



THIRD PRESS

February 2018



LETTER FROM COREY

Dear Third Church family,

Lent is the period of the year in which we prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at Good Friday and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or graduation, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' suffering and celebrating his resurrection.

Lent (which begins February 14) is a season in which we especially focus on examining our hearts, confessing our sin, and reflecting on the significance of Christ's death. Think of it as sort of "spring cleaning" of the soul. Of course you need to sweep and clean all year round, but you might have a concentrated focus on deep cleaning at special times of the year. Alternatively, the Lenten season is the spiritual equivalent of an annual physical exam; it's a time to take stock of our lives, and the spiritual health of our hearts.

We've tried to keep the Lenten season light on central programming so we can have adequate space in our calendars and lives to be renewed. But we also have some good opportunities throughout Lent that can support spiritual renewal. (More info on the events on pages 6 and 7.)

Ash Wednesday All Church Dinner and Service. Dinner together on February 14 at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A time for us to gather and begin the season of Lent together.

The Cruciform Life: A Sermon Series on 1 Corinthians. This Lent we'll be moving through 1 Corinthians on Sunday mornings and explore what it teaches us about living a life that is shaped by the cross of Jesus.

How to Be a Tech-Wise Family: A Seminar with Andy Crouch. Join us March 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the ways we are shaped by technology and how to reorder our lives so we are shaped first and foremost by the things that bring honor and glory to God, and build authentic community with each other.

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
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

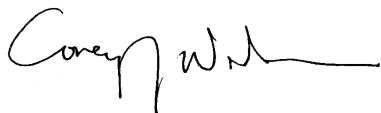
Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate Care Ministries

The Soul of Shame: A morning with Dr. Curt Thompson. This event takes place Saturday, March 17 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at West End Presbyterian. Dr. Curt Thompson, author and Christian psychologist, will be helping us explore the role that shame has in our lives and how we can experience freedom through Christ.

Whether it be through one of these opportunities above, or through your own personal habits or retreats, we pray that this Lenten season will be a time when each of us deepens in our awareness of the love of Christ for us.

*Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Grace and peace of our Savior+



Corey Widmer

**"Lent is a season
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New Series.....

THE CRUCIFORM LIFE: A SERIES ON 1 CORINTHIANS

In many ways, there is no book more relevant to our age than 1 Corinthians. The Corinthian Christians lived in a city that was religiously pluralistic, that was preoccupied with prestige and celebrity, and that was obsessed with sex, money and power. The Christians who lived there had become deeply influenced by their cultural milieu and as a result had devolved into pettiness, conflict, division and

immorality. Paul writes to urge them to live new lives that are shaped by the cross of Jesus, a life of humility, sacrifice, and self-giving. His vision of life is a "cruciform," or cross-shaped life—so that the community of Jesus would resemble its Lord.

As we move through Lent, the season of the year when we focus on the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus, we'll be looking at not just how the cross saves us for life after death, but also how the cross shapes our entire life before death as well.

The Big Question of the Series: *How does the cross of Jesus shape our everyday life?*

SILENT ALLELUIA: A LENTEN OBSERVATION

Lent is a 40-day period of preparation and repentance, a time in which we anticipate the joy of Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Because of the contemplative nature of Lent, singing or saying the word "alleluia" has historically been suspended during Lent's forty days, a practice that goes back to at least the fifth century in the Western church.

This year Third Church will practice a period of "silent alleluia," suspending the use of the word alleluia in our worship services from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. On Easter Sunday, April 1, the alleluias will return and we will sing and say alleluia with great joy and celebration, including the ringing of bells! We hope this will be a meaningful time of contemplation for our community and a joyous celebration on the first!

UPDATES & NEWS

2018 STAFF SABBATICALS

Sabbaticals are an investment for the future meant to refresh those with ministry responsibilities and to strengthen the church. Our ordained pastors and Ministry directors are provided a sabbatical, with full pay every seven years. Pastors can take three months away and Ministry Directors six weeks. 2018 will be a key year for refreshing our staff with four sabbaticals planned.



KIM TAULBEE has been on staff for 14 years and will be on sabbatical from Jan. 22 to March 4. In addition to time for spiritual renewal, he plans to attend the Calvin Institute of Worship in late January and record scores for original songs that Third has been using in worship to be available to other churches. In the meantime, you'll be seeing more of Brooke Winters, a year-long worship intern who will be leading worship more frequently.



COREY WIDMER will be on sabbatical from May 1 to July 31. Corey has been on Third staff since 2005 and has delayed his eligible time away since 2012 out of concern for the needs of East End Fellowship and the transition to Senior Pastor at Third. His time away is long overdue and with the addition of new staff and the completion of the work of our five Working Groups, we are in a strong position for him to take a needed break. In addition to rest and refreshment, Corey will be working on his PhD thesis.



RICK HUTTON will also use time away for refreshment and to read and write for his DMin. thesis. Having been on staff at Third since 2004, he will be on sabbatical from June 3 to Sept. 3.



TOM BARILA is also planning time away late in 2018. He has served Third for 20 years and is still finalizing his plan for the sabbatical in the late fall of 2018 with the possibility of overlapping into 2019.

Be in prayer for our staff as they take these extended breaks from the rigors and demands of ministry. Ask the Lord for rest and refreshment, both physical and spiritual, so that each person returns strengthened with new energy for providing leadership at Third. Pray as well for the benefit for their marriage and family life.

Third's Personnel Committee

At a Glance.....

Kim Taulbee	January 22 – March 4
Corey Widmer	May 1 – July 31
Rick Hutton	June 3 – September 3
Tom Barila	Late fall 2018

UPDATES & NEWS

STAFF UPDATES

THIRD CHURCH STAFF UPDATES

As you've probably noticed, we've had a few new faces join the ranks of Third Staff over the past month or so. Please get to know these folks and others that we introduce here in Third Press! We are so excited God has brought them to Third.



MEET VALERIE HOLLAND Database Administrator, and Assitant to Parish Life Ministry

I was born and raised in Iowa, graduating from Iowa State University with a BBA in Finance (you can't take the Iowa out of the girl!). I moved to upstate New York

after college, where I raised five daughters and one son. Between homeschooling, raising kids, and working, I went back to college in 2010 and earned my MBA.

I'm a newcomer to Richmond, moving permanently here in July 2017 after marrying my wonderful Richmonder husband, Garret, and sending my youngest off to college! Between Garret's two daughters and my children, our crew now consists of **seven** daughters, **one** son, one daughter-in-law, and a baby grandson. Whew!

I'm absolutely loving Richmond! The food, the music, the arts, and the nearby mountains and ocean! In my time spare time, I **love** to travel, be active outdoors, read, write, and laugh with family and friends. Oh, I almost forgot...I also **love** board games! Scrabble anyone?



MEET JONATHAN KNABE Audio Production Intern

My name is Jonathan Knabe and I am originally from Berlin, Germany. I grew up in a bilingual home since my father is German and my mother American. They met when my mother studied abroad in Germany, married after

a few years and had me and my twin sister. Europe is very different compared to the USA both in positive and negative ways. It is very secular compared to the southern part of the USA, but I grew up in a Christian home and was saved when I was young.

After high school in Germany, I attended the University of Richmond from which I just graduated this past May and I worked at East End Fellowship as a songwriting intern in the summer. Besides my love for music, I also enjoy playing tennis, soccer and all other kinds of ball sports. Being at Third has been a wonderful opportunity for me to grow in my faith and work alongside faithful brothers and sisters who love to reach a broken world with the wonderful good news of Jesus Christ.

AN UPDATE: In January we were sad to say goodbye to our Office Manager Miranda Patterson. We loved working with her, and wish her well in her future callings. We are currently hiring for her replacement, Administrative Assistant for Operations. The job description can be found at: www.thirdrva.org/employment.

UPDATES & NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP:

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP UPDATES:

After a break over the holiday season, and for January's Parish Launch, we are excited to get back into the swing of our Sunday morning discipleship classes. Please join us this month for our February Term, and pick a new class to be a part of in March!



FEBRUARY TERM: FEB. 4, 11, 18, 25

Each winter, we take a month to get on the same page by combining our adult Sunday discipleship classes. We study an issue that has bearing on how we live our lives as Christ-followers no matter what age or stage of life we find ourselves in.

The February Term will be kicked-off with preaching and teaching on Feb. 4 from pastor and author Jay Pathak, whose book, *The Art Of Neighboring*, is helping us frame the conversation about how we really love our neighbors as expressed in the Great Commandment. Come out each Sunday, and get excited for this awesome February Term!

SPRING CLASS SERIES: SUNDAY MORNINGS

This series of classes will run from March 7 to May 27, all at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings around the church. Be on the lookout for more info on the classes in the weeks to come!

- **Financial Stewardship and Generosity:** led by Keith and Connie Byers. Please note: this will require early registration. Sign up: www.thirdrva.org/events.
- **Acts of the Apostles:** Andrew Fuller, Grant Holbrook, and Jennifer Parham
- **Galatians:** led by David Carroll and David Skove, and the Good News Fellowship
- **The Architectural Design of a Growing and Faith-Based Family:** led by Ginger James
- **A Recovery Series:** led by Mary Damon



MISSIONARY UPDATE

Myrna McLaughlin of Least of These Ministries will host Dr. Scott Armistead and a team of final-year VCU medical students and a Physical Therapist in Zimbabwe for the month of February. These students all have interests in medical missions and international health. Myrna will be traveling to Zimbabwe earlier and, when the group arrives, they will visit villages where she ministers with Jesse, her Zimbabwean ministry partner. The students will then work for the month at Karanda Mission Hospital, run by TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission).

Myrna and Scott worked together at CrossOver Ministries in the 1990s and are so happy to be working together again. They would appreciate your prayers for this trip, for increasing awareness of the needs in Zimbabwe and nurturing mission vision in the lives of these students. After their return the mission department will host a mission trip report for our church. Date and time TBD!

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEB. 2-3



MEN'S CONFERENCE

Friday evening, 7:00 p.m.
Dinner in your Parish Area!

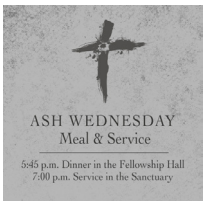
Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Fellowship Hall, Third Church

Join us for our annual conference! This year, we are focusing on how all men are called to neighbor well. We are pleased to welcome Jay Pathak as our keynote speaker, Lead Pastor of the Mile High Vineyard (Denver, CO.) and co-author of the book, *The Art of Neighboring*, with Dave Runyon. This unique and challenging book asks the question: "What is the most loving thing I can do for the people who live right next door?"

Cost: \$40 for the weekend; or \$10/Friday night, and \$30/Saturday

Visit www.thirdrva.org/mens-annual-retreat.

For questions, contact **Tom Barila**.



FEB. 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Meal: 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall

Service: 7 – 8 p.m., Sanctuary

We'll eat dinner together in the Fellowship Hall, then we'll move to the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service. For the meal, we'll be serving a catered spaghetti meal from Joe's Inn, along with salad and bread. Our service is a time of reflection and penitence leading up to Easter Sunday. This service is a time for us to repent and worship as a community.

FEB. 17



FAMILY MINISTRY PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT

5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

We'll have pizza and then will set up our chairs to watch the movie *Finding*

Dory. Bring a snack to share and something to sit on: a beach chair, blanket **or** make a "car out of a cardboard box or laundry basket" (like a drive in movie!)—prize to the best design! Sign up (\$3 adults, \$2 kids):

www.thirdrva.org/events.

FEB. 19 – MAY 14



JOBS FOR LIFE: SPRING CLASS

Monday evenings,
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

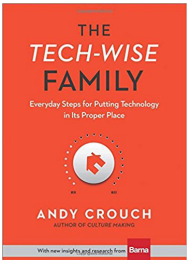
STUDENTS AND CHAMPIONS NEEDED!

Interest has already begun for the spring term of Jobs for Life, a 12-week biblically based job preparedness program for those who are underemployed, unemployed and unhappy in their current job.

Tell those who might be good candidates to be students about JfL. If you can help as a Champion (mentor) we will need a good number of people to be involved as we expect another large class. Contact Ginger James to connect a student or to talk over your interest in being a Champion at gingerjames1@icloud.com.

For more info on Jobs for Life, visit www.thirdrva.org/jobsforlife.

EVENTS CALENDAR



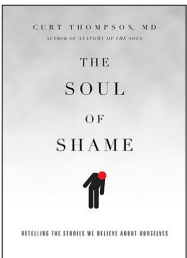
MARCH 2

THE TECH-WISE FAMILY WITH ANDY CROUCH

7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Andy Crouch, speaker and author of *Culture Making*, will be with us on Friday evening, March 2, to discuss his latest book, *The Tech-Wise Family*. He'll be sharing how our habits with technology are much more than time limits and internet filters, but about what we value, what we believe, and what we believe our time is for—particularly within our homes. And it is not just important for parents, but for anyone who interacts with technology.

We are so excited to have Andy here to talk about this topic with us. Please come and invite your friends.



MARCH 17

THE SOUL OF SHAME: A MORNING WITH DR. CURT THOMPSON

**8:30 – Noon at West End Presb. Church
9008 Quioccasin Rd.**

We're all infected with a spiritual disease. Its name is shame. Whether we realize it or not, shame affects every aspect of our life and work. It seeks to destroy our identity in Christ, replacing it with a twisted version of self that results in hiding, faking, fear, and broken relationships. But God has personally done something about our shame. He is telling a different story for your life.

Dr. Thompson is a psychiatrist in private practice in Falls Church, VA. Speaking on his book, *The Soul of Shame*, he will examine how our shame keeps us from being engaged in relationships, community, and vocation. He'll encourage us to find freedom in Christ by learning the truth about who He is and who we are as His redeemed people.

We're partnering with West End Presbyterian on this event to make it free and open to the public. For more info visit: www.wepec.org/soulofshame.

COMMUNITY POSTING

**Teaching in China this summer
could be just the refreshment you
need!**

Come to China and meet many Chinese children who are eager to learn English. Principal Hannah is seeking experienced American teachers to lead 2 weeks of Superhero Day Camp at Apple Tree School, a private school near Beijing. Students range from pre-school through high school. Each American teacher, assisted by a Chinese teacher, leads a class of 15 children in English.

The teaching team leaves the U.S. on July 5 and returns July 23. This summer Apple Tree School is covering the airfare for 8 teachers. The estimated cost for the 17-day trip is only an amazingly low \$800 !! (covering visa, weekend housing & food, sightseeing). Interested in exploring this? For more information, contact Kate Strickland at k8strickland@gmail.com or 804-909-1172.



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



COMMON GOOD RVA CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

8:30 – 1:00 p.m. Early Center, Union Presbyterian Seminary

A common good that does no good for the vulnerable is neither common, nor good. At this conference, Andy Crouch, author of *Strong and Weak*, *Playing God*, *Culture Making*, and *The Tech-Wise Family*, will serve as our keynote speaker as we explore this idea together.

Some questions we'll consider during our conversation...

- How do we think about who is vulnerable in our communities and how do we work for a common good that is good for all?
- What would it mean for us to understand how all jobs and all vocations shape the world for the better or the worse of the vulnerable?
- How can we see Richmond's peoples and institutions in new ways that help us understand our role in working for a common good that is good for the vulnerable?

Learn more and sign up: www.commongoodrva.com/2018-conference

Common Good RVA exists to create a network of Richmonders who are inspired to use their daily work to seek the common good of their city.

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR MARCH: Friday, Feb. 9. Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org