



THIRD PRESS

October 2017



LETTER FROM COREY

THE GRACE OF GIVING

"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Cor 8:7

Have you ever received a totally surprising, completely undeserved, generous gift?

I still remember an experience in the early days of our marriage. Sarah and I were on a date in a fancy restaurant for our anniversary. In that impecunious season, a nice dinner was a rare indulgence, and we ordered carefully to ensure we stayed within our budgetary constraints. During dinner we saw some friends of my parents as they were leaving the restaurant, and we chatted with them for a few minutes. Later, when it was time to ask for the check, the server told us with a smile on her face that a nice couple had paid for our dinner and that we owed absolutely nothing.

It was a surprising, undeserved gift of grace. Not only did their gift make us happy and grateful, but it created a desire to extend that same grace beyond ourselves—and over the years we've had a couple opportunities to repeat that same kind of gift for others. Grace begets grace. Generosity begets generosity.

In 2 Corinthians 8:9, Paul mentions the "grace of giving." As he often does, Paul packs multiple layers of meaning into a succinct phrase.

First, "the grace of giving" means that giving is rooted in God's grace for us. "Grace" is mentioned 10 times in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, and many of those times Paul refers to the gift of God's grace in Jesus, giving us what we do not deserve: forgiveness, mercy, and eternal, flourishing life.

Second, "the grace of giving" means that our own acts of giving flow from an experience of grace. When we experience the joy of God's grace to us, our own generosity becomes a joyful expression of our experience of grace rather than a begrudging duty or obligation.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Corey Widmer
Lead Pastor

Rev. Ed Satterfield
Executive Pastor

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

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

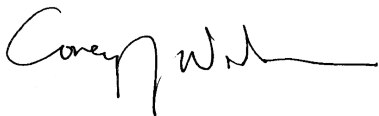
Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate Care Ministries

Third, “the grace of giving” means that others experience God’s grace when we give. God extends the experience of his kindness and mercy through acts of human generosity.

So the “grace of giving” is about God’s grace TO us, God’s grace IN us, and God’s grace THROUGH us. The gospel of grace acts as a powerful engine in our souls as we receive grace, experience grace, and then extend grace to others. Grace begets grace. Generosity begets generosity.

As we move into our stewardship season at Third, we’ll be talking about the financial plans of our church as we prepare for Faith Commitment Sunday on Nov. 5. We’ll be looking at how God calls us to give not only financially, but also of our time, our talents, and even our homes and families. But the key to all this giving is grace. The deeper we experience God’s grace for us in the gospel, the more we will desire to extend the generosity we have received to one another and the world.

May God help us all excel in this grace of giving.



Corey Widmer

“The gospel of grace acts as a powerful engine in our souls as we receive grace, experience grace, and then extend grace to others.”

FAITH COMMITMENT SUNDAY

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE? SUNDAY, NOV. 5

Our challenge now is to meet the call set before us. So first, pray. Pray that we deeply experience God’s grace for us. Pray about how we can respond to this grace we’ve received. And second, remember. Remember God’s faithfulness this past year, and the many years before, as we look forward to this next year.

And lastly, pray for the Lord’s leading as to how you will support Third’s ministry in 2018. Our prayer is that each gift—no matter the size—will sustain and increase Third’s ministry and mission.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: WG1

WORKING GROUP 1 UPDATE: WHAT'S IN A NAME

Dear Third Family,

About two years ago, Working Group 1 was commissioned as a part of Strategic Planning to Communicate our Purpose—to clarify our vision, who we are, and how we share that with the world around us. As a part of that work, WG1 was commissioned to address **the question of our name**. What role does the name play in representing the mission God gives the Church? How might the name help welcome our neighbors into fellowship with Christ? How might our name be faithful to our history, our culture and our role in the community, yet also effectively call others to Christ?

One hundred and eighty-three years ago, a small group of believers organized to minister to dock workers and sea farers in Church Hill. This mission was commonly called Bethel, and it eventually grew into the church we affectionately call Third Church today.

Throughout her history, Third's mission has been to seek the lost, uplift the hurting, share the Good News, and help bring God's kingdom to this city and beyond by the power and grace of Jesus Christ. The church name along the way has changed, but the heart of our church—and the call for the global church—has remained the same: to steward God's mission in the world.

While our identity and call have remained true in Christ, our name has changed more than once. We've been Bethel, Second Presbyterian Church, Third Presbyterian Church, and most recently Third Church. Four years ago, our church voted to leave and was dismissed from the PCUSA. Besides paying for our buildings, part of the cost of leaving our former presbytery was the forfeiture of the long-held name Third Presbyterian Church. We could legally keep a part of the name, but not all of it.

Because the church was also facing the retirement of beloved senior pastor Steve Hartman at that time, leadership made a strategic decision to keep as much of the former name as we could—as a placeholder. According to Dr. Hartman, whom we recently interviewed, the idea was that God would lead a

new pastor and new leadership to usher in a refreshed vision for the church, and the name should be born from that vision. Thus, in the fall of 2013, Session decided that the truncated name Third Church would be adopted short-term.

WG1 has been researching, deliberating, consulting with experts and praying for months about the possibility of a new name for our church. We have spoken to many of you, and have sought much counsel. We understand that "Third" has deep equity as a name in our community—among those who know her history and identity. It is a cherished name by those who understand all that it holds of the church's history. We wonder, though, whether "Third Church" is the name that would bear the most fruit, going forward. In an increasingly secular and culturally diverse environment, we are asking whether there is a name that could better open the opportunity to tell our church's story—and, more importantly, to tell God's story of grace and renewal.

A name can house feelings, memories, history, relationships, and associations for those who understand and know it. A name can create appeal, draw interest, prompt curiosity, and open the door to relationship. Some names are insider names, and some names seem to welcome all.

As a working group (WG1) of Session's Strategic Planning Committee, we've been in discernment about our name. We presented our findings and recommendations to the larger Strategic Planning team. With their support and enthusiasm, we presented the same to Session, who will make the ultimate, prayerful decision about our name. We pray that you will join us all in seeking God's will in this matter.

Would you please pray with us about this possibility of a name change? Will you pray for Session—for wisdom, boldness and discernment? A name is just one component of who we are and how we reflect that to our neighbors, but it's an important part and one about which people feel strongly. May we honor Christ and seek His will in and through our name!

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,

**Working Group 1: Val Kling, Mark Mendez,
Mark Sprinkle, Chris Payne, Becca Payne**

STRATEGIC PLANNING: WG3

GET SET

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

WORKING 3 UPDATE: GET SET

As we anticipate the January launch of a parish model of church, we are getting ready by praying for God's shaping of our hearts.

We are asking God to grow our hearts first to trust our leaders. Even as these ordained leaders are training in how best to care for the people in their parish areas, the rest of us can be preparing to receive such care.

We are also asking God to make room in our hearts for new or strengthened relationships with those near to where we live—both in the church family and beyond. Jesus commands us to love our neighbors—and to work for their well-being. Even if we don't especially like all of our neighbors, we can by God's help love them!

Prayer and the grace of God's Spirit help us to get ready for this cultural shift towards receiving care and sharing love in our parishes.

Get ready...Get set! We rely on the Spirit to help ready our hearts. Our minds can get set, too!

Why exactly are we going to the trouble of designating parish areas and readying parish groups? We believe that Scripture shows us this pattern for the health of the church—and also for the spreading of God's love and grace.

'Mission' is an activity of God arising out of the very nature of God. The living God of the Bible is a sending God, which is what 'mission' means. He sent the prophets to Israel. He sent his Son into the world. His Son sent out the apostles, and the seventy, and the church. He also sent the Spirit to the church and sends him into our hearts today. (theologian John Stott in *Authentic Christianity*)

Wrapping our minds around the idea that God wishes to use us in our neighborhoods for His purposes helps us to

get set for the new parish model of church. God is a sending agent! It's daunting and exciting at once to consider that He chooses to send us. He does not do so without equipping and training us, though. Parish groups will be equipping stations and training grounds, as well as happy places for community building and fun.

Does this sound a little scary to you? You are not alone! One of God's names is Emmanuel, God-With-Us. He is the one who gets us set for missional living. And, in parish groups, you will find yourself in loving communities of friends as God cares for you, discipless you, and grows you into readiness for sending.

The main way to "Get Set" is to learn from the Bible how God longs for all people to come to know, love and trust Him...and to let God transform your mind to match His. He intends to change this world for the ultimate good, and we have that news to share—in our parish groups and in our neighborhoods and beyond.

Pray to get ready, and read the Bible to get set!

OCT. 25 & 28



PARISH GROUP LEADER TRAINING

Are you already leading a Parish Group, or are interested in leading one in your

neighborhood? These Parish Group Leader Training sessions will prepare existing and new parish group leaders for our kick-off in January 2018. All leaders must attend one of these trainings.

For location and times, and to sign up:
thirdrva.org/events.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: WG4

WORKING GROUP 4 UPDATE: MEET WITH THE ARCHITECTS



After hearing from Working Group 4 back in January and seeing the exciting ideas that emerged from the planning charrette, you may be wondering what has happened since then. The next phase of our infrastructure planning is

well underway, advancing towards a campus masterplan! The campus masterplan will provide Third Church with a roadmap for modifying our grounds and improving our facilities to better serve the church, the church's programs and our neighborhood.

Before we started the Tuckahoe area Charrette in January with Mike Watkins and his team, Working Group 4 interviewed architectural firms to serve as consultants for the subsequent facility design, selecting the team of BCWH and Waldon Studio Architects to produce our campus masterplan. Both firms participated in the Charrette and gained an understanding of our commitment to being a good neighbor in our neighborhood. Working Group 4 has also gathered a volunteer Architectural Team made up of Third



staff, Trustees and Third Covenant Partners who were willing to serve. We are excited that this team, representing a broad cross-section of the church, will be an efficient and effective interface with the consultants. Members of the Architectural Team include: Peyton Cox, Scott Durham, John Grigg, Carrie Henaghan, Rob Lanphear, Ross Little, Sarah Hale, Stephanie Holt, Matt Maio, Andrew Moore, Talia Moore, Peter Samuel, Ed Satterfield, Alan Ware and Bill White.

In May, building on the principles established in the Charrette, BCWH and Waldon started a campus and building assessment process, leading to a written report of our current facility conditions. This report has helped the architectural consultants and Third Church understand both the limitations and opportunities of our current building and site.

This summer, BCWH and Waldon Studio conducted interviews and surveys of staff, program leaders and facility users to better understand how we use the current facilities and where we have room to improve. [Continued]



STRATEGIC PLANNING: WG4

The architects have also been analyzing the numbers—comparing the space we have with the space we need and allowing for growth. From this analysis, a program document is emerging—a statement of our current and future space needs that will inform the next phase: concept development.

You have several opportunities in October to speak into the planning for our buildings on Forest Avenue; opportunities to share what works well, what doesn't and your hopes for the future. The architectural consultants will host several small group listening sessions to ask questions based on their observations. The small group sessions are scheduled for:

- **Sunday, Oct. 1: In the Parlor at 600 Forest Ave. immediately following the 8:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. service.**
- **Sunday Oct. 1: 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of 500 Forest Ave.**
- **Sunday Oct. 8: In the Parlor at 600 Forest Ave. immediately following the 10 a.m. service and the 11:15 a.m. service.**

Please drop in on one of the sessions! If you have input for the architects but are unable to attend, please feel free to reach out to one of the team members listed below.

As we move into the fall, the architects will be developing a range of design concepts for Third to consider on our property. We expect that the options will include limited interventions to address the most pressing facility needs, on one end of the spectrum, and significant construction and renovations on the other. All of the concepts will have advantages and disadvantages to consider and we ask that you keep Working Group 4 and the Architectural Team in your prayers as we seek to discern God's plan for our corner of Tuckahoe.

Once we have draft concepts to consider, we will provide opportunities for Third Church and our neighbors to weigh in on the ideas before we settle on a particular direction. We hope you are excited about this next chapter in our history as we continue to be called together for the renewal of all things through Jesus Christ.

Strategic Planning – Working Group 4:

Rob Lanphear, Malachi Mills, Andrew Moore, John Robertson, Alan Ware, Kathy White



OPERATING BUDGET UPDATE

OPERATING BUDGET UPDATE: PERIOD ENDING AUG. 31, 2017

Summer has ended, the fall ministry season has begun and with hearts full of joy and gratitude we bring you a report of God's faithful provision for Third Church—he has truly given everything we need. From the beginning of this year and continuing through the summer his generosity poured out through you has sustained the work of Third as we endeavor to seek his Kingdom above all else and share it with a world hungry for him.

Through the period ending August 31, the income of the church is greater than the budgeted amount and the expenses are less than those budgeted. The leadership of Third sense God's loving care in the finances of the church and long for you to know it also. In the paragraphs that follow there are caveats to both the income and expense financial positions, but nothing diminishes the grace received in the first eight months of this year!

And our rejoicing is not predicated on just this financial grace, but on the Kingdom work it will accomplish. God's faithfulness, and yours, has allowed the staff and leadership of Third to focus their time and energy on the Strategic Objectives he has set before us—objectives that will result in deeper community at Third; better discipleship and training to equip us for evangelism and mission; and modernization of our aging structure. All this is done with the ultimate hope of being a community that truly loves our neighbors into the Kingdom.

Before we look at the numbers, here is a reminder about how Third's budget is developed. The historical trends in monthly giving (that follow a somewhat predictable pattern during the calendar year) are considered. To the extent possible, spending budgets

are adjusted to align with the historical giving pattern, but in certain expense areas (i.e., personnel costs) the costs develop more evenly over the course of the year. As such, it is not unusual for Third Church to operate in an operating loss position for much of the year given that monthly giving is more heavily concentrated in the last few months of the year. The details on the budget follow.

On May 31 we entered the summer months (when giving is historically less than the required amount to cover Third's expenses) with giving \$16,000 ahead of budget and expenditures \$64,000 below. This was a great encouragement as we saw the hearts of God's people responding to his generous grace toward us through Christ. In June giving income fell below budget, but at the end of July we were again \$17,000 above budget with expenditures remaining below budget. Through August 31 Third's offering income of \$1,972,000 remains ahead of budgeted giving by \$16,800, all to the praise and glory of God who provides everything needed.

“**Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. – Luke 12:31 (NLT)**”

At the end of August, Third's expenditures of \$2,131,000 were \$129,950 less than budget. While we know this budgeted money committed for Personnel, Facility Maintenance and Ministry expenses will be spent, we remain very grateful to finish the summer in this positive cash flow position!

We invite you to continue in your faithful giving through the remainder of the year. Most importantly, join us in praising God for meeting our financial needs, just as he meets **all** our needs according to the riches of his glory in Jesus Christ!

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

LEADERSHIP UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2017

SESSION MEETING AUG. 22

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following were removed from the roll of active covenant partners:

- Carol Holt passed away on July 19, 2017
- Ray Elam passed away on July 25, 2017
- Andrea and T Brewer have moved to Charlottesville, VA
- Elders Kathy White and Melissa Lincoln met with Sarah Grace Fuller on July 23 and recommended her as ready for baptism. She was baptized on July 30 by Corey Widmer on the James River.
- Elders Rick Hendrickson and Kenney Grigg met with Austen Phillips on Aug. 20 and recommended him as ready for baptism. He was baptized on Sept. 10 by Corey Widmer.

BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP

The 2017 Audit review was communicated to Session. Staff received positive remarks by the auditors for new procedures that have been added to more effectively ensure oversight for all expenditures and division of responsibilities by accounting staff.

PERSONNEL

A motion was approved unanimously for the following:

That Session approve in concept the creation of two new positions: **(1)** a Database Manager and **(2)** a Graphics and Publications Manager. The actual hiring

of these positions would still be contingent on Budget and Stewardship funding the positions. These positions would also be in addition to the previously approved Pastor for Discipleship and Parish Ministry and represent the vast majority of Personnel moves for the next several years.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Working Group 1

Presented an updated version of proposed brand strategy and its continued work exploring the possibility of a name change for Third Church.

Working Group 3

A motion was approved unanimously for the following:

That Session affirm and adopt the following Covenant Partner Statement and Questions, which include new profession/reaffirmation of faith questions for new covenant partners and renewal of commitment to covenant community questions for new and existing covenant partners.

There are two goals behind this motion, which are to align the Joining Question more around the ECO's polity, and to emphasize the ECO's emphasis on the ongoing relationship of covenant partners. The questions were used for the first time on Sept. 17 with the most recent Newcomers class.



LEADERSHIP UPDATE

“ **In Christ, we are adopted into the family of God. We find our new identity as brothers and sisters of one another, since we now share one Father.** ”

QUESTIONS FOR NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

- Do you confess that you are separated from God, dead in your sins, and without hope except for His sovereign mercy in Jesus Christ? Do you?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God, as your Savior and Lord, and do you affirm your identity and new life as one who belongs to Him forever. Do you?
- Do you resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the power of the Holy Spirit, to live as a follower of Jesus and, as a covenant partner, to submit to the governance and discipline of this church? Do you?

QUESTIONS FOR NEW COVENANT PARTNERS & CURRENT COVENANT PARTNERS

In Christ, we are adopted into the family of God. We find our new identity as brothers and sisters of one another, since we now share one Father. Our faith requires our active participation in the covenant community that God Himself guarantees. Therefore, would ALL Covenant Partners please stand to affirm our commitment to God and to one another and to welcome these new partners into fellowship with the following statements?

- Together, will we submit our whole lives to God, committing to faithful worship, fellowship, and service? Will we?
- Together, will we join with the Holy Spirit in His sanctifying work of nurturing one another into spiritual maturity through prayer, encouragement, and accountability, and of equipping each other for ministry in our church and in the world? Will we?

- Together, will we dedicate our time, talents, and money to the Lord's work of sharing the grace of Christ with our neighbors, participating in God's mission to renew all things through Jesus Christ? Will we?

Working Group 4

Updated the Session on program assessment being done by the architects. Meetings have been held with the staff and ministry leaders. Future sessions will be held with the Session and open meetings with the congregation.

Denominational Connections

A motion was approved unanimously for the following: That Third Church pay 2/3 of the cost of ordination examination fees charged by ECO to candidates who are approved candidates of ordination by Third Church.

Additional Updates

Sue Hendrickson has left Third staff after serving as an employee in our accounting office for 22 years, directing our accounting for most of those years, and serving years prior to that as a volunteer. She will be volunteering for Community West helping with their accounting.

“ **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God, as your Savior and Lord, and do you affirm your identity and new life as one who belongs to Him forever.** ”

FEATURED ARTICLE



In late October approximately thirty of our fellow Richmonders who are experiencing homelessness will come to stay here at our church for a week. As part of a network of churches all linked together from week to week, all year round, through Caritas, we have the opportunity to care for our neighbors who are experiencing a housing crisis. These folks who come to stay are among the most vulnerable in our community. They are working hard to get back on their feet and find stable housing for themselves and their families.

As disciples of Jesus we understand that no four walls can be as secure as the shelter of our Savior. No refreshing shower at the end of a hard day can quite compare to the living water that Jesus offers. And yet these things, sanctuary of home, privacy within community, a table for your family to sit around for a meal are all common amenities in most of our lives. Jesus cares deeply about our material and physical needs, the state of our minds and bodies, the way we treat and care for one another.

So we have the opportunity to demonstrate his love through truly ordinary acts of service this Fall. Often as Christians we're desirous of opportunities to change the world for Jesus in powerful and climactic ways. However, most of the requests of Jesus are simple things in which we neglect to see His glory. We often decline the option to obey because we forget His ways are mysterious as He takes our offerings and transforms them into blessings. So He asks of us, "feed my sheep", "give what you have to the poor" and "love thy neighbor" and we may look for more glorious avenues of service because how can something that is as simple and conventional as feeding and clothing people be holy?

Doing a load of laundry is quite routine for many of us, but this time let it be an opportunity to pray for the family that wears the items that you have refreshed. Packing lunches is 'everyday' for most folks, but as we do so for our guests, let it be a chance to pray for their health, for the nourishment of their body and spirit as they carry heavy burdens throughout their day. Making beds and tidying up is a necessary daily chore, but, here, let us make these beds together praying for the peace and security of each head that will rest on the pillows. For the broken-hearted and discouraged whose minds will wander for a while around the corners of "what if" and "how long O Lord" as they try to find their rest each night.



As we take these ordinary tasks of everyday living and offer them to our guests as service, let us also offer it to our Savior as an act of love and gratitude. For what we have, and what we can share with our neighbors.

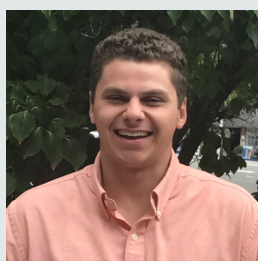
Come, be a part of this week of ordinary holiness.

For more information on how you can serve Oct. 28 to Nov. 4, please link to the information on the site:

<http://signup.com/go/EsaHgVY>

MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

MEET PHILIP YELVERTON: COLLEGE MINISTRY INTERN

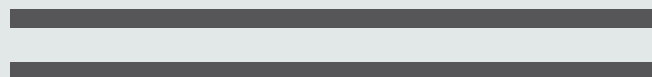


Last month, Third welcomed recent VCU graduate Phillip Yelverton as our new College Ministry intern. Phillip will be with us through August of 2018, and brings not only a relevant and fresh connection to the college-age population,

but also excellent experience ministering to college students, primarily through InterVarsity at VCU. This summer, Phillip spent two weeks at a retreat, studying at Regent College with the Consortium of Christian Study Centers, an organization that seeks to help study centers near secular universities around the country provide spaces and programs for students to "reason faithfully." He also served as an intern at his home church last summer, working with student ministry.

Under the direction of Rick Hutton, who is the Associate Pastor of Student Ministry at Third, Phillip will be reaching out to the 60+ college students at Third who are away at school, and will work to strengthen our ties to local college students from U of R who are seeking a church home while attending school. Phillip will also connect with students who visit Third from other local colleges.

Phillip plans to pursue a Master's and PhD in Theology with the goal of teaching at the seminary level in the future. Please be on the lookout for Phillip and welcome him to Third! Also, feel free to reach out to him if you are a college-age student or parent of a college student and would like to connect. He can be reached at (540) 604-1424 or phillip@thirdrva.org.



MEN'S MINISTRY: SPORTS TEAMS

We generally field three men's basketball teams in the Henrico County Men's Church league: two teams for the more highly skilled players (Team A) and the other(s) for the not-as-highly skilled (but highly motivated) players or those working their way back into shape. Recruiting (oops—sign-ups) occurs in early-October and league games begin in December, with games typically played on Tuesdays or Thursdays. We can usually add players through Dec. 30, depending on our roster size and "injured reserved" status.

Contact Greg Ellen, Charlie Ellison or Tom Barila to join.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Join us for a simple way to meet other women, enjoy some light drinks and snacks, and start your weekend off right. It will be at a different home around Richmond each month.

OCTOBER: Friday, October 20

Kristi Beabout's Home | 12452 Gayton Station Blvd
7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER: Friday, November 17

Lauren DeLuca's Home | 5500 Bewdley Road
7:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Erin Holbrook (echolbrook@gmail.com).

FAMILY MINISTRIES



2ND GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION & DINNER

This Faith Milestone honors our second graders with the presentation of their very own personalized Bible. Families are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship, to hear a message on the importance of God's Word in our lives, and then to celebrate with a formal presentation of a Bible to each second grader at Third.

This presentation is one example of a way that Third hopes to walk alongside parents in an effort to equip, encourage, and empower families to spend time together reading the Bible, memorizing scripture, and truly putting God's Word at the center of their lives.

This year's dinner and presentation is Sunday, Oct. 22 from 5:30–7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You must RSVP no later than Oct. 16 to Tracie Meadows (traciem@thirdrva.org). Read more about our Faith Milestones on our website, www.thirdrva.org/faith-milestones.

“You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. -2 Timothy 3:15”

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY – HELP NEEDED!

Do you love children and books? We are in need of a few folks to help grow, promote and maintain the Children's Library. Computer skills necessary. Contact Carolyn Oakley (link to email: cdoakley@gmail.com) if this is a way you might like to serve our church family.

Third Church has a library devoted entirely to our children. Parents can find fiction and non-fiction resources to encourage and inspire their children. The purpose of the library is to assist children, families, and others with their spiritual growth and development by providing guidance, enjoyment, and tools for teaching and learning. The library has books, DVDs, and more!

The Children's Library is located in Room 128, off of the hallway that leads to the student ministry area, just across the hall from the mail room.

Materials available: The library includes books, videos, games and magazine subscriptions which support the spiritual, cultural, educational and recreational needs of children.

Checkout Period: Materials can be checked out for a four-week period. An online catalog is available using the computer in the adult library, located on the second floor of the church. Parents are responsible for the replacement of lost or damaged library materials.

Birthday Book Club: Honor your child or grandchild by donating a book to the Children's Library. Contact Carolyn Oakley (cdoakley1@gmail.com) for more information.

Long overdue materials: Be sure to check your bedrooms, cars and family rooms for overdue materials. We need them back so others can enjoy them. You may renew materials by putting a note in the checkout can, stating the title of the item and your name.

MAKERS SERIES

COMMUNITY POSTINGS

THE MAKERS SERIES RETURNS

**JOIN US FOR THE NEXT MAKERS SERIES,
HAPPENING OCTOBER 27.**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday evening October 27th for the next installment of the Makers Series, as we explore a relevant theme through the creativity of the written, visual, and musical arts.

FRIDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 27

Doors and snacks at 6:30 p.m.

Program runs from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

WHAT IS THE MAKERS SERIES?

THE MAKERS SERIES

CREATIVITY
CONVERSATION
COMMUNITY

Each edition of the Makers Series brings together three "makers"—a writer, a visual artist, and a musician—to discuss their history and practice as artists and believers, touching on a unifying theme. In a coffee-

house setting with refreshments available throughout, each guest presents for 20 minutes, followed by a moderated conversation between the three and the audience, seeking to find commonalities between each maker's experiences and to draw out insights about faith, culture, and creativity.

“We see that it is not the task of Christianity to provide easy answers to every question, but to make us progressively aware of a mystery. God is not so much the object of our knowledge as the cause of our wonder.” Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way*



THE 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. 26, for the 2017 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 to arrange a pick-up or drop-off.

UPCOMING EVENTS: OCT. & NOV.

OCT. 1

REFLECTIONS ON THE REFORMATION: OUR HISTORY, OUR HOPE, OUR HEARTBREAK

Sundays, 10 a.m. Oct. 1 – Nov. 26

Join us for this new Sunday morning discipleship class taught by Boyd Clarke. For a full class description, visit: thirdrva.org/Sunday-discipleship.

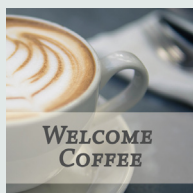
OCT. 13



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BONFIRE

7 p.m., Pump Road Fields, 2340 Pump Rd.

Young professionals and young adults (from the 23-35 age range): join us for this time to get together and enjoy each other's company and the autumn weather. No RSVP needed—just come on out, and bring your friends.



OCT. 15 NOV. 19 DEC. 17

WELCOME COFFEES

Parlor, 9:45 – 11 a.m.

This is your first step at Third. Come to this monthly Sunday morning gathering to meet a few people, learn about Third's vision, what we believe and how to get involved.

OCT. 17

MEN'S QUARTERLY DINNER

6 – 7:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Join us for good food, fellowship, and a timely men's talk. RSVP: thirdrva.org/events.

OCT. 21

THIRD'S BIG BIKE RIDE

Noon, Shelter 1, Deep Run Park

Join us for our annual church-wide bike ride at Deep Run Park. Just bring your bike, a bag lunch (we'll bring dessert) and we'll head off on rides and walks after lunch.

For questions or to RSVP, contact Grant Holbrook (holbrookgh@gmail.com)



OCT. 22

2ND GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Third's second grade students and their families are invited to attend the annual 2nd Grade Bible Presentation and Dinner. We will celebrate our students with dinner and a special program and then give each one a personalized Adventure Bible.

Please RSVP to Tracie Meadows (traciem@thirdrva.org) no later than Oct. 17.

UPCOMING EVENTS: OCT. & NOV.

OCT. 25 & 28



PARISH GROUP LEADER TRAINING

Are you already leading a Parish Group, or are you interested in leading one in your neighborhood? These Parish Group Leader Training sessions will prepare existing and new parish group leaders for our kick-off in January 2018. All leaders must attend one of these trainings.

For location and times, and to sign up:
thirdrva.org/events.

OCT. 28



CARITAS

Oct. 28 – Nov. 4

For more info on Caritas, see our feature on page 10. Sign up:
thirdrva.org/events

NOV. 19

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

12:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for officer elections and facility planning updates



ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: THE POWER OF REFRAMING YOUR LIFE

Looking to meet other women at Third? Join us for the Women's Fall Conference. This year's speaker will be Laurie Polich Short, author of *When Changing Nothing Changes Everything* and *Finding Faith in the Dark*. We'll hear from Laurie on how broadening our vision can reveal a bigger purpose in our lives and draw us closer to God. We'd love for you to join us!

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

9 a.m. – 2 p.m., with lunch
University Of Richmond, Jepson Center

OPTIONAL GATHERING: FRIDAY, NOV. 3

In homes around Richmond

REGISTRATION INFO:

Early Bird: \$30 through Oct. 8
Regular: \$35 from Oct. 8 – Oct. 27
Deadline: Oct. 27

SIGN UP: thirdrva.org/events



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



THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER: Friday, Oct. 13. Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org