

## GRATITUDE



“Gratitude is the basis of all holiness.  
The most holy person you know is  
the most grateful person you know.”


RONALD ROLHEISER

During my sabbatical this past summer, I decided to study the subject of gratitude. Over the last few years as I have moved into the solidly “middle age” category, I noticed that I was growing in negativity and cynicism. My life was lacking in joy, an attribute that the Bible overwhelmingly describes as a mark of the mature Christian life. I didn’t see much of it in mine. When I talked to a friend about it, he suggested I work on cultivating gratitude. So during my three months away, I read several books about gratitude, informally “interviewed” some grateful people, and prayed for and sought a grateful heart in my own personal life.

At the heart of gratitude, I’ve learned, is awareness that all of life is grace. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17). Everything is a gift. Air, light, soil, water. Friendship, community, family. Food, wine, coffee (!). We live on a graced planet. Nothing is earned, nothing is deserved. All of life is grace.

And the grace of our Lord is wastefully generous. God could have made one kind of bird—instead he made 10,000 species of winged color. He could have made food taste all the same, supplying our need for daily nourishment—instead he created an environment that can produce the likes of curry, jambalaya, and apple pie. He made a world where ants build hills, water falls from the sky, and leaves change colors and regenerate in a matter of months. There is enough wonder and delicious diversity in our world to keep a person in awe for a lifetime. ➤



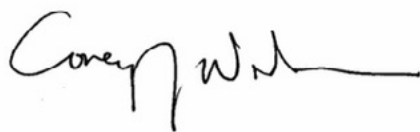



The degree to which we are aware of this truth is a measure of our gratitude. Plenty of people notice our world, but gratitude goes beyond observation to receiving reality as a gift. It was the original lie of the serpent that God is distant and uncaring, and that we humans should go it alone. This is still the lie that humans believe; in fact, in our culture we are taught that independence and self-sufficiency make for the good life. But the truth is the opposite—*dependence* on the all-sufficient Father makes for the good life. The grateful person lives in total awareness and reliance on the Father's good gifts every moment.

A breakthrough came for me when I realized that gratitude is not a passive disposition but a learned habit. It is a discipline of awareness to the Father's grace and our own response to it. Paul commands, "Give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thess. 5:18). Or just simply, "Be thankful" (Col. 4:2). I think I always considered gratefulness as something that *happened* to you when a happy, positive circumstance occurred. But Paul suggests exactly the opposite: the discipline of gratitude in the midst of any circumstance leads to joy. It is not the happy person who is grateful—it is the grateful person who is happy, whose eyes are open to the abundance of all things.

So how has this changed my life? On waking, I let my first words be words of thanksgiving. "Thank you Father, thank you Son, thank you Spirit..." Waking from sleep and having a new day to live in the mercy of the gospel is an amazing gift in itself. Then, throughout the day, I look for cues that prompt thanksgiving. My friend Bob Stamps taught me a simple prayer to utter every time you experience even the smallest good: a text from a friend, a sip of coffee, light filtering through the trees. "Hear the praise of this grateful heart" is a prayer that I now use innumerable times throughout the day. Before bedtime, I try to conduct a brief review of the day, what some have called the practice of "Examen." Doing so helps me remember the gifts of the day and to close my hours with thanks. I don't always keep these habits, but even the sporadic discipline of gratitude has awakened me to the Father's love and the gift of ordinary life. As Diana Butler Bass writes, "Everything is a gift. The degree to which we are awake to this truth is a measure of gratefulness, and gratefulness is a measure of our aliveness."

Want to be more alive? Cultivate gratitude. "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever!" (Psalm 107).



**COREY WIDMER**



Along with the significant growth in our congregation over the past several years, Third's staff has grown as well. Over the next several issues of the Press, we will highlight different parts of our staff team to familiarize you with each staff member, their duties and how you might interact with them.

Get to know the rest of our staff by visiting [thirdrva.org/leadership-and-staff](http://thirdrva.org/leadership-and-staff)

## GET TO KNOW THE STAFF OF THIRD CHURCH

### FINANCE AND OPERATIONS



**ALAN WARE** is Director of Finance and Administration. He has been with Third since the summer of 2015 with veteran experience in Church Administration having served Grove Avenue Baptist before coming to Third. Alan oversees all our operations, including our facility, custodial teams, IT and infrastructure, and our finances and staff benefits. He chairs the Session Budget and Stewardship Committee and is the Staff liaison with the Trustees. He oversees a team of around 10, directly supervising 5 staff. He and his wife Sonja attend Movement Church.



**LYNLEY STEADMAN** is Finance Accountant managing Third's budget and finances, doing payroll, financial analysis and reporting in support of the Budget and Stewardship Committee. She has served on staff since 2011 and attends Third with her husband David and children Will, Spencer and Claire. *When would you get in touch with Lynley?* She is the one to help you with all things financial: donations, stock gifts, problems with contribution statements, and reimbursements for ministry expenses. You can reach her at: [lynleys@thirdrva.org](mailto:lynleys@thirdrva.org).



**JANE WOOD** has served as Finance Associate since 2009. She processes contributions and accounts payable working Tuesdays and Wednesdays weekly. She and her husband Charlie attend Three Chopt Presbyterian.





**ALEX SAWYER** has served as Third's Technical Director since 2015. He oversees all of Third's technical needs and manages a team of people, both paid and volunteer to assist in providing the technical support for Third's worship and many weekly and weekend events, including weddings and funerals. He has been instrumental in recent upgrades and simplification of our sound and audio-visual equipment. He and his wife Hannah attend Third and are part of the worship team.



**STEPHANIE HOLT** is Third's Facility Manager. She came on staff this September at the Trustees recommendation to work closely with our custodial teams, overseeing and coordinating their work. She also oversees facility management and repair, working with contractor Michael Zacharias and Company to keep the facility in good shape. She works part time focused on project management and with our evening and weekend contract custodial crews. ***When would you get in touch with Stephanie?*** She is the person to contact on the weekend or Sunday morning for anything related to our facility and support of events. Reach her at: [stephanieh@thirdrva.org](mailto:stephanieh@thirdrva.org) or 804-370-1744.



**CATHY ALMOND** joined Third staff in February 2018. She schedules and coordinates all Third events, works with our custodial staff to manage all our set up and cleaning requirements, and keeps Third's calendar. Having formerly served the International Mission Board for the Baptist Church, she and her husband attend Redemption Hill. ***When would you get in touch with Cathy?*** She is the person to contact if you want to plan and schedule an event at Third. You can reach her at: [cathya@thirdrva.org](mailto:cathya@thirdrva.org).



**JONATHAN KNABE** assists Alex as part time Associate Technical Director. He began as a Music and Arts intern in the summer of 2017. Since then we have engaged his help to provide technical support for IT infrastructure, for worship and other Third events. He attends Third and East End Fellowship, and is part of the worship team.

**RICHARD WOMACK** is our Head Sexton, having served Third since 2009. Working our day shift, Richard provides set up and support for the many weekly activities taking place in the facility including Westminster Academy, Community Bible Study, and the multiple Women's and Men's Small Groups that meet during the week.

**CONTRACT CUSTODIAL STAFF** Third contracts with ServiceMaster for evening and weekend custodial services. We currently have two regular employees Donte and Chris that you will see in uniform weekday afternoons and evenings and on weekends including Sunday mornings.

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# WELCOMING OUR NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

On Sunday, September 30, the following people became new Covenant Partners of Third Church. Please welcome them into our church family and find opportunities to meet them and get to know them.



**KARIN ANDERSEN**  
*Northwest Parish*



**BRYCE AND  
LAUREN AUKER**  
*Gayton Parish*



**GINNY BOWIE**  
*City East Parish*



**JOHN AND  
JENNY DANIEL**  
*Chesterfield Parish*



**GREG AND  
PAIGE FISCHER**  
*City South Parish*



**MARISSA LEE**  
*Ridge Parish*



**JOHN AND BRENNAN  
MORRISSETT**  
*Grove Parish*



**SARA POMEROY**  
*City East Parish*



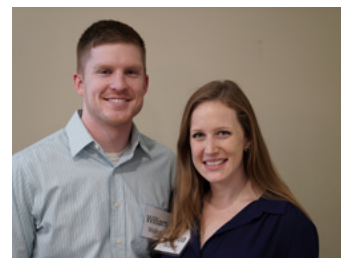
**MARY RODGERS**  
*Mooreland Parish*



**JASON AND  
KATIE SNOOK**  
*City North Parish*



**LANCE SONG  
AND EMILY PARK**  
*Grove Parish*



**WILLIAM AND  
LINNEA WALKER**  
*Ridge Parish*



**CHAD AND  
REBECCA WHITE**  
*Three Chopt Parish*

## OUR NEXT NEWCOMERS CLASS

*Sunday Morning, January 13 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.*

*Friday Evening, January 18 | 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. with dinner*

*Saturday, January 19 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.*

*Sunday, January 27 for those deciding to join as Covenant Partners*

*Sign up:* [thirdrva.org/newcomers](http://thirdrva.org/newcomers)

*Contact:* Beth N. Marriott ([bethn@thirdrva.org](mailto:bethn@thirdrva.org)) or 282-4645 ext 124 if you have questions.

*Childcare provided with a reservation by 1/6/2019 with Kathy White ([kathyw@thirdrva.org](mailto:kathyw@thirdrva.org))*



# THE BLESSINGS OF PARISH GROUP LEADERSHIP

*Bill and Jane Mims, and Kim Benson*

With all of our hectic, busy lives, you may ask why people would volunteer their limited, personal time to be parish group leaders. Kim, Bill, and I (Jane) can answer that question from our firsthand experience – the blessings of parish group leadership are abundant!

We lead the Wednesday evening Grove Parish meeting that typically has between 20 and 30 adults attending each week. We eat dinner together and then have our UP, IN, or OUT meeting, usually ending with prayer in small groups.

If you decide to become a parish group core leader, or help as part of the leadership team, you will receive more than you give. From Luke 6:38, “A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap!”

## Ever wondered what's involved in being a Parish Group Leader?

The Parish Life team is hosting an informational meeting on Sunday, November 4 for the purpose of sharing about Parish Group leadership from some of our current leaders. This is open for anyone interested in learning about Parish Group leadership.

**When:** Sunday, Nov 4 from 1-2 pm, lunch provided.

**Where:** Third Church, Adult Ed Room 217

**Format:** Brief Introduction to Parish Group Leadership

**Contact:** Valerie Holland ([valerieh@thirdrva.org](mailto:valerieh@thirdrva.org))

## THE PEOPLE IN OUR GROUP

- *Kim: “Our members are caring and committed to the group. It is an honor to get to know members of Third in a more intimate way.”*
- *Bill: “I have come to know some interesting people that I would not have otherwise known.”*
- *Jane: “It’s really nice being part of a team that works together for the group. As they say, ‘It takes a village,’ and our village is our group members and our leadership team – core leaders, communications support, dinner team, and host families.”*

## THE REWARD OF BUILDING COMMUNITY

- *Kim: “When I attended the parish group reception in the fellowship hall, I knew I wanted to be part of a group and build relationships.”*
- *Bill: “I like the parish group model where our group serves as a mini church fellowship of believers in our parish area.”*
- *Jane: “It’s very special to get to know church members who live close to you geographically, and together we can reach out to our neighbors.”*

## THE PERSONAL SPIRITUAL BENEFITS

- *Kim: “Being a leader has drawn me closer to Jesus as I rely on Him and His strength, especially in facilitating our UP sessions. I see Jesus meeting me as I dig deeper into the Bible passages. Also, Derek equips us with wonderful resources.”*
- *Bill: “I have especially enjoyed our ‘Encounters with Jesus’ discussions this Fall. I am learning that the way Jesus meets and loves individuals in the Bible is the same for us.”*
- *Jane: “I am blessed by the discipleship, teaching, and mentorship provided by Derek, our Parish Area Leaders, and my fellow core leaders.”*





*Getting to Know Your Missions Department*

## FINALIZING THE BUDGET

*In an effort to provide more exposure into how things run in our Missions Department, we've run a series of pieces giving the Third family a bit more insight. The last feature ran in August, if you need to catch up!*

For our last article in this series on our mission budget process, we're going to look at how we wrap up the year. Now that our budget is set for 2019, we begin to delegate one-time gifts for our mission partners from remaining funds in our 2018 budget (so, that which is not designated as regular ongoing support). We've asked our mission partners to tell us about their special project needs, such as where they might need additional funds to complete ministry tasks, buildings, special items needed to better serve their community, etc. Throughout the close of 2018 we'll collect these special requests and categorize their importance by the date we received them and how their project aligns with Third's mission goals. We'll set a dollar amount on each request. Then we'll begin to categorize them by importance. If we receive additional funds at the end of the year, we'll have projects already lined up where we can distribute funds. If for some reason we have a shortfall this year in our budget, those of highest priority will receive funds and we'll try to help the others with 2019 funds instead. It's quite a juggling act, but we feel so grateful to share the blessing of financial giving with our well-deserving mission partners.

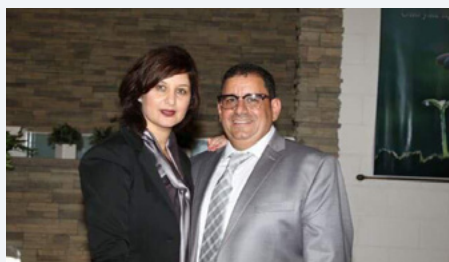
As we begin this year's stewardship focus, I'd like to draw your attention to the opportunity you have to give here at Third. **Remember 30% of our giving goes directly to missions!** Not many churches have the ability—or choose to—give this generously. Third's mission team vets prospective candidates and existing partners with care, wisdom and attention to detail. Those who serve on the mission budget team are seasoned leaders who understand and evaluate missionaries and mission opportunities. The mission budget team submits their recommendations to the larger team, the mission team, for a vote of approval. Your regular giving goes a long way to reach the nations and our community. Your giving assists in:

- *Leadership development in developing nations*
- *Evangelism and church planting with indigenous churches*
- *Ministry to internationals in Richmond*
- *Christian community development in Richmond*
- *Church planting/evangelism in Richmond*
- *And much, much more!*

Remember to take both a local and global mission partner booklet, pray for our partners, pray for our mission team as they make decisions regarding how we give, and please join us in giving generously to our mission partners both near and far. And consider joining the mission team!

***Have any questions for LJ and the missions team?***

***Send it over! Email LJ: [lj@thirdrva.org](mailto:lj@thirdrva.org).***



## CHRISTIAN ARABIC CHURCH BUILDING DEDICATION

**THE CHRISTIAN ARABIC CHURCH (CAC)** dedicated their new building in Crozier, Virginia in late September. Leaders from various congregations attended the official grand opening. On Saturday, September 22, we had the privilege of hosting a CAC/Third dinner that included a special presentation from the Rev. Andrea Zaki, Ph.D. Rev. Zaki works in Cairo as the General Director of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, and serves as president of numerous other organizations. On the evening of September 23, Rev. Zaki preached at the building dedication. There were several presentations and mini-sermons by prominent pastors from various multi-ethnic congregations. Corey Widmer was a featured presenter and I, LJ, had the privilege of offering a prayer of dedication over the building as well as their mission efforts both locally and globally.

What does this mean for our relationship with CAC? Is CAC leaving their Third home? No! Pastor Fakhri Yacoub describes their new building as their second home, and they still consider Third their first home. Now they are able to expand their reach though, through special events in Crozier. They hope to provide more opportunities for children's sports and special services. CAC is thankful for the 20 years they've shared the Third building and they want to return the favor. They've opened up their new facility not only to Third but also to a Russian-speaking congregation, which now meets at the building. Just as Third extended hospitality to CAC, so they are now extending hospitality to both Third and others. We celebrate with them!



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*Sunday, November 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
(Following the 11:15 a.m. service)*

Join us for this congregational meeting where we'll vote on the incoming class of officers, as well as hear an important update concerning future building plans and facility improvements.





## SINGERS WANTED! THE TEN O'CLOCK CHOIR

We're looking for joyful singers to help direct our congregational singing in the 10:00 a.m. service each week. The Sanctuary Choir sings in the 8:45 and 11:15 services each week, and having their voices up front makes a big difference in our congregational singing.

That's where you come in! We are looking for enthusiastic singers to sit in the choir loft each week at 10:00 a.m. Many of you love to sing but your busy schedules may not allow for a weekly rehearsal. The purpose of the Ten O'clock Choir is to sing with the worship team from the choir loft on all the congregational singing. The more the better, but even a few can make a big difference. You can come when you're available, there are no rehearsals, and we'll even send links to the worship songs each week to better familiarize yourself with them. If that wasn't enough, this also guarantees you'll always have a good seat!

Want to be a part? Just join us in the choir loft during the 10:00 a.m. service. If you would like to receive the music ahead of time, just get in touch with John White and he'll make sure you're on the distribution: [johnw@thirdrva.org](mailto:johnw@thirdrva.org).



## FORGOTTEN NO MORE

*Orphan Sunday, November 11*

**ONE DAY. ONE VOICE. ONE PURPOSE.**

*"God sets the lonely in families." Psalm 68:6*

November 11 is Orphan Sunday, a day the global Church has set aside to celebrate God's heart for the orphan, and to awaken churches to the needs of the forgotten child. ***In honor of Orphan Sunday, Forgotten No More will host a coffee in the Parlor from 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.*** Listen to a testimony from a Third family about their journey of saying yes to becoming foster parents. Be encouraged by the work Forgotten No More has been doing over the last several months, and be inspired to join with the ministry in the weeks and months ahead.

Forgotten No More is a ministry seeking to build community within Third Church to respond to God's call to care for forgotten children. The journey of caring for children from hard places is rewarding and beautiful, but can also be challenging and exhausting, especially for the primary caregivers. So we need your help!

Third Church will also be hosting ***Foster Parent Morning Out*** on Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This event will give foster parents much needed time away as well as provide fun activities for their foster and biological children. There are numerous ways to help – from providing breakfast / lunch items, helping to run a "Christmas store," assist with crafts or games, to being a buddy to a child.

For more information, contact Monica Murphy or Missy Murchie at [forgottennomore@thirdrva.org](mailto:forgottennomore@thirdrva.org), or sign up to help at [thirdrva.org/forgotten-no-more](http://thirdrva.org/forgotten-no-more).

# MAKERS THE SERIES

CREATIVITY  
CONVERSATION  
COMMUNITY

THURSDAY NIGHT

FRIDAY NIGHT

SATURDAY MORNING

*The next edition of the Makers Series anchors a weekend of events that will draw out the organic relationship between master/apprentice traditions in the arts and historic Christian practices by highlighting three artists for whom creative discipleship has been central to both life and work.*

## MARI BLACK HOUSE CONCERT

*November 8 | 7:30 p.m. at home in Manchester*

*Light fare and drinks provided | \$20 suggested donation per ticket*

Join Makers Series presenter Mari Black for an evening of fiddle music from around the world in the intimate setting of a small house concert. For music, reviews, and more information about Mari, visit [www.mariblack.com](http://www.mariblack.com).

This house concert is limited to only 50 seats. Light snacks and drinks included. Suggested donation: \$20 (goes directly to artist).

## THE MAKERS SERIES: DISCIPLE

*November 9 | Fellowship Hall | Coffee and snacks provided*

*Doors open at 6:30 p.m. | Program begins at 7:00 p.m.*

The Makers Series brings together three “makers”—a visual artist, a musician, and a writer—to discuss their history and practice as artists and touch on their spiritual paths, drawing out insights about faith, culture, and creativity.

The next edition of the Makers Series draws out the organic relationship between master/apprentice traditions in the arts and historic Christian practices by highlighting three artists for whom creative discipleship has been central to both life and work. We’re welcoming visual artist Cameron J. Anderson, writer and storyteller John Dau, and world-champion fiddler Mari Black.

## MAKERS CONVERSATION: THE ARTIST’S PILGRIMAGE WITH CAMERON ANDERSON

*November 10 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall*

Join Makers Series Presenter, Cameron Anderson and creatives from around the region, in discussing the possibility of being a faithful artist in a post-Christian world. In an informal, conversational format, we’ll examine the Artist’s Pilgrimage through six questions that Cam Anderson puts forth in his book *The Faithful Artist*. Coffee and snacks provided!

For more information on all these events, to meet the makers, or to RSVP for the concert or the Saturday morning roundtable, visit: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).



# Privilege, Power, and the Common Good

A conversation with  
Amy Julia Becker



## PRIVILEGE, POWER, AND THE COMMON GOOD

*A conversation with Amy Julia Becker*

Tuesday, November 13

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall — Free!

We are partnering with CommonGoodRVA to host an evening with author, speaker, and thinker (and friend of Third!) Amy Julia Becker, who will help us name the problems of privilege—who it excludes and how it harms—and the importance of taking that knowledge and moving towards confession and humble, loving, collective action. Amy Julia's latest book is *White Picket Fences: Turning Toward Love in a World Divided by Privilege* (NavPress, 2018).

Jonathan Chan, Chief Development officer for CHAT (Church Hill Activities & Tutoring), one of our mission partners, will provide some Richmond-based context following Amy Julia's talk. Our evening will conclude with a time of Q&A moderated by Corey Widmer.

The event is free, but RSVPs are helpful. RSVP and learn more about Amy Julia at: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).

### Community Posting

## CARE 2 SHARE TOY DRIVE

The Care 2 Share Toy Drive collects gently-used, like- new toys, and delivers them to children in need throughout the metro Richmond area. Last year, through the generous participation of Third Church, Care 2 Share could gift wrap and, with the help of The Richmond City Police Department, deliver a toy, book, and stuffed animal to over 500 children within all four precincts.

Donations of children's books, toys, stuffed animals, and Christmas wrapping supplies are being accepted now through Nov. 25, for the 2018 holiday season. We are also looking for some volunteers who are willing to donate their time to sort, wrap, and tag gifts on volunteer days.

### ALL DONATIONS SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Each toy should be in a bag or box containing all its parts.
- Each toy should be clean, appear to be new, and in good working order.

### DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AS FOLLOWS:

- Place donations in the Care 2 Share box next to Room 109 near the Fellowship Hall.
- Contact Carolyn Lilly at 804-564-7145 or [carolynlilly@comcast.net](mailto:carolynlilly@comcast.net) to arrange a pick-up or drop-off.



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

**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 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

**THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER: FRIDAY, X SUBMIT TO: BECCAP@THIRDVA.ORG**