



THIRD PRESS

March 2018



LETTER FROM COREY

Dear Third Church family,

Parish Life Begins! After two years of planning, praying and preparing, we finally launched Parish Life at Third Church! It was wonderful to see so many people excited and ready to jump in. If you were able to stop by the Fellowship Hall on Jan. 21 or 28, you saw hundreds of people connecting, talking, laughing, figuring out their Parish Area, and signing up for Parish Groups. In fact, on the two Sundays of our Parish Life launch, we had hundreds of individuals and families sign up for Parish Groups, representing nearly 1000 people in our congregation.

As Parish Groups have begun to meet, we have heard great stories of multigenerational community, moving times in Scripture and prayer, and lots of fun and laughter. We are truly grateful for people opening their homes, time, and lives to one another in this new way.

As we move ahead with Parish Life, we invite you to the following:

- **First, pray!** Remember, our purpose for doing this is to grow in gospel-centered community so we follow Jesus together and love our neighbors and neighborhoods. Please pray that God truly fulfills the purpose of Parish Life and that beautiful, even miraculous things happen.
- **Second, serve.** We have lots of people serving in different kinds of leadership capacities in our Parish Groups, but we always need more! We need people doing everything from serving as Core Leaders of Parish Groups, to offering their home as a place to meet, to preparing or coordinating food. Talk to your Parish Group leader about how you can serve or email Valerie Holland (valerieh@thirdrva.org) about your interest.

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

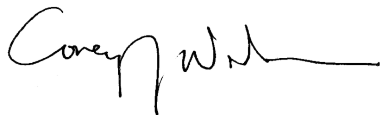
Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate Care Ministries

- **Third, connect.** If you haven't been able to connect with Parish Life, you can at any time. Check out the Parish Life page on our website, thirdrva.org/parish-life, to find which Parish Area you live in, get info on the Parish Groups meeting near you, and who to contact. Also, don't forget to help others connect. As we continue to have new people visit Third and be introduced to our community, help others you meet connect into Parish Life as well.

Thanks be to God for the way he has blessed Parish Life thus far. Let's pray that the Lord continues to lead us as we begin this new journey together!

Grace and peace of our Savior+

Corey Widmer



374: Cards filled out, indicating interest in a Parish Group

938: Total people—children included—interested in joining a Parish Group

14: Parish Groups started this February

45: the average Parish Group attendance the first week!

A Note from Andy Burgess.....

Bear Third Church

Over 25 years ago we began attending Third. Brenda had been establishing some deep relationships with women through Community Bible Study and most attended Third. Over the past decades this church has become home. We have lived life together, served together, prayed together, worshiped together. This church has shaped our children, who are now adults that love the Lord and are serving in their own church communities.

A year and a half ago when Brenda received a terminal cancer diagnosis, Third Church surrounded us. You have walked closely with us as we journeyed through the valley of the shadow of death. We could not have been more loved and cared for during the months and especially weeks leading to her passing and even now in the days since. Our extended family and non-Third friends have been profoundly amazed by the care and love that our beloved congregation has showered upon us.

We are so very grateful for every hug, card, and meal provided. There were so many who helped with her memorial service—the parking, ushering, setting tables, serving food, cleaning up, preparing the order of worship bulletins, audio visual and live

streaming support, childcare, and countless other ways. It has been humbling to be served by so many and we are profoundly grateful.



Brenda's desire throughout her illness was that her beloved Lord would be glorified. Corey testified that in her suffering she became strong and courageous, she became a beautiful fragrance declaring the goodness of God. Truly her desire to glorify her Lord was realized especially in her memorial service. Hers was a life well lived for the glory of God.

Thank you Third Church for serving and loving us so well in this time of immense grief and loss.

In closing, Brenda's prayer up until the end was that the wider Church in Richmond would be unified to serve and bless our city in order that our city would flourish. This has been the vision of BlessRVA (formerly Bless Richmond) which Third has supported for years. BlessRVA is in the process of rethinking how to accomplish this vision, so please join us in praying that God would be exalted in our city and that churches could work together to bring justice, healing, redemption and shalom to our city.

*With deep gratitude, the family of
Brenda Brigham Burgess, bbb*

NEWS & RECAPS

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.

We are excited to bring psychiatrist Dr. Curt Thompson, author of *The Soul of Shame*, to Richmond. Curt will lead us through the theological and practical tools necessary to understand shame and how the Gospel overcomes the painful power of shame in our lives. Pulling from concepts

in his book, Curt will examine how our shame keeps us from being engaged in relationships, community, church, 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.

About Curt Thompson: Curt Thompson (MD, Wright State University) is a psychiatrist in private practice in Falls Church, Virginia. He is also the founder of The Center for Being Known, a nonprofit organization that develops resources to educate and train leaders within the fields of mental health, education, business, and the church about the intersection between interpersonal neurobiology and

Christian spiritual formation. He is the author of *The Soul of Shame* and *Anatomy of the Soul*—both well-received works that explore how faith shapes the fields of psychiatry and mental health. Thompson is board-certified by the



THE SOUL OF SHAME

CURT THOMPSON, M.D.

THE SOUL OF SHAME

A Seminar with Curt Thompson, M.D.

Saturday, March 17, 2018

9 a.m. to Noon

West End Presbyterian Church

FREE!

American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and his main focus of clinical and research interest has been the integration of psychiatry, its associated disciplines, and Christian spiritual formation. He is actively engaged in learning and teaching as he supervises clinical employees and facilitates ongoing education groups for patients and colleagues. Serving as an elder at Washington Community Fellowship in Washington, DC, his duties have included preaching, teaching, and participation in the fellowship's healing prayer ministry. He and his wife Phyllis, a licensed clinical social worker, are the parents of two children and reside in Arlington, Virginia.

DISCIPLESHIP UPDATES

SUNDAY MORNINGS

SPRING CLASS SERIES

This new series of classes will run from March 7 to May 27, all at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings. Full class descriptions can be found: thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY

March 4 – May 27, Room 215

Led by Keith and Connie Byers.

The money class that will change your life. No matter where you are with your money, this class will teach you to create a budget, pay off debt, spend and save wisely, and give generously! This special 9-week class is being offered by Third at a rate of \$49 per individual or \$89 per couple (to cover workbook and materials).

This class runs from 10-11:30 a.m. for nine weeks (with child-care for newborn - 6th grades). Scholarships available. Contact Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org) with questions. **Register:** thirdrva.org/events

ACTS: THE SEQUEL

March 4 – May 27, Room 213

Led by Andrew Fuller, Grant Holbrook and Jennifer Parham

We all love sequels and the New Testament book of Acts is an amazing, action-packed sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Acts gives an accurate account of the birth, growth, and challenges of the Christian church. Acts is also the connecting link between Christ's life and the life of the church. An in-depth and expository study of God's Word is at the center of every class. All are welcome.

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

March 4 – May 27, Room 101

Led by David Carroll and David Skove

This letter from the apostle Paul helps our understanding of God, the meaning of grace, and how God's grace passes from God through us to the believers in Christ, and to the watching world. The goal of this class is to provide expository, inductive Bible teaching and discussion designed to help each other be transformed by the renewing of our minds and is open to people of all ages and backgrounds.

THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF A GROWING & FAITH-BASED FAMILY

March 4 – April 29, Fellowship Hall

Led by Ginger James

This interactive class will address things that families have been asking about for years: how to balance family and work (and faith!) while raising children, how to grow a career and not lose your family, how to balance being a one income family without resentment, single parenting concerns, and more. Due to the unique format and goal of the class, this is something couples across the generations can benefit from, and collectively support each other in.

SOUL REPAIR: REBUILDING YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

March 4 – May 27, 500 Forest Ave., Multipurpose Room

Led by Mary Damon

We would love for you to join us in this rich, deep encounter of the book *Soul Repair: Rebuilding Your Spiritual Life*. Deep down many of us believe that we are not good enough, and never will be good enough, to have a meaningful relationship with God. We have been spiritually trained in ways that have left us with distorted and inadequate spiritualities and we're left with a toxic combination of fear and shame. If you find yourself living out a burdensome and unfulfilling spirituality, come and learn more about how to break out of the cycle.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

MANAGING MEDIA FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES

March 7, 14, 21 & 28

500 Forest Ave. Multipurpose Room

Led by Mark and Susan Holt

Parents are hungry for how to help their children, and themselves as well, disconnect from technology enough to re-connect as a family. This four-part workshop centers on how to help our children internalize biblical values to make decisions on the use of technology. **Register (\$15/per person, \$20/couple):** thirdrva.org/events

WELCOME NEWCOMERS

Welcome to our new Covenant Partners! Please welcome them to the Third family.

The next Newcomers Class is scheduled to begin April 14, and run through the weekend of April 20-21. More info at: thirdrva.org/newcomers.



FRANK & ELIZABETH
BLOCK



RAHEL MEKONNEN



SUSAN & DONALD
SUMMERS



KIM BENSON



CHARLIE & JUDY
CLOUGH



MARY & JOHN
SADOWSKY



NANCY & KARINA
PAHLE



BECKY & LEIGH
THORNTON



MELANIE SAYRE



DAVID PERRY



PETER SAMUEL



GRAYSON & ELLIE
THORNTON



ELLEN & GREG
DUERKSEN



ARDITH & CHRIS
LANPHEAR



SHERRY KEATING



GRACE LOWEN

NEWS & UPDATES

RECAP FROM ECO CONFERENCE

Six Elders and eight Staff from Third were encouraged and challenged at the ECO's National Gathering in Houston the last week in January. Not only was the extended time over meals, travel and rooming together a gift, but our times of corporate worship, hearing nationally known speakers and being stimulated by multiple workshops made the week significant in redirecting our focus in important directions.

Here are some takeaways our team mentioned as impacting them:

- In a study of the Great Commission, Ed Stetzer called us to our identity as being sent to all kinds of different people with a message empowered by the Spirit. "Every Christian is on mission or an imposter." Kyle Strobel urged us to be leaders who lead by faith, who are wise and powerful. Wisdom is not technique and power does not come from ourselves but from reliance on God's Spirit in our weakness, being formed by the cross with our eyes set on the eternal kingdom God is building.
- As a denomination we were challenged to take risks by faith by a pastor in her 60s whose congregation rethought its direction as part of a revitalization cohort. She led her church to fearlessly place "five sacred cows on the altar" to move in a new direction to fulfill Christ's call. A large church left their building and a sizeable endowment to join the ECO, moving into uncharted waters to follow Christ's mission. Multiple workshops presented creative ideas challenging us to be churches where skeptics feel comfortable and ask questions openly without judgment. We were lead to better understand the journey of an unbeliever to faith using five thresholds people typically must cross. We were encouraged to equip our members to live their faith in the "frontline" context where they live most of their lives and not just when we are together on Sundays.

- Juan Ledon, Third's Antioch Resident for Church Planting, spent most of his time with other church planters learning and encouraging each other in that task. U Jaworski connected with and brainstormed about mission engagement around the world. Kathy White engaged other children's ministry leaders about ideas for curriculum and special needs ministry. We came away challenged to use these fresh new ideas in leading ministry at Third.

Pray that we will be more faithful in the year ahead to advance Christ's Kingdom mission!

SYNOD MEETING

The ECO conducts business once every two years, limiting our time to three hours for our Synod meeting (gathering of commissioners from the churches across the denomination) after our two-day conference. Our key decision was what Confessions would be included in the ECO's Book of Confessions. By two-thirds approval, we agreed to send the following list of confessions to the Presbyteries for ratification to be our new Book of Confessions:

- Nicene Creed
- Apostles' Creed
- Heidelberg Catechism
- Westminster Confession of Faith
- Westminster Larger Catechism
- Westminster Shorter Catechism
- Barmen Declaration

We considered by declined including the Scot's Confession, Second Helvetic Confession, the Confession of 1967 and the Brief Statement of Faith. Votes will be taken on the new Book of Confessions this coming year requiring two-thirds of the Presbyteries agreement for approval. Continued work will be done by our Theological Task Force to consider other ideas generated in our study over the past two years. We are thankful to be part of a wider church committed to the Scriptures and our Reformed heritage.

EVENTS & RECAPS



MAR. 24

EASTER EGG HUNT

**10:30 a.m., 1633 Devon Way,
Manakin Sabot VA 23103**

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for families of Kindergartners and younger—siblings welcome too! There will be 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. Invite a friend or neighbor, and make sure to bring a picnic lunch and Easter basket. Drinks provided. The event is free, but we do ask that you sign up! **RSVP: thirdrva.org/events**



MAR. 28

PEACEMAKING CONVERSATIONS

**Wednesdays, March 28 – May 2
6 – 8 p.m., 9309 Lawndell Rd, Henrico 23229**

Over coffee and dessert, learn the foundational principles of Biblical peacemaking. Conversation will be focused on applying peacemaking to conflicted relationships. Contact: Margie Satterfield at relationships@thirdrva.org or call (804) 819-0260.



APR. 27-28

CLUB 56 RETREAT

Friday, 6 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**

RECAP FROM YOUTH SUNDAY



On Sunday, Feb. 4, we had students from our Student Ministry lead us in worship. They led music, liturgy, were interviewed and even delivered some challenging teaching. These students lead us with conviction, grace, and competence. This continues to be such a special and important week for our congregation, and we look forward to it every year.

"Before being asked to be a part of the Sermon team for youth sunday, I feel like God was tugging at me to do it, however, I mostly ignored those thoughts. When Rick asked me, I did think about it a lot and I knew God was calling me to do it, although I didn't want to. I knew the most important thing was to listen to God and I would see how he would use it in my life later. During the preparation I knew the devil was trying to make this experience negative because anxiety did arise. However, through prayer and many meetings and reassurance from Rick and Andrea, I found myself really diving in and enjoying learning more about the verse. I loved participating in the sermon and I feel like my relationship with God and the other preachers grew a lot. I am very thankful for my experience."

- Bisola Olowe, a preacher on Youth



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



HOLY WEEK

Experiences and fellowship at
Third Church leading to Easter Sunday

PALM SUNDAY: MESSIAH CONCERT **Sunday, March 25, 4 p.m.**

The choir and orchestra will present selections from Handel's Messiah, part 2 and 3.

MAUNDY THURSDAY **Thursday, March 29, 7 p.m.**

Join us for this service of reflection and communion of Christ's Last Supper with his disciples. The service will be interactive, worshipful, and reflective.

GOOD FRIDAY: SERVICE AND LUNCH **Friday, March 30, Noon**

This Good Friday service is an opportunity to hear a brief homily and worship together as we mourn Christ's crucifixion. The service will be followed immediately by a Lenten lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS **Friday, March 30, 1 – 7 p.m.**

This Good Friday, come take a prayerful and reflective walk through Christ's last hours. Start in the Steeple Corridor where you will pick up a guide that directs you to the indoor and outdoor artistic experiences and guided reflections for adults and children. Go at your own pace, asking God to speak to you through the solemn remembering of this series of events. There will be special journey guides in Arabic and guides for our children.

EASTER SUNDAY: MORNING SERVICES **8:45 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m.**

Join us as we celebrate the risen King! ***Our service times this Easter will remain the same, the only change being that we will hold two concurrent services during the 10 a.m. hour.*** One service will be in the Sanctuary, and one in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage our covenant partners and regular attenders to attend the Fellowship Hall service to make room for those new to the church, or visiting for the first time.

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