



The Promise of the Spirit

One of the most surprising things that Jesus ever says is perhaps “it is better for you that I go away” (John 16:7). How could that possibly be true? How many of us have wished that we could have more personal access to Jesus like the disciples did? How many of us have wished that we could be near him, ask him questions, see him face to face? How could it be true that after Jesus rises from the dead, it is better for us that he leave?

The answer is: the Holy Spirit. “I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you” (John 16:7, ESV).

Imagine if Jesus hadn’t gone away. Imagine a world of 2.2 billion Christians, all clamoring for the attention of a single divine-human being. Everyone hoping they can get a few minutes of his time. People groups from different languages and cultures vying for his consideration. Competitive jostling. Bidding wars. Hurt feelings.

Yes, it was *definitely* better that Jesus go away. In doing so, rather than take away his Presence, Jesus actually *intensified* his Presence. In ascending into heaven and sending the Holy Spirit, Jesus made it possible that his powerful Presence can be among us and within us! Every Christian has access to Jesus at any time, in any place, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

As we move through Eastertide toward Pentecost on June 9, we will begin a new sermon series together on the person of the Holy Spirit. The Series is called “The Promise of the Spirit,” because we’ll be looking at three key Old Testament texts that made remarkable claims about the coming of the Spirit and what he would do when he showed up for God’s people. We’ll be looking at each of these texts and how they were fulfilled in the New Testament, and ultimately asking how we draw on the gifts and power of the Spirit in our everyday lives.

Thank goodness Jesus left! In doing so, he has given us his greatest gift: his own intimate Presence through the person of the Spirit.

May 26 *The Promise for Thirsty Souls* Isaiah 44:1–4

June 2 *The Promise for Stony Hearts* Ezekiel 36:24–27

June 9 *The Promise for All People* Joel 2:28–32



PARISH AREA SUMMER GATHERING

In the past 16 months since we launched Parish life at Third, we have seen God at work in amazing ways through this ministry. We are growing as a community in love for God, love for God's people and love for God's purposes in our neighborhoods and in our city. These are snapshots of New Creation, heaven and earth meeting in our streets and in our homes.

As we begin this summer season of Parish Life at Third, we want to offer an easy opportunity for you to connect with others who live near you, meet your Shepherding Elders and Deacons, and get a small taste of what is happening in Parish Groups.

On June 2nd, we'll be hosting gatherings across the city, in each parish area, to share food, meet one another, and enjoy the start of summer.

We did this in September and over 700 of you came out to connect with their neighbors! We're excited to do it again. So on June 2, each Parish Area will gather from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and we want you to be there. There's no homework, no qualifications, no commitment needed. We're just inviting everyone to come, eat some good food, meet your Third neighbors and leaders, and experience some community in your own backyard.

No matter where you are right now or what your circumstances are, Parish Life is here to serve you and help you connect with God's mission and God's people where you actually live.

Find all the details for your Area Gathering by checking thirdva.org/parish-life in the coming weeks.

4TH SERVICE

A SUMMER EXPERIMENT

On May 19, June 9 and July 14, we will be holding a Parish Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m.

This will be an experimental worship service in which one or two (or three!) Parish Areas will be encouraged to attend and worship with those in their Parish Area communities. The services will be led by leaders of the Parish Area, and include live worship music and preaching led by one of our preaching pastors. These worship services will be more informal and interactive than those held in the sanctuary.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? Given the constraints of our sanctuary, we are experimenting with new ways to open up more space in our sanctuary so that our church can continue to grow. We are also seeking fresh ways to deepen the culture of Parish Life in our church, and a service like this one allows a Parish Area community to gather and grow together in a dynamic, Christ-centered way. Come by and check it out, even if your Parish Area is not included.

City North / City South

MAY 19 | 11:15 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Grove Parish

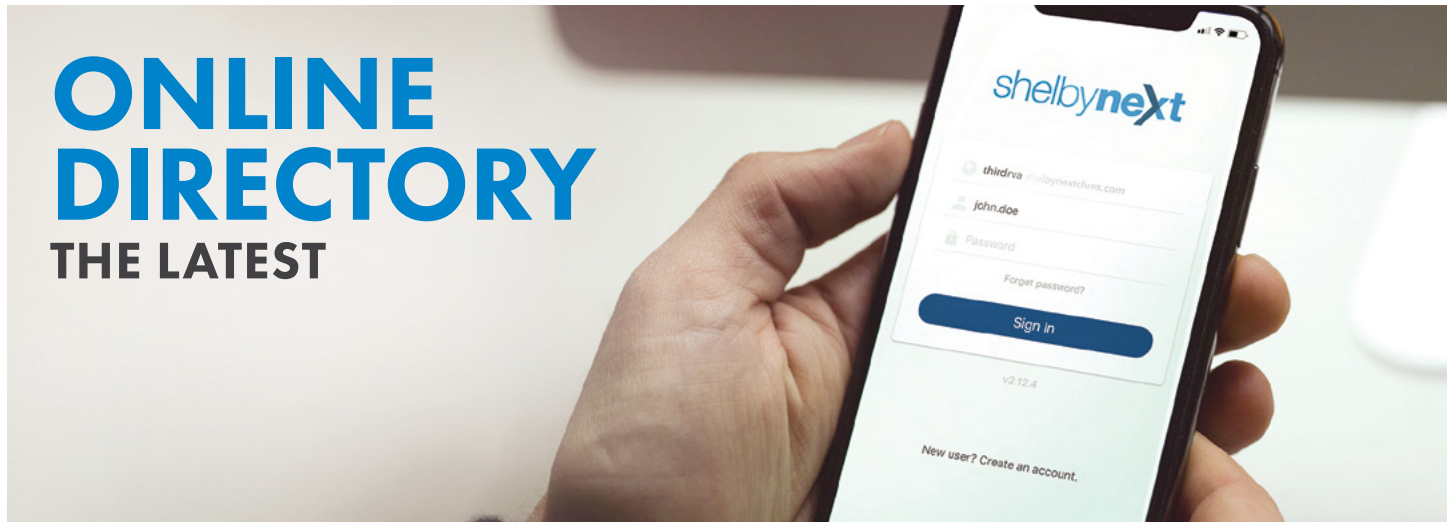
JUNE 9 | 11:15 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Northwest / Chesterfield / City East

JULY 14 | 11:15 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

ONLINE DIRECTORY

THE LATEST

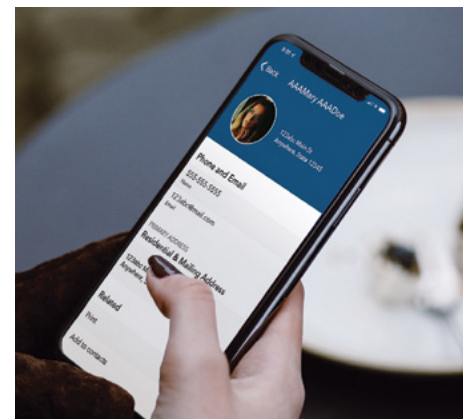


HAVE YOU JOINED THE OTHER 400+ MEMBERS OF THE THIRD FAMILY IN OUR DIRECTORY?

So we rolled out our online directory and you might be wondering how we're doing. So far, 413 of you are now enrolled in the directory and able to connect with one another! What a terrific start!

Remember, it's never too late get in the directory. Simply go to thirdrva.org/enroll at any time to enroll. And don't forget: if you don't register to be in it, no one else can find you to connect with you. So if you haven't already, join the hundreds of others in the directory, and begin connecting today.

And as always, you can call Valerie Holland at the office (242-4645) or email her at valerieh@thirdrva.org for any assistance. For more background on the directory and some FAQ, visit thirdrva.org/directory.



CALLED AS WITNESSES

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

JOIN US THIS WEEKEND!

Celebrate the call and the cost of being God's witnesses in Egypt and here at home.

Friday Night Worship

Friday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Dr. Tharwat brings stories, testimonies, and teaching along with Middle Eastern worship.

Saturday Family Adventure

Saturday, May 4, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

“Experience Egypt” in a hands-on encounter with Egyptian culture, Arabic songs, folk dances, food, and more.

Saturday Evening Family Dinner

Saturday, May 4, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a traditional Egyptian dinner followed by Dr. Tharwat's keynote message. RSVP online for the free dinner!

Sunday Morning Family Adventure and Dessert Auction

Sunday morning, May 5, in the Fellowship Hall

“Experience Egypt” exhibit meets the Student Ministry Dessert Auction — your opportunity to support Student Summer Mission by taking home delicious homemade treats.

Sunday Afternoon Lunch and Learning

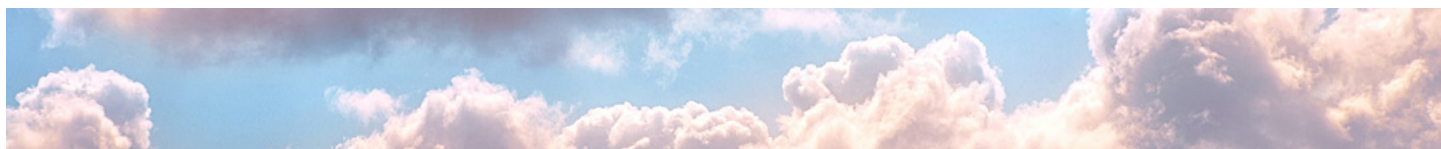
Sunday, May 5, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 101

Rev. Jen Haddox, the ECO Global Engagement Director will encourage you with updates on the state of global engagement within our denomination and our presbytery, focusing on Third's pioneering efforts.

Sunday Evening Worship

Sunday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Conclude your amazing weekend experience — and launch yourself into the new week — by worshipping with the Christian Arabic Church.



LEGACY AND OPPORTUNITY:

THE MISSION SCHOLARSHIP AND TRAINING FUND

Join us as we aim to raise \$25,000 for mission trips and mission training this year!

Third has a strong legacy in local and global mission. There are many ways you can be involved even if you are not actually going out on the mission field. Some may be goers, some senders and others may advance mission work through prayer. Collectively, we are raising funds for two short-term mission trips this summer.

“...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8



Third Church is returning to Port-au-Prince, Haiti this July to serve our partners at Haiti Outreach Ministries and Hope United. Our team of 35 includes doctors, nurses, and pharmacists that will practice in Cite Soliel, the poorest city in the Western Hemisphere. We'll also bring a construction team to work in nearby La Mer Frappee, and a VBS team to teach little ones about Christ at two additional locations. This is a deep, long standing relationship, and continues to be a fruitful opportunity to bring hope to one another.

The team needs approximately \$15,000 for medicine and other medical supplies, construction materials (for home repairs) and VBS materials.



Each summer we want our students to experience God at work in them and through them with a trip meant to serve others. As the 2018 hurricane season brought so much destruction to the Carolinas we felt compelled to join God in what he's doing through organizations in that area.

Our students will be working with Praying Pelican Missions doing home maintenance and cleanup, such as mucking and gutting as well as painting and landscaping in hopes of improving the quality of life of the residents. The students will also be working with local children, leading VBS-style activities.

Short-term mission trips expand the reach of our church beyond our geographic area. Please commit to pray for our teams and give generously as we raise funds to serve in Haiti and North Carolina. ***You can give using the envelopes found in the pews beginning May 5th,*** or give online: thirdrva.org/generosity.

BETH BALAKE

MISSION PARTNER UPDATE

Attendees of Third Church are fortunate to be exposed to excellent teachers, preachers, and servants of the Lord. Many are covenant partners or on staff—but some are mission workers who visit us for just a short time, from far away. In a way, these are our “Pauls”!

One such person is Beth Baleke, a Ugandan Christian worker who is a relatively new mission partner to Third, though she’s a seasoned missionary in the field.

Do you ever have a hard time imagining all the places and people to whom Paul ministered? How did he do it all?! You might also be challenged to hear the schedule Beth keeps, as she organizes and participates in ministry across many people groups in several nations. She goes where God leads, and she relies heavily on his strength and grace. The work is bearing abundant fruit.

Beth Baleke serves as the Scripture Union (SU) Uganda Missionary and helps SU Africa realize its vision and mission across Ethiopia, South Sudan and Tanzania, as well. Scripture Union in Africa is a highly regarded Christian organization that nurtures children and youth holistically and helps people engage with God through the Bible, that they may follow Jesus Christ and be instrumental in transforming Africa. Beth has served in this ministry for several decades.

Beth’s work is not without cost to her, but you would not quickly know that, as she brings such joy to every encounter. If you have the honor of meeting her, you will also note the seriousness of her call and recognize the Source of her power.



Part of what Beth does is to promote thoughtful and systematic Bible reading in schools and churches. It’s amazing the inroads that God has made into African schools in these nations through Beth, and so many thousands of children are regularly hearing the Gospel because of that.

Do you picture Beth sitting in an office? Sometimes she is. More often, though, Beth is on the move—personally helping at refugee camps in the South Sudan, leading youth in Value Studies in schools in Ethiopia, meeting with government officials to gain access to more kids in Tanzania, or overseeing a huge Christian kids’ camp in her own country of Uganda. That’s a mere sampling.

Come to learn more about God’s work in Eastern Africa on May 19. What will God teach us for our own mission work, in our own neighborhoods and nation through her? Please join Fritz and Val Kling as they introduce Beth to our community and hear stories of God’s amazing grace and the advancement of the Gospel in our sister nations. Come and be inspired.

Meet Beth: Sunday, May 19, 12:30 p.m. in Room 101

Beth will be in the Richmond area from May 7 to May 20, staying with longtime friends Fritz and Val Kling. She would love to meet you! If you want to meet Beth, reach out to Val Kling (val@klingpg.com) or come to a free lunch after services (around 12:30 p.m.) on Sunday, May 19 in Room 101.

FORGOTTEN NO MORE



NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

May is national Foster Care month! It is a time to recognize that we each can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care. Strengthening families and focusing on their well-being is the key to building strong communities. How can you be involved? There are over 5000 children in foster care in Virginia. 600 are waiting for adoptive families. The rest need a loving and caring temporary home as they work towards reunification or permanency.

Forgotten No More has developed a partnership, along with several churches in our county, with our local Henrico Department of Social Services in order to support the work they do. Henrico DSS currently has 121 kids in foster care, and just 51 foster families. There has been an urgent need for the placement of older youth, but they have such a shortage of foster families in general, that they would have no idea what they would do if a baby came into care! Could that be you?

Henrico DSS currently has 121 kids in foster care, and just 51 foster families.

Responding to God's call to care for orphans, foster children, and their families.

COMMUNITY PARTNERING

As part of our partnership with Henrico DSS and local churches, Third Church will be hosting the next Foster Parent Night Out on Saturday, May 11. We are so excited that the Grove parish group has taken this on as part of their "Out" week. Could your group lead the next one?

Looking for ways to get involved? Find us in the courtyard and out by the playground on Sunday, May 19.

THANK YOU FROM THE GETTERS

Third Family, we cannot express enough our gratitude for your generosity these last two months since we have taken in our foster boys. We became a foster family, realizing it would be a challenge and concerned if we'd have support. But we have experienced the body of Christ, and know we have not been doing this alone. From the moment we first knew we would be fostering three young boys, the Third community has been there to support our family. We especially want to thank the Forgotten No More ministry and the Northwest Parish group for coordinating so much support with everything from meals to diaper runs. Having specific needs met has allowed us time and space to focus on our children's many needs. More than anything, we thank you for your prayers. We have seen God's hand at work in our lives and the lives of these boys. Please continue to lift us up in prayer.

– Doug and Megan Getter, and Matthew, Nathan, Colin, Zua'ammon, Trey, and ZaZa



God is calling many new people to Third. We have recently completed Newcomers Classes in January and March. Please take time to pray for these new covenant partners and seek to meet them and get to know them.

JANUARY NEWCOMERS CLASS

On January 27, 2019 we had 16 people join Third as Covenant Partners.



Wanda & Robert Bass
CHESTERFIELD PARISH



Carol Broaddus
CHESTERFIELD PARISH



Alex & Kurt Dieringer
CITY NORTH PARISH



Samatha Fallon
MOORELAND PARISH



Kelly & Jim Gregory
CITY SOUTH PARISH



Sultan Hubbard
CITY NORTH PARISH



Andrew & Katie Intihar
THREE CHOPT PARISH



Andy Keller
CITY NORTH PARISH



Aaron & Katie Mullins
CITY NORTH PARISH



Margaret Rawls
CITY NORTH PARISH



Beth York
CHESTERFIELD PARISH

MARCH NEWCOMERS CLASS

On March 24, 2019 we had 22 people join Third as Covenant Partners.



Brent Ballard
NORTHWEST PARISH



Donald & Betty Brantley
THREE CHOPT PARISH



Jeff & Christine Corbett
RIDGE PARISH



Anna Demeter
CITY NORTH PARISH



Alex & Heather Goulart
RIDGE PARISH



Mallory Hansen
GROVE PARISH



Jane Hundley
NORTHWEST PARISH



Peggy Pavell
CITY NORTH PARISH



Stepha & Peter Phillips
CITY SOUTH PARISH



Susan Rawls
CHESTERFIELD PARISH



Caitlin Reynolds
CITY SOUTH PARISH



Matt & Anna Shenk
CITY NORTH PARISH



Bill Stewart
CITY NORTH PARISH



Brian & Rhonda Van Huss
NORTHWEST PARISH



Gary & Julie Wilson
GROVE PARISH



MY HOUSE IN MISSION

A seven-week intergenerational Sunday school class

“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

No matter your age or stage, from Kindergarten to Senior adults, your house can be a place where God’s mission is at the center. Join us for this seven-week intergenerational Sunday school class in which, together with some of our mission partners, we’ll explore the practices of hearing God’s word, prayer, hospitality, generosity, networking and reaching out in the name of Jesus from our homes. This class is open to all in the church, and children kindergarten and older are encouraged to attend with their parents.

Class begins **Sunday, June 16** and runs through the end of July at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We know families travel in the summer but we encourage you to attend when you are able!



WILD & WONDERFUL CAMP

God and Nature Camp for Preschoolers and Kindergartners

We’re so excited for this special camp designed to begin the process of developing a Biblical worldview as children discover the amazing and creative God we have while exploring nature! This exciting offering will be available for children who will be 4 by September 30 through rising 1st grade.

When: Wednesdays, July 24, 31, August 7, 14

Cost: \$5 a week

Sign up: thirdrva.org/registrations

Questions? Contact Kathy White at kathyw@thirdrva.org



SAM JACKSON CHARITY GOLF OUTING

Each year T.G.I.F., Third Golfers in Fellowship, hosts this annual golf outing that brings together golfers (of all skill levels!) and raises money for a mission partner!

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 of golfers and non-golfers, and is open too all: men, women, and teens. Sign up as individuals or pairs, and you'll be placed on teams.

COST: \$85; covers greens fees, golf cart, range balls, lunch afterwards, and a \$25 donation to Urban Hope.

ABOUT URBAN HOPE: Urban Hope is a faith-based affordable housing nonprofit focused on the East End of Richmond, helps clients gain financial management skills, provides safe, quality, affordable housing, and walks alongside clients looking to begin the pathway to home ownership.

Sign up to play and/or sponsor a hole: thirdrva.org/events.

Dear Third Family,

Thank you so much for the outpouring of love and support you have shown my family throughout Dru's illness and after his passing.

Our family has not walked this journey alone. Thank you, friends, for walking through this with us. We have been blessed by the care and concern you have shown our family, that has been tangibly expressed through your prayers, meals, cards, calls, texts, and words of encouragement.

And to those of you who served our family by contributing delicious food and your gift of time to the reception after Dru's celebration of life, THANK YOU! It was amazing to witness the body of Christ coming together to serve us so beautifully. I have had several friends who do not attend our church comment on how lovely the reception was.

We are grateful for our Third Church family.

With love,

Jennifer Fitch and Family

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

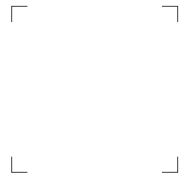
In this new monthly feature in the Press, we plan to share with you the scheduled baptisms and dedications for the upcoming month. As a church family, we know it's important for you to be able to attend these sacraments for people within your community, your parish area, or perhaps a new friend you recently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

MAY 12

11:15 a.m. Kenley Grey Dieringer, daughter of Kurt and Alex Dieringer (City North Parish)



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 JUNE: FRIDAY, MAY 17. SUBMIT TO: BECCAP@THDRVA.ORG