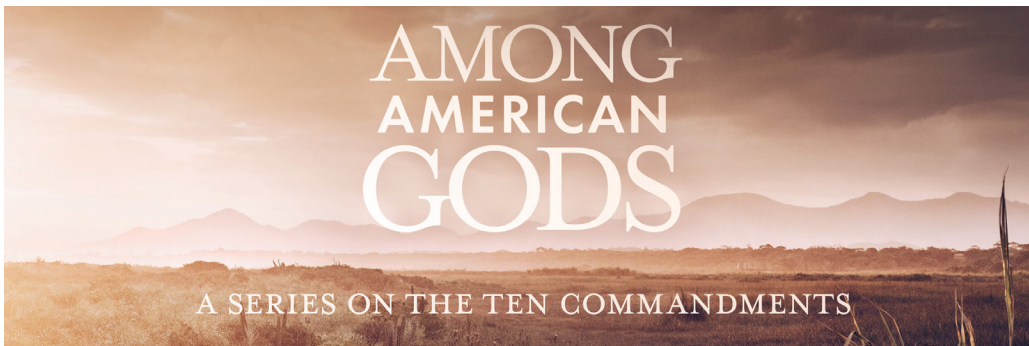




THIRD PRESS

May 2018



LETTER FROM DEREK

Dear Third Church family,

"In the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship."

David Foster Wallace

One of the remarkable things about being a human being is that we were created for worship. It is in our spiritual DNA. At all times, in all ways, we are always worshipping. We are always giving ourselves over to, deriving our significance from, finding our worth in someone or something. We were created for worship.

The tragedy of the human story is that sin has distorted the aim of our worship. The biblical word for this is idolatry. Whenever image bearers seek life, significance or flourishing in someone or something other than God, an idol is born. And every time I take a good created thing, and then invest it with a greatness reserved for God alone, I worship falsely. If we are honest, the entire landscape of human life is littered with such idols. Sex. Money. Power. Fame. Security. Nationalism. Politics. Technology. Family. Marriage.

So what is God's response to a world of disordered worship?

The Ten Commandments, and Exodus 19-20 in particular, give us a glimpse into the answer. The first five books of the Bible, called the Pentateuch, stand not just as theological history nor an ancient legal code, but as a polemic against the false "gods" of the Ancient Near East. So, God's answer to a world of disordered worship is a people and a life. His covenant people. His covenant life. For the blessing of the world. (Gen. 12:3)

OUR STAFF

Rev. Corey Widmer

Lead Pastor

Rev. Ed Satterfield

Executive Pastor

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

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

What is true of Israel, is true of the church. In a world of disordered worship, God's grace to a fallen and falling world is still his covenant people and his covenant life.

Jesus expresses the same idea in the Sermon on the Mount, when he says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

This covenantal life in a world of disordered worship is what we are exploring over our summer series. We are praying that God would do at least two things. First, to rediscover the beauty and depth of God's counter-covenantal life. And second, to confront the American gods that seek to extinguish his life before it ever takes root in us.

Your Recovering Idolater,

Derek Mondeau

SABBATICAL REFLECTION

The word "sabbatical" comes from the Hebrew word *shabbat* and the Latin word *sabbaticus*, and literally means "ceasing." Closely linked to the command of a weekly sabbath, a prolonged period of ceasing was common in the ancient life of Israel, such as the agricultural rest given to a field every seven years (see Leviticus 25).

At Third, the elders have a policy in place that gives pastors a three-month sabbatical every seven years. Although I have been employed by Third for over thirteen years, I've never taken a sabbatical, thinking that I didn't really need it. But after three-plus years of hard work as your Senior Pastor, I admit that I am now happy to receive this grace!

Sabbaticals are not extended vacations or a time for professional development. In the deepest biblical sense, it is a time of ceasing. It is a time to stop what one normally does, which in my case means to stop all preaching and pastoring and writing and leading and visioning and strategizing. Instead, it is a time to rest, to be more deeply present to God, to my family, and to creation, and to attend to parts of my calling outside my everyday work.

I'm ordering my sabbatical around Jesus' interpretation of the famous Jewish shema in Mark 12:30: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." I hope to cultivate those four areas of my life in the following ways:

- Mind: I will continue to work on my PhD dissertation, which I've been working on for several years. Don't worry, I don't plan to over-do it!
- Soul: I will renew some important spiritual habits and disciplines, such as longer times in prayer, Scripture meditation, solitude and silence.
- Heart: I'll spend lots of time with Sarah, our daughters, and other close family and friends.
- Strength: I hope to sleep well, exercise well, and be in the outdoors a lot.

Thank you for the gift of this sabbatical for my family and me. Pray that the Lord would use this time of ceasing to bring renewal in all of us. We'll see you again in August!

Grace and peace of our Savior+
Corey Widmer

COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT WITH THE CAC



Third member, Holly Smith, came up with the vision for the incredible completed project you see in this picture! She, along with Fotna Soliman from the Christian Arabic Church, spearheaded this beautiful tapestry that is now hanging in the Fellowship Hall. It is filled with modified hieroglyphic symbols which date back to as early as 3300 B.C. Learning and practicing together, they used a decorative applique technique call Khayamiya or tenting. Check it out next time you are in that part of that building - many thanks to all of them for this wonderful collaboration!



Third's New Graphics and Publications Designer

Hi, I'm Chris! I was born and raised in Maryland, but I moved to Richmond seven years ago to transfer to VCU, where I got a BFA in Graphic Design. I became actively involved in the community of Redemption Hill Church, where I met my wife, Bethany. Since we got married three years ago, we've been living in a loft apartment downtown in Scott's Addition, surrounded by breweries and restaurants with our cat, Mowgli. In the last few months we've bought our first house together in the Northside! We've also been active members of Third Church and the City North parish group for the last year, and are excited to meet more of you as we continue to deepen our relationships within our neighborhood and community.



MISSIONS UPDATES

UPCOMING SHORT TERM TRIPS

This summer we have teams going across the globe for many different mission opportunities! If you're interested in joining us for future trips, or learning more about missions opportunities, please reach out to Rebecca Hatton (rebeccah@thirdrva.org). If you'd like to support these teams, we would love for you to pray about contributing to our mission scholarship and training fund, kicking off later this month.

STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION

JULY 29 - AUGUST 5

We're planning to return to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation July 29 – August 5, 2018. We plan to support our mission partners Native Young Life and Saint Luke's Episcopal by assisting with a three-day Young Life camp for middle and high school students. The Camp will be at Camp Gabriel on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

There are still spots available to serve on this team! Find more info at: thirdrva.org/events.

EGYPT

MAY 29 - JUNE 8

A small team from Crestwood Presbyterian, the Christian Arabic Church (CAC) and Third will travel together to Egypt. CAC and Third are looking for a sister church in Egypt that we can adopt together. This means we will go on trips annually or semi-annually to see our partners as well as host some of them here in Richmond.

Please pray for and support this team!

FRANCE

JULY 19 - JULY 29

A team from the music department and other volunteers will join our mission partners, Paul & Reinheld Sydnor, in Lille, France. The Sydnor's serve the refugee population and hope to establish a center to assist them since nothing like this exists. Lille is one of the primary areas where refugees and immigrants either come to or pass through to another destination.

Please pray for and support this team!

MEXICO

JULY 1 - JULY 9

Our youth short-term mission team will travel to Mexico to build a home alongside a Mexican family. The new home will transform the life of this family and our youth as they serve and work together over the course of the week.

Please pray for and support this team!

MISSIONS UPDATES



On May 13 we will begin collecting our annual short-term mission offering. This year's offering will have a diverse impact going toward a new sister-church partnership in Egypt, assisting refugees in France, helping a family receive a home, and serving a population of native Indians in need. Please plan to give generously toward these trips considering not only the impact on those we serve but on those who go.



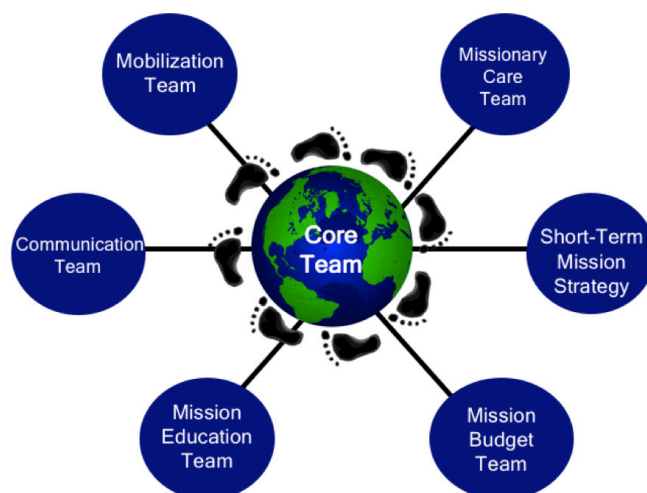
Participants on the Egypt trip: Missions Pastor LJ Jaworski, CAC Pastor Fakhri Yacoub, and Andi Redmond

THIRD'S MISSION TEAM IS EXPANDING!

Our Third mission team meets on the second Monday of every month in the multi-purpose room of the office building from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Oftentimes we hear from one of our local mission partners and then have a time of brainstorming. We are hoping to launch several teams in the future and this is one way in which we are doing this—by inviting you to come and join us! Our next meeting is May 14th. Our goal is to have multiple teams that have a specific focus so we can utilize the many gifts of our Third family.

Want to hear more? Either come out to our next meeting or contact LJ Jaworski (lj@thirdrva.org). Do you like coffee? LJ is a big fan and would love to meet with you and hear more about your interest for local and/or global mission. Here is a picture of the teams we are beginning to form. We'd love you to join us!



NEWS & EVENTS

FAMILY ADVENTURE WEEK



JUNE 25-28, 5:30-8:00 P.M.

**JOIN US FOR 4 DAYS OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP,
AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT JESUS!**

Families will eat together in the Fellowship Hall and then rotate as a family unit throughout the building for Bible Drama, Crafts, and Recreation. We will also be collecting an offering each evening to support our Student Ministry's summer mission trip to Mexico.

We are so excited about this week and this opportunity for families to learn and engage with God's Great Adventure together!

This event is free and open to the Third Family and to the public, but you must pre-register to attend both the event and dinner each evening. Middle and high school students are welcome to attend as participants with their families too!

FULL SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION:

thirdrva.org/events

VOLUNTEERS: We can't do this event without youth and adult volunteers. Volunteer descriptions and registration are available at thirdrva.org/events. Youth volunteers must be rising 6th grade and older.

THE MAKERS SERIES



Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday evening May 11 for the next installment of the Makers Series, an evening focused on the messiness of pursuing a life in the arts. Doors open and refreshments served at 6:30, the conversation begins at 7:00.

From design to performance, the arts are nearly inescapable in our daily lives, and we often go so far as to define and judge nations and peoples by the cultural artifacts they make. Yet for those working in nearly every creative field today, concepts like "professionalism," "career," and "success" are especially difficult to define, much less maintain.

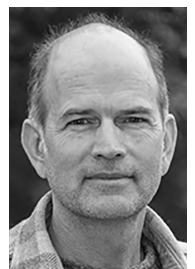
Our presenters for this edition of the Makers Series include a poet (Allison Seay), a painter (Jim Mott), and a trumpeter (Garret Holland), who are following very different paths in their creative callings, and will give us distinctive insights into the possibilities and pitfalls of pursuing a vocation in the arts.



Allison Seay



Garrett Holland



Jim Mott

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.



MAY 20

NIGHT TO REMEMBER

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Join us as we celebrate our high school seniors and Student Ministry volunteers with this very special dinner. On this night we remember God's faithfulness to our students and pray for them as they prepare to graduate high school. All are welcome to join us for dinner.

RSVP through at thirdrva.org/events by May 11!



MAY 19

PIZZA AND A MOVIE: WONDER

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Mosaic Ministry is sponsoring a showing of the movie *Wonder*. *Wonder* follows the inspiring story of the Pullman family, whose youngest child, Auggie, is a boy born with facial differences. When Auggie enters mainstream elementary school for the first time, his extraordinary journey unites his family, his school, and his community, and proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

After the movie we will have a panel of students who will answer questions from the audience about disabilities. ***This showing is designed for children and their parents without disabilities to better love and understand those with disabilities!***

MORE INFO AND TO SIGN UP (\$3/adults, \$2/kids): thirdrva.org/events



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



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



**FORGOTTEN
NO MORE**
A MINISTRY OF THIRD CHURCH

May is National Foster Care Month! Did you know that there are 5000 children in foster care in Virginia. 700 of these children have parental rights terminated and are waiting for a forever family. In 2016, 464 children aged out of the foster care system before becoming adopted. Henrico County has 92 foster children and just 45 foster families.

What is Foster Care? The goal of a foster family is to provide temporary care for a child with the goal of reunification to the child's biological family. The child's plan for permanency may change to a goal of adoption, leading to an opportunity for a foster family to adopt the child. However, it is important that foster parents enter into care with the primary goal of seeking reunification of the foster child with their biological family.

For the month of May, Forgotten No More is partnering with Hope Tree Family Services, and will be encouraging us all to learn more about foster care and how we can support foster care children.

Are you interested in learning more about foster care or supporting the several families within our church community who are praying about becoming foster or adoptive parents? Here are some ways to learn more this month:

- Join us on **Thursday, May 17 @ 7pm for the next FNM Fellowship**. We'll discuss how to provide practical support, share personal stories, and pray for one another as we seek the Lord.
- On **Sunday, May 6 and 20**, we'll tie blue ribbons around the courtyard to represent the number of kids in foster care in Virginia. Come see the ribbons inbetween services and talk more with our FNM team.
- In our children's Sunday school classes, we're creating snack bags for a foster kids' movie night, and making journals for older foster children.
- We will also provide a way for you to pray for children in foster care throughout the month.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FOSTER CARE AND HOW YOU CAN SERVE AT:

THDRVA.ORG/FORGOTTEN-NO-MORE

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR JUNE: Friday, May 11. Submit to: beccap@thdrva.org