

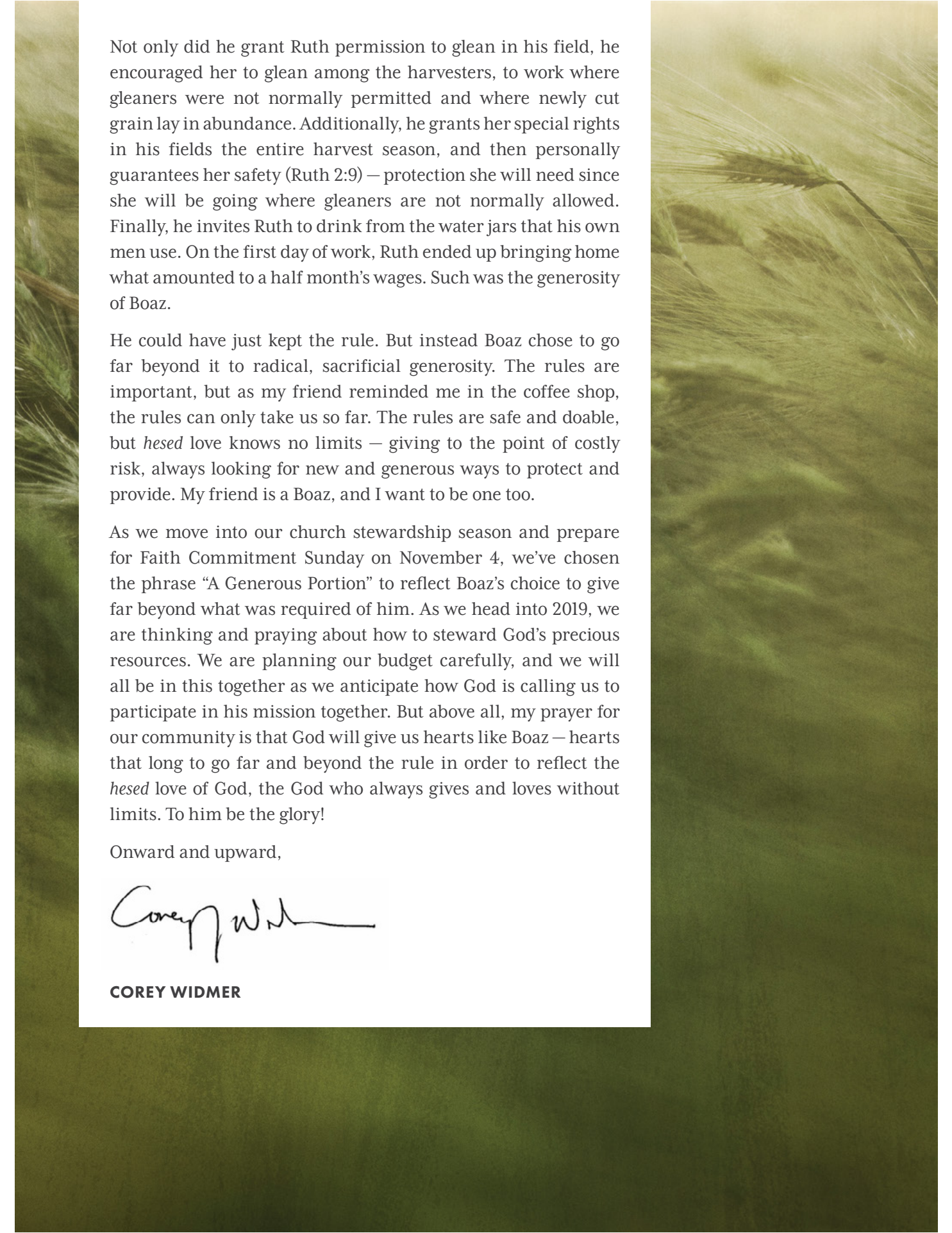
A GENEROUS PORTION:

# STEWARDSHIP SEASON BEGINS

I was having coffee with an older friend and we started talking about money. People in our culture don't talk about money very often — at least in a personal way that reveals their own income and giving habits. But this was a surprisingly blunt conversation. I was arguing for why the biblical concept of the tithe is still a good practice for Christians to follow, but he was challenging me by saying that the tithe doesn't go deep enough. Given his amount of income, he said, tithing was easy. He could easily give 10% of his income away and it would not even come close to affecting his lifestyle (although he acknowledged that for many of us giving 10% is indeed a challenge). "Keeping the tithe is following a rule," he said. "But the spirit of the rule is what God is after — and that's radical generosity. I want to give until it hurts." I was struck, but especially when he then looked me in the eyes and asked, "Are you giving until it hurts?" At that point I pretended to take a phone call (just kidding!).

My friend reminds me of Boaz in the book of Ruth. There was a Mosaic law in ancient Israel that required landowners to leave the corners and edges of their fields uncut when they harvested. Additionally, the law required them to comb the field only once, leaving behind the uncut grain and missed scraps for the poor to collect—the orphans, widows, and foreigners. Being a righteous man and full of integrity, Boaz was accustomed to regularly keeping the rule.

However, when a barren, foreign widow showed up in his field asking for permission to glean, Boaz did something remarkable.

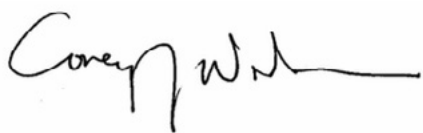


Not only did he grant Ruth permission to glean in his field, he encouraged her to glean among the harvesters, to work where gleaners were not normally permitted and where newly cut grain lay in abundance. Additionally, he grants her special rights in his fields the entire harvest season, and then personally guarantees her safety (Ruth 2:9) — protection she will need since she will be going where gleaners are not normally allowed. Finally, he invites Ruth to drink from the water jars that his own men use. On the first day of work, Ruth ended up bringing home what amounted to a half month's wages. Such was the generosity of Boaz.

He could have just kept the rule. But instead Boaz chose to go far beyond it to radical, sacrificial generosity. The rules are important, but as my friend reminded me in the coffee shop, the rules can only take us so far. The rules are safe and doable, but *hesed* love knows no limits — giving to the point of costly risk, always looking for new and generous ways to protect and provide. My friend is a Boaz, and I want to be one too.

As we move into our church stewardship season and prepare for Faith Commitment Sunday on November 4, we've chosen the phrase "A Generous Portion" to reflect Boaz's choice to give far beyond what was required of him. As we head into 2019, we are thinking and praying about how to steward God's precious resources. We are planning our budget carefully, and we will all be in this together as we anticipate how God is calling us to participate in his mission together. But above all, my prayer for our community is that God will give us hearts like Boaz — hearts that long to go far and beyond the rule in order to reflect the *hesed* love of God, the God who always gives and loves without limits. To him be the glory!

Onward and upward,



**COREY WIDMER**





GET TO KNOW  
**ERIN ROSE**  
2018–2019 PASTORAL INTERN

Erin lives and serves in the Church Hill neighborhood of Richmond, VA. She is the Worship and Teaching Pastor at East End Fellowship and is a member of the touring band Urban Doxology. Her favorite things include delicious meals, laughing too loudly, and encouraging the body of Christ to live yielded and empowered lives.

She will be serving Third over the next year as our Pastoral Intern, where she will receive training as a future pastoral leader, while also contribute to our congregational life here. She will assist with leading worship, teaching and preaching, and general care and ministry support.

Please welcome Erin to Third and get to know her over this year! We are so excited to be blessed by her gifts while she is with us.

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

# HELP US HOST FAMILIES WITHOUT A HOME

*During the week of October 13–20*



**EACH YEAR, WE GET ONE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR HOMELESS COMMUNITY HERE IN RICHMOND THROUGH CARITAS.**

Caritas is an intake service for those struggling with homelessness in Richmond. They will be completing a new facility in 2019 that can house all those needing help in one place, so this year will be the last year we have the opportunity to host families.

As these families who come to stay with us seek to hold their lives together, shuffling from church to church each week until they are placed in housing, my hope is that they will find hope here, even before they find a place to call home, simply through the love and hospitality they experience at Third.

Each year we hope to reach out to the ones that God loves who have been pushed to the margins of our society with abuse, judgment, blame and unfortunate circumstances. We hope to provide a refuge for a few nights where they can rest peacefully with the assurance that God loves them and cares for them, evident through their experiences with us.

Your help is instrumental to being able to provide the love and care that our guests desperately need. We have several opportunities to help during the day through packing lunches, and set up (10/13) and pack up (10/20) of the basement and dining areas.

Our evening opportunities include dinners, laundry and staying overnight in the Fellowship Hall to provide an extra measure of security for our guests. We also have donations being collected before our guests arrive. We really cannot do this alone, so any way you are able to help provide a warm and caring experience is greatly appreciated.







## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND GROUPS:

**When:** October 13–20

**Where:** 600 Forest Avenue

**Sign Up:** [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events)

**Contact:** Erin Holbrook ([echolbrook@gmail.com](mailto:echolbrook@gmail.com))

New to our slate of opportunities this year is a chance to sign up to be a part of our prayer team during the week. You'll receive an email each afternoon, letting you know who's serving and the needs of those in our care.

This will be a great way to connect to our families. As your family eats dinner together, you can pray for the meal of those who are at our church. As you tuck your children into bed at night, you can offer intercession for the children who don't have their own room or bed to sleep in. As you enter into your evening prayers, you can provide intercession for those who are crying out to God for their most basic needs.

Let us enthusiastically respond to the call of our Savior to care for "the least of these" and find the place where God would have us serve during this week in October. Let us be present with those in their suffering, as we join with Christ in their midst. Let us reach beyond our busy schedules to make room for those who hope for the basics to which we are all so accustomed.

Search Third Church's website under "events" for Caritas to look over the opportunities and sign up to help. Feel free to contact me to talk over how you might want to be involved at [echolbrook@gmail.com](mailto:echolbrook@gmail.com).

*Erin Holbrook*





*Getting to Know Your Missions Department*

# THE END OF THE BUDGET PROCESS

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

The mission budget process has officially concluded for the 2019 calendar year! After several long meetings with our budget team, we've assessed the needs of our current partners and set our budget.

## SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?

- *As we look through their annual questionnaires we check to see what support they are getting from other individuals or churches. We do not want to carry them solely with our financial support. Instead, we want to make sure they have a substantial support base, people not only investing in them financially but investing in them personally through care and prayer.*
- *We also use a rating system which helps us determine how well they are aligned with our mission department priorities.*
- *Each person on the mission budget team receives lots of content to read through which includes all the reports and annual questionnaires from each mission partner. They have a month to read through them before the budgeting process begins. It certainly is a lot to read! But it is delightful to hear more about their accomplishments, their needs as well as their dreams for the future. What a privilege!*

## HOW WE GRADE OUR MISSION PARTNER ALIGNMENT

*We maintain a spreadsheet each year which contains copious notes about each partner. Certain things are noted such as:*

- *How well does their ministry align with Third's mission team goals?*
- *Do they consistently communicate with us?*
- *Have their ministry priorities changed?*

## ANNUAL MISSION MONEY HOLD BACK

Each year we hold back a percentage of the mission budget until the end of the year. We do this to make sure that all our mission partners are supported and if for some reason the church has a budget shortfall they are not affected.

In the meantime, the mission team compiles a list of special one-time mission partner gifts for their special projects. Each request is prioritized and a dollar amount is given.

In October/November we prepare a spreadsheet that divvies up each partner's support into two or three payments scheduled throughout the year. We make a calculated guesstimate after considering what is typical revenue each month (which fluctuates substantially at different months throughout the year).

In 2018 we added a request to the annual questionnaire: we asked our existing local and global partners what special projects, or special needs they have. Our desire is to help them achieve specific goals and dreams that are not included in their regular support needs.

**In closing:** We continue to hold off adding new partners so we can more deeply invest in our current partners. You can invest more deeply too by getting to know our partners, pick up the local/global booklets located in the corridor outside of room 101 and the parlor. Also take time to look at the local/global displays. You'll notice that some of our partners in the global display are not included in the booklets. Why? They are serving in closed countries, a country that does not allow missionaries to enter. These are sometimes referred to as Creative Access Countries). We want to help keep our mission partners safe so we have intentionally not included them in the booklet.

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

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





*Missions trip reflection:*

## STANDING ROCK

From July 29 to August 4, Fred Whitten and Jack Martin traveled to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Third has sent teams to North Dakota 14 times during the past 18 years, the first trip being with Myrna McLaughlin and Least of These Ministries. The team stayed at Camp Gabriel and conducted Vacation Bible School and helped construct a health clinic in the community of Selfridge. Camp Gabriel is a camp that is owned by the Episcopal Diocese and is used by Native Young Life to conduct three-day Young Life style camps for middle and high school students on the reservation.

The focus of our trips has changed over time to assist our mission partners as they conduct the camps. We assist by shepherding students during cabin times, helping with sports and recreation, transporting students to and from camp, meal preparation, and clean-up during camp. We help with repairs and maintenance of the camp facilities before and after camp. This year, 28 students participated in the camp during the week that we were there.

**WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO STAND ALONGSIDE BROTHERS AND SISTERS THAT ARE HELPING STUDENTS FIND AND DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Our support provides meals and supplies for one week of camp and contributes to the repair and maintenance effort. We go because the needs are great and the workers are few. We are privileged to stand alongside brothers and sisters that are helping students find and develop a relationship with Jesus.

Please pray for our mission partners Father John Floberg and his wife Sloane, and others that are spreading the Gospel on the reservation. They have a new challenge—two weeks after we returned, lightning struck near the main lodge and it was destroyed by a fire (below).



# THE KINGDOM KNITTERS

*Blessing Carolyn Rennie in Romania*

Thank you once again for blessing the boxes of knitted and crocheted items! There are so many stories to share and I think the one that still impresses me as to the Lord's divine timing is that originally, the boxes of hats, mittens and scarves were delivered to one of my neighbors and I wasn't aware that they had arrived. The young neighbor let me know that they had the boxes in their apartment and because it was late we decided to just put the boxes in the van and that I would take them to work the next day.

As we were driving on the highway we came upon an accident that had just occurred, leaving a man sitting in the middle of the highway (no median just sitting between the 4 lanes of traffic). I insisted that we stop to see if we could help only to find that the man was in shock and that his wife was already being taken to Bucuresti. It was August and the man was shivering and needed a blanket. I remembered that we had the boxes in the back of the van and opened them thinking that I could use several scarves to wrap him up. I couldn't believe it when I found that there were several afghans right on the top of the box. I wrapped the man up, got him moved out of the road and stayed with him until the next ambulance arrived.

I still marvel at God's provision for that man in that particular moment! Just think, the afghans had been in transit for three months and had been delivered to a neighbor's yet God got them where they needed to be at the right time. Although I don't know what happened for the man and his wife, I do know that we blanketed him with prayers as we stood by him and left him wrapped in the prayer covering of the afghans.



*The Kingdom Knitters, a group of knitters here at Third, knit boxes full of items for our mission partner, Carolyn Rennie to share with those she serves in Romania. Carolyn has told us many times of how she is blessed and moved by these gifts.*

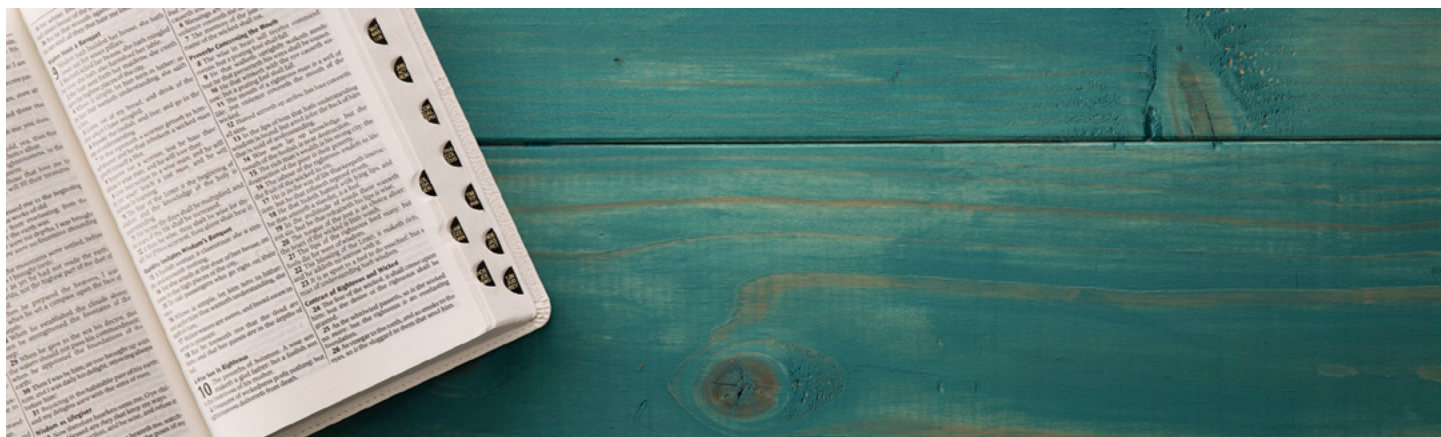
***Here are just a few stories...***



In fact, the prayer covering that each item represents is actually a tangible expression of the work of the ministry. We tell each person that the folks who lovingly created the scarves, hats and mittens prayed for them as they knitted and crocheted them. I've also encouraged my students to share the items with family members and neighbors who are in need and they too let folks know of the origin and purpose of the gifts and the prayers that are woven with each stitch.

One mother said she couldn't get her 4 year old to wear a hat in the winter months. She brought her son to the Foundation and we found a nice blue hat just right for him. Surprisingly he put the hat on and didn't want to take it off. He wore the hat all the time for several months. Another young boy, 9 years old, chose a hat, scarf and mitten set for himself and was practically jumping up and down. I was trying to understand his enthusiasm and come to find out he was so excited that the pieces matched and were like one's he'd seen on a TV program—he felt like a star. I told him he was a star just not because of the knitted items but because of who His Heavenly Father had created him to be.





## SECOND GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

*Sunday, October 21*

*5:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall*

*Each year second grade students and their families are invited to share a meal together and to hear a message on the importance of God's word in their lives. We'll also have the opportunity to worship together and each second grade student will be presented with an inscribed Adventure Bible.*

Several years ago the Family and Student Ministry teams at Third created Faith Milestones, a series of age/grade related and developmental milestones to help mark children's spiritual journeys. One of our Faith Milestones is the Second Grade Bible Presentation.

Every October we gather our second grade students and their families to share a meal together and to hear about how they can incorporate God's Word into their lives. We mark this evening with the presentation of an inscribed Adventure Bible to each student.

By second grade, most children are becoming strong and confident readers, ready to begin to engage in God's Word independently, so it is a joy to be able to provide a new Bible to them. Our prayer is that these students and their parents would read Scripture together and put God's Word at the center of their lives. **Please RSVP** to Tracie Meadows ([traciem@thirdrva.org](mailto:traciem@thirdrva.org)) no later than October 16 if you would like to attend.

*"...and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

*2 Timothy 3:15–17*



## THIRD & CAC POTLUCK

*Saturday, October 20*

*5–7 p.m. | 1701 Cardwell Road, Crozier, VA*

This dinner is a chance to meet and eat with our brothers and sisters from the Christian Arabic Church and deepen our relationships together. We'll also be celebrating their new church property in Crozier!

Bring a dish and let us know you're coming! RSVP: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).



# REDEMPTION BOOKS

*from our Mission Partner the Christian Study Center*

Many at Third Church may know of the Richmond Center for Christian Study's outreach to University of Richmond students, but did you know that the Study Center has also been seeking to take the same resources, discussion groups and speaking events that the students enjoy and offer them to the community as well? That's exactly what Redemption Books is all about!

Redemption Books is proud to carry a good number of carefully selected books and DVDs on a variety of topics pertaining to a biblical worldview, how we know it's true, and how that biblical worldview is relevant to every area of our lives and to the world we live in. The bookstore also carries complete collections of select authors (Lewis, Keller, etc.), in addition to a Children's Section, a Used Books section (book donations always accepted!) and classic literature. All proceeds (and book orders!) benefit the work of the Study Center.

As the community face of the Study Center, Redemption Books also holds various discussion groups and author/speaking events that foster further consideration and discussion of various aspects of a biblical worldview and how it applies to life and culture. We encourage you to come visit us at Redemption Books, newly opened and located in the Stony Point Shopping Center (next to Gelati Celesti!) to purchase a wide variety of carefully selected books and DVDs, chat with a friend over tea or coffee, join a weekly discussion group and much more.

We would love to see you soon!





Dear friends,

The love you poured out to me during the last two surgeries was beautiful in the form of meals, cards, prayers, rides, phone calls and visits. Thank you for your prayers as I recover. Third is truly a wonderful family. I am deeply grateful.

"I love the house where you live, O Lord,  
the place where your glory dwells."

Psalm 26:8

- Carolyn Oakley



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**