



THIRD PRESS

November 2017



LETTER FROM COREY

One of the great paradoxes at the heart of the gospel is life through death. If you start looking for this theme in the Bible, you see it everywhere. You see it at the very beginning when God himself must kill and skin animals to cover Adam and Eve in their nakedness. You see it when Abraham receives his son Isaac back into his arms after nearly sacrificing him at God's command. You see it when Samson tears down the temple on top of himself in order to save his people from slavery and oppression. And of course, you see this theme culminate in the cross of Jesus Christ, when God incarnate gives his own life away for the sake of the world.

Life through Death. This theme, as harsh and initially unappealing as it first sounds, is one of the great secrets to a flourishing life. Jesus said it clearly: "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

But what does this really mean for our everyday lives? One giant application of this theme is in our call as followers of Jesus to be generous people. Over and over throughout the Bible, we are exhorted to "lose ourselves" by giving our time, talents and treasures for the love of God and neighbor. The promise however is clear: we give in order to gain; we lose our resources in order to recover life itself. When we experience "financial death" for the sake of others, we find spiritual resurrection in all sorts of surprising ways. We find grace—perhaps surprisingly.

This paradox of the surprising grace of giving is what we're exploring in a five-week sermon series on generosity which began Oct. 29. We're not just looking at financial generosity, but also numerous ways we are called to give ourselves and our resources for God's work. In every case, we find life through our loss, we find grace through our giving.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Corey Widmer
Lead Pastor

Rev. Ed Satterfield
Executive Pastor

Rev. Derek Mondeau
Pastor of Discipleship &
Parish Ministry

Rev. Rick Hutton
Associate Pastor for Students
(grades 6 – 12, College)

Laurie Jaworski
Mission Pastor

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

New Series

GIVE: THE SURPRISING GRACE OF GIVING

OCT 29: The Grace of Giving, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

NOV 5: The Grace of Giving our Money, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

NOV 12: The Grace of Giving our Time, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

NOV 19: The Grace of Giving our Families, Galatians 3:27-4:7

NOV 26: The Grace of Giving our Lives, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

MEET DEREK

WELCOME DEREK MONDEAU AS PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & PARISH MINISTRY



We are excited to announce Derek Mondeau (pronounced mon-DEW) as Third's new Pastor of Discipleship and Parish Ministry. Derek is a discipler, a shepherd, a visionary, a preacher, and an evangelist. Equipping and motivating believers to live their God-gifted potential

in witnessing communities gives him great joy. A Clarksville, Virginia native, Derek graduated from University of North Carolina—Greensboro and received his Master of Divinity from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. At Gordon Conwell, Derek received the Parish Pulpit Fellowship, which he used to pursue additional studies in preaching at New College, University of Edinburgh.

For the past 14 years Derek has ministered with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IV), half of that alongside his wife Sue, as Campus Staff and Team

Leaders at the University of Virginia. Most recently, Derek served as the Shenandoah Area Director for IV, overseeing ministry to 1,100 students at UVA and JMU. During that time, God grew IV at UVA from a single chapter of 40 students to a multi-chapter, multi-ethnic community of 500 students who disciple one another and welcome skeptics and seekers into a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ.

With a passion for people and for bringing Christ-centered reconciliation to areas of tension and uncertainty, Derek is enthusiastic about applying his experience training leaders and overseeing UVA's geographic network of missional communities to the challenge of Third's new parish model. Derek, Sue, and their two sons Fisher (7) and Remi (4) are eager to begin getting to know the people and communities of Third Church and to continue sharing their gifts of fellowship, creativity, and hospitality with their new RVA neighbors.

As the Mondeaus demonstrate from their own lives, it is out of a deep, authentic experience of Jesus in community that we proclaim Jesus together. We are blessed to be welcoming a Pastor of Discipleship and Parish Ministry so suited to helping us experience Christ more deeply at Third, so that we can share the love of God with our neighbors more powerfully.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

LEADERSHIP UPDATE: 2017 SESSION MEETING UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- Approval of baptism for: Caleb Boyce, Nellie Payne, Nora Bigelow, Theodore Bishop, Bennett Schmidt, Lily Avula, Charles Mendez, Evelyn Phillips, and Beatrice and Wren Clarke, whose parents attended baptism classes on Sept. 17 and 24, 2017.
- Scott Cox and Ed Satterfield heard Nate Clarke's Faith Testimony and recommend him to be received as a Covenant Member by reaffirmation of faith.

SESSION COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Strategic Planning - Working Group 1 presented their work on exploring possible changes to Third's branding including reasons to consider changing the name of the church. The Session committed to a period of discernment over the consideration of a name change. We appreciate your prayers for this time of discerning the Lord's will.

PERSONNEL

- A motion was approved to appropriate funds for the immediate hire of an Administrative Assistant Database Administrator. Search for this position has begun.
- John White's job title and duties finalized. John's title is now Pastor for Worship and Care reflecting the addition to his responsibilities for overseeing Pastoral care, visitation with Third's homebound folks and his leadership in funeral planning.

CONVERSATION ABOUT RELATIONSHIP WITH EAST END FELLOWSHIP

- East End Fellowship has requested entering into a period of discernment with Third's leadership about defining the future relationship between Third and EEF.
- A team of five representatives from Third will be meeting with the elders from EEF in the coming weeks.

EAST CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

The ECO Presbytery that Third is part of will be dividing into two Presbyteries in January 2018. Third will continue in the East Central Presbytery which will consist of churches from Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

- We met Oct. 6-7 at First Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg.
- Nine congregations are in the process of joining the ECO in our Presbytery area.
- Eternity Church has joined the ECO and was warmly welcomed at our meeting.
- Commissioners are being finalized for the ECO National Gathering Jan. 23-25 in Houston, TX. Third will have eight commissioners and several other staff present for the meetings.

SPECIAL SESSION MEETING TUESDAY, OCT. 10

Session unanimously approved the hiring of Derek Mondeau as Assistant Pastor for Discipleship and Parish Ministry to begin on Nov. 1, 2017. We are excited about what he will bring to the Parish ministry at Third.



STRATEGIC PLANNING



get ready, get set....GO!

Preparing Our Hearts, Minds, and Lives for the Parish Model

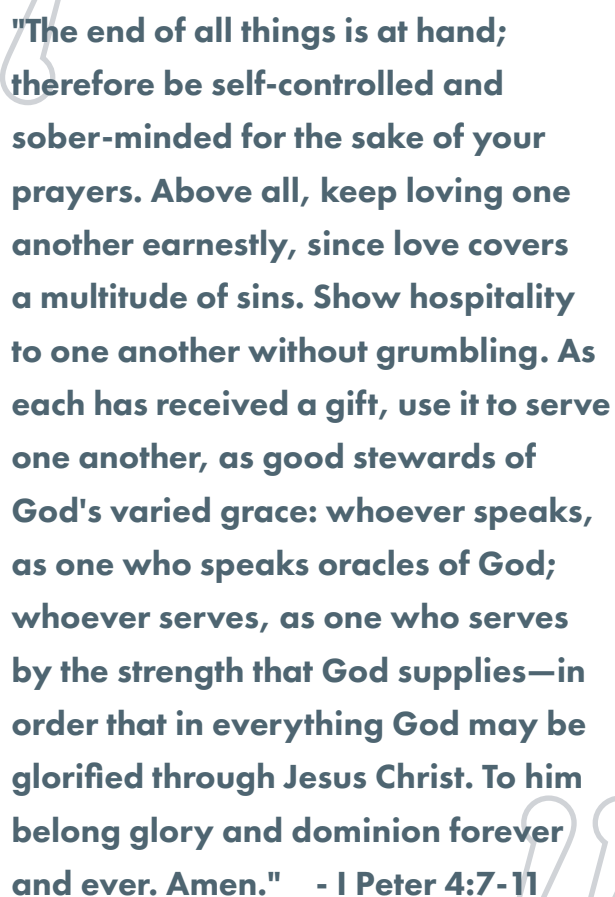
WE'RE GETTING READY FOR LAUNCHING INTO A NEW PARISH-BASED MODEL OF CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP BY PRAYING.

We're praying that God will help us to be open in heart and home—open to receiving care from our parish elders and deacons, open to learning together with nearby church friends, and open to reaching out to our neighbors. As we pray for openness, God enlarges our hearts!

We're getting set for the parish launch in January by reading in the Bible about how God moves among and through His people. God often works through small groups of people to make big impacts. Read about how Gideon and his small army with their trumpets and empty jars defeated the Midianites in the book of Judges. Read in the book of Joshua about God's simple battle plan for Joshua and his men to circle the city walls for a week...and how the walls came tumbling down. Which enemies in our own lives would God have us battle? Which walls does he want us to circle together and bring down?

Read how God sent out first the twelve disciples and later the seventy disciples, into a crowded world full of dogmas and dangers—and about the Spirit's powerful movement through those disciples to draw many to himself. Instead of merely inviting people to a church, those New Testament believers, like Paul, often took the Good News out into the secular world to share, to explain, and to teach patiently—for several years, even—until people came to know and love the living Lord and his grace for their lives. As we also anticipate being sent out into our neighborhoods, it's helpful to learn more of these stories of God's faithfulness. God equips and sends us too.

Get ready, get set...go! How may we get going with the parish model? Look for those in the church who live near you and get together with them. Do you need help knowing who lives nearby? Anyone in leadership or on staff can help you with that. Let's begin to know one another better. The world will know we are Christians by our love! Practice hospitality with one or two or a dozen folks. Jesus himself often visited homes full of gathered people during his years of ministry. He is at it still! Ask that he lead you in opening your heart, mind, home and calendar for his purposes in your parish. To him be the glory!



"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." - I Peter 4:7-11

NEWCOMERS

Welcome to our new Covenant Partners! Please welcome them to the Third family, and get to know them.

The next Newcomers Class is scheduled to begin January 14, and run through the weekend of January 19-20. More info at: thirdrva.org/newcomers.



BETHANY & NATE
CLARKE



DREW CLEVELAND



LYNN BOWLING



STEPHANIE & NOEL
BROOKS



MARMI & BRAD
HOUFF



KENDALL & MATT
HRABAK



CASEY COMPTON



KARA DUNEGAN



CAROLYN & BOB
MCDONALD



GLORIA
MCDONALD



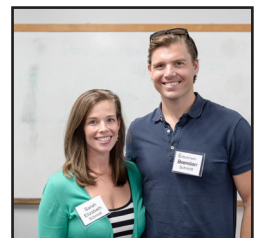
ROBIN & KEN
HURST



DREW JELINEK



RICHARD &
FRANNIE NANCE



SARAH-ELIZABETH &
BRENNEN SCHMIDT



MATT MLOT



SHAUN & DAN
MORTENSEN



HEATHER WARD



JULIA WARREN

MINISTRIES & COMMUNITY

Introducing A NEW MINISTRY AT THIRD: FORGOTTEN NO MORE

Forgotten No More seeks to captivate hearts and build community at Third around God's call to care for orphans and foster children, and their families.

Forgotten No More will seek to support the orphan community by Community Partnering and Wrap-Around.

COMMUNITY PARTNERING

The Richmond community is already at work caring for children in need. We desire to care for the families of our communities and those who work on their behalf by encouraging and collaborating with our local Department of Social Services (DSS):

- Encourage families to train to become foster parents for short-term, respite, or emergency foster care situations.
- Participate in a Ministry of Encouragement to DSS workers
- Collaborate with Henrico DSS in providing parenting classes

WRAP-AROUND

The journey of caring for children from hard places is rewarding and beautiful, but can also be challenging and exhausting. We desire to **wrap around** families as they respond to God's call to care for the needs of the orphan. Some of the ways we can show our love and support:

- Family Mentors/Shepherding Team - local team provides prayer, encouragement and support
- Welcome Home Kit - resources and contacts to support caring for children, including those with medical and emotional needs
- Practical Needs - provide meals, errands, babysitting, pet care, yard work, language translation
- Financial Assistance

We will learn about this new ministry at Third, the needs of orphans in the Richmond community, and share specific ways we can be a part of the solution. There will be opportunities for people of all ages to get involved, including children!



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUSTICE CLASS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

10:00 A.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL

Forgotten No More will be featured during this Sunday school hour. Mike Murchie will share how God has lit a passion for the needs of orphans worldwide and families in the US foster care system. He'll share how through Forgotten No More, God is building community at Third where we all have the opportunity to participate in this calling, inviting you to join.

ORPHAN SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, ALL SERVICES

Join us at our worship services as we celebrate the love of the God who "defends the cause of the fatherless" and calls us to do the same. Pastor Corey Widmer will share how God's true character and the Gospel itself becomes visible as God's people explore and respond to His heart for the orphan in adoption, foster care, and global orphan ministry.

FORGOTTEN NO MORE LAUNCH LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

12:30 P.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL

Interested in learning more about Forgotten No More or finding out where you fit in? This is the place for you. Join on us for our lunch launch! We'll hear from Janet Kelly, President of Virginia's Kids Belong. Register for this free lunch at thirdrva.org/events.

UPCOMING EVENTS: NOV. & DEC.

NOV. 5

FAITH COMMITMENT SUNDAY

On Nov. 5, we'll make our financial commitments to the church for the year to come. Making a commitment helps ensure that we can invest and participate in the work of grace the Lord is doing. Pray with us, and join us in celebrating God's great grace as we bring our Faith Commitment cards on Nov. 5.



NOV. 19

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

12:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for officer elections and facility planning updates (with Working Group 4). Pick up a copy of the handout placed around the church to get to know each of our nominated officers!



NOV. 26

FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Join us to kick-off the Advent season! During the Sunday School hour, parents and children between the ages of 4 and 4th grade are invited to attend this celebration together.

We hope everyone can join us! No RSVP necessary!

*Regular Sunday school for ages 4 - 4th grade will not meet.

DEC. 3

LESSONS & CAROLS

7 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for this special interactive service of worship and reading scripture. It is a great opportunity to begin the Advent season reflecting on Scripture and praying for God's coming son.

DEC. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

10 a.m. Sunday Morning Service, Sanctuary

Special Sunday service on the morning of Christmas Eve, featuring a choral presentation of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and a homily from Rick Hutton.

4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. Evening Services in the Sanctuary

Join us as we anticipate the coming birth of the newborn King. All four services will be identical, except communion will be served at the 10 p.m. service. Please plan to worship with us, and bring your families and friends!



NOTES FROM THE THIRD FAMILY

"The family and I appreciate so very much the many prayers, visits, and other expressions of concern for Jack over the past several years. We truly felt we were part of a large and loving family from Third Church. We weep and rejoice at the same time. You have blessed us mightily." – Martha Schilthuis

Jack Schilthuis, former Parish Associate at Third, passed away peacefully on Oct. 4.



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



RECAPPING

2ND GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION & DINNER

On Oct. 22, Third's second grade students and their families gathered for our annual dinner and Bible presentation. This presentation is one of Third's Faith Milestones, markers on the path of a child's spiritual development. This year we presented 18 students with their very own Adventure Bible. Our prayer is that these emerging readers will bring their Bibles to church each week, that they will read God's word and put it at the center of their lives.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity."

- 1 Timothy 4:12



THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER: Tuesday, Nov. 7. Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org