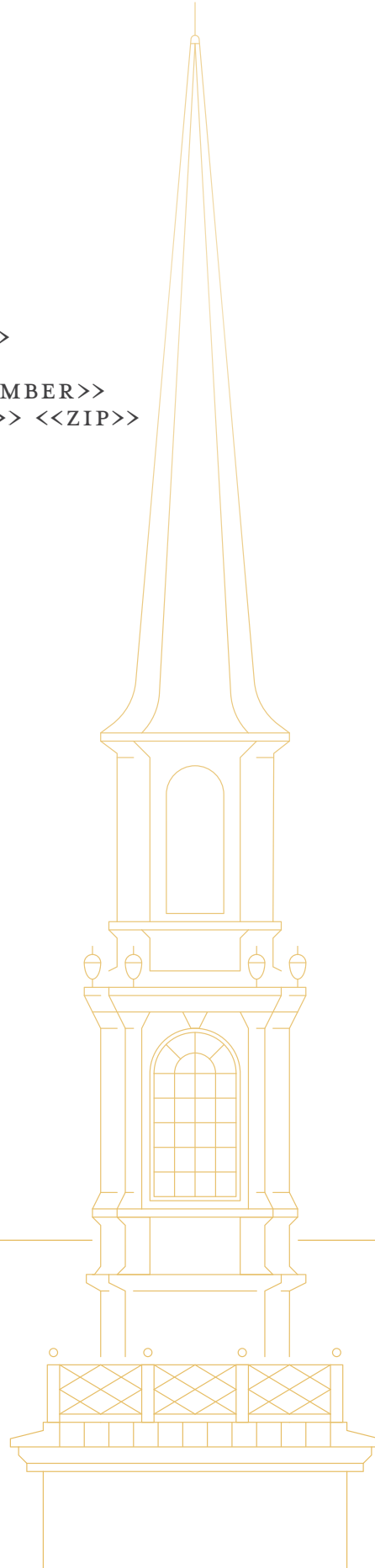


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