



THIRD PRESS

September 2017



LETTER FROM COREY

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF CHURCH AS AN ADVENTURE? AN ADVENTURE WE TAKE TOGETHER?

Well, those may be two words (“adventure” and “church”) you have never used together before and maybe you even considered them antonyms! But in the New Testament, to be the church is to be on an exhilarating adventure, because to be the church is to be a part of God’s mission to renew all things. To be the church is to join in God’s massive restoration project, to be a part of a Completely New Thing, to be right in the heart of the Holy Spirit’s fire.

In fact, the church is such a big deal that the New Testament is replete with multitudinous metaphors to describe this new thing called the church. We’re going to spend this fall looking at a collection of these metaphors, from The Household to The Body to The Flock to The Temple to The Field to The Bride. Each one has a different thing to say about the nature and purpose of the church.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

As hopefully you have heard by now, we are making a big shift at Third toward a parish model of church. We’re doing this not because we think it’s a cool new idea for a program, but because we believe it more faithfully expresses how the New Testament describes the church. We want to do everything we can to embody God’s vision for who and what his people are called to be and do in the world.

There’s nothing wrong with Sunday church services. It’s good and necessary to have programming and special events. But in the end, the metaphors of the church show us that the church is, at heart, a community of people sent on a mission with Jesus. That’s who we want to be, and we need the Spirit to teach us how to be that kind of church through his Word.

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

So the word is this: **welcome**. Welcome into community. Welcome into relationship. Welcome into love. Welcome into mission. Welcome into adventure. That's what Jesus is saying to us, and what the church is saying to the world.

You are welcomed, and then we, in turn, are called to welcome others. Join us this fall as we explore what this means for us.

Cory W.

“...the church is, at heart, a community of people sent on a mission with Jesus.”

GET READY

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

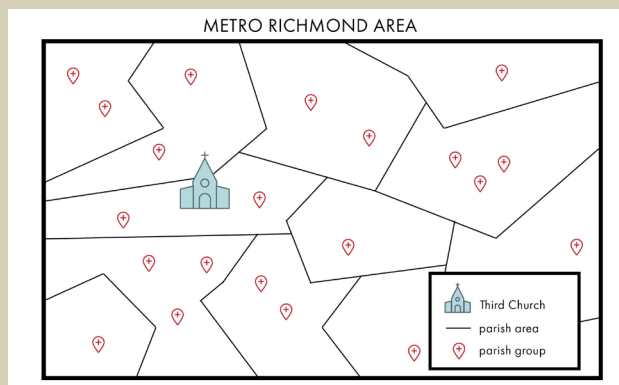
We've long been hearing rumblings about plans to divide our church into parishes. We've even been told that a "launch" is planned for the new year. What should we expect? How should we prepare?

A launch sounds like a blast-off. Are we all being propelled into some wild project, come January? Not really. But sort of!

In January, we will all learn in which of the twelve designated parish areas we already live. Our church is large—and growing. Because we desire for everyone to be known, cared for, and encouraged to mature, we have designated twelve neighborhood communities, called parish areas, within our larger church family. What will be launched in the parish areas is active, local care and shepherding by our elders and deacons.

Centralized care has become cumbersome and challenging as our church has grown. Dividing the care and shepherding according to geographic areas will help make it more effective and attentive to the needs of all the people. It's one way that our leaders can better love their neighbors, within the body of believers. The deacons and elders are already in extensive training and prayer for the parish areas and the people within them. They are excited to be launched into service this way!

Also in January, parish groups within each parish area will be launched. Anyone living within the parish area



and participating in the life of the church may join a parish group for community, discipleship and mission. Parish groups are optional—but are encouraged. Each parish group will meet in a home, where adults and children alike will help one another to grow in relationship with the Lord, each other and their neighbors. Parish groups can help to launch us into closer community, more faithful living, and missional outreach. Many people are already excitedly planning to host parish groups in their homes.

So, get ready! Prayer is the key for getting ready for this launch. Pray for those in training for leadership. Pray also that God will gladden your own heart about how he might move in and through these parish areas and parish groups. Thank him for where you live and for trusting you, with his help, to love your neighbors. Ask God if he is preparing and nudging you to join a nearby parish group in January. Maybe you won't immediately love everyone in the parish group. Isn't this a great chance to let God grow you in love?! Let's all get ready for ways God will meet us, grow us, and use us!



JOIN US FOR THE **FALL SEASON AT THIRD**

Opportunities for Community, Discipleship, and Mission

FALL KICKOFF

SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday school classes for adults, students, and children kick off on Sept. 10 during the 10 a.m. worship hour. We hope you join us for one of these classes—even if you've never been to one before. Drop in to any of the classes below!

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

This year, as we continue to move towards the parish model for Third, we're looking at all of our centralized programming to make sure it's being used to the maximum benefit. Our Sunday morning classes have been the backbone of discipleship at Third, and we see them continuing to be an incomparable avenue for focused teaching and training, and easy connection with others. Going forward, we want to continue to support the vital community-based classes, but expand to offer a selection of short-term, topic-based classes as well.

To increase access to these classes, we're organizing our classes around clear and consistent "terms" so that anyone who wants to join a class knows when they can join and how long they can be a part of it. Furthermore, we want to make sure we're offering classes that span our Up/In/Out rhythms. Meaning, we want options for learning

how to deepen your relationship with God, deepen your relationships with others, and deepen your care and service to the rest of the world.

We're excited to offer some of these short-term classes starting this fall, with options like *Doing God's Justice in a Hurting World* or a short-term study on the *History of the Reformation*. If you've never been a part of a class before, now—more than ever—is the ideal time to try one out.

GOOD NEWS CLASS: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

This fall the Good News class will be studying the book of Galatians, one of the key books of the New Testament. This letter from the apostle Paul helps our understanding of God, the meaning of grace, and how God's grace passes from God through us to the believers in Christ and to the watching world. This class provides expository, inductive Bible teaching and discussion designed to help us be transformed by the renewing of our mind and is open to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Location: Room 101

Taught by: Dave Skove, David Carroll

DOING GOD'S JUSTICE IN A HURTING WORLD Fall Term Class: September 10 – November 26

We will learn about the biblical foundations of justice, and what it means to "do" justice. Since we are called to be "doers" of the word and not just "hearers," each week we also will hear from one of our local mission partner organizations about how we can each become more involved in doing justice in RVA.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Taught by: Bill Mims, LJ Jaworski, Alex Sawyer

FALL KICKOFF

THE MEANING OF THE CROSS

Short-Term Class: September 10, 17, and 24

While the resurrection persists as the hope-filled reality for God's kingdom, the cross juts stubbornly upward, a stumbling block ("skandalon") in violation of good taste, religious progress, and gentle entry into the Christian faith. This three-week series will focus on the significance of Jesus' death, which Paul calls the very "power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18). We will explore the unique resources of the cross for facing a "world filled with violence" (Genesis 6:13), death, and sin. The crucifixion is simultaneously so many things, and we will marvel at the facets of so richly darkened a jewel. The letters of the Apostle Paul provide our primary lens for seeing again the decisive victory orchestrated by Father, Son, and Spirit. Important contemporary conversation partners include Fleming Rutledge's *The Crucifixion* and John Stott's *The Cross of Christ*.

Location: Room 213

Taught by: Grant Holbrook

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

Amended Fall Term Class: Oct. 1 – Nov. 26

Five hundred years ago this Oct. 31, a theologian of little note posted on the door of an obscure church in Saxony a call to debate how the Church was to minister forgiveness. And soon almost everything changed, for better and for worse. *Sola fide* (salvation by faith alone), and *sola scriptura* (only the Bible is the source of our beliefs) became the watchwords of large segments of the Western Church, yet at the same time, a torrent of persecution and religious wars were unleashed. How did it happen? What does it mean for 21st century Christians? Come see in our class! Come prepared to discuss how "sola scriptura" liberated the Church, and yet let loose potent forces of discord. Most of all, come prepared to discuss what it means for us today.

Location: Room 213

Taught by: Boyd Clarke

4. www.thirdrva.org

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY:

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Fall Term Class: Sept. 10 – Nov. 26; 10 – 11:30 a.m.

The money class that will change your life. No matter where you are with your money, this class will teach you to create a budget, pay off debt, spend and save wisely, and give generously! We all need a plan for our money and God wants us to have financial peace. This special nine-week class is being offered by Third at a reduced rate of \$49 per individual or \$89 per couple (to cover FPU workbook and materials). Scholarships available. Contact Tom Barila with any questions. Try it out: join us on September 10 for an informational meeting with the class starting the next week. www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1046721



Location: Room 215

Taught by: Connie and Keith Byers

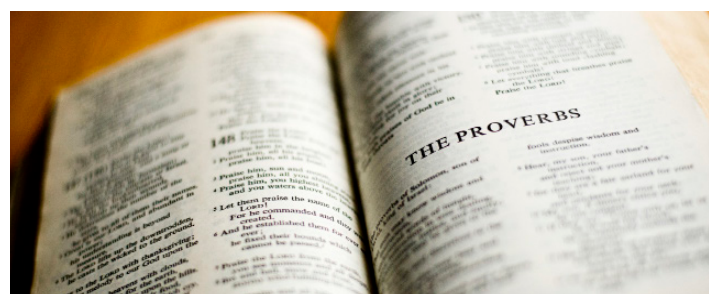
THINK FOR A CHANGE: WISDOM FROM THE PROVERBS

Fall Term Class: September 10 – November 26

Using Proverbs, we will focus on what Paul tells us: "Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Every week, we will study the wisdom of Proverbs in a topical way and consider: **What you think about God is the most important thing about you.** You're not what you think you are, but what you think, you are. We will structure the class with a horizontal and vertical focus. We will start each class with a 15-minute fellowship time (horizontal) and a 45-minute study time (vertical).

Location: Room 217

Taught by: Dave Beckmann



FALL KICKOFF



UNLOCKING YOUR FAMILY PATTERN: FINDING FREEDOM FROM A HURTFUL PAST Fall Term Class: September 10 – November 26

We are a diverse community seeking God's healing and wholeness for the brokenness in our lives and families through safe, authentic Christian relationships. We come together on Sunday mornings to discuss pre-assigned selections we've read during the week. The readings hone our tools for living out a relationship with Jesus and others in a real and challenging world. We would love for you to join us in this rich, deep encounter with the book *Unlocking Your Family Pattern: Finding Freedom from a Hurtful Past*. We will study families from scripture, examine family systems and learn how to live free of our dysfunctional past.

**Location: Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Ave.
(Office Building)**
Taught by: Mary Damon

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Our children's Sunday school classes will continue to meet **during the 10 a.m. worship hour.**

Again, we'll be using the David C. Cook curriculum for all children ages two and up. As part of this curriculum, we send out a weekly parent email, equipping parents to be the primary disciplers of their children throughout the week. For questions or to sign up for the email, contact Tracie, traciem@thirdrva.org, or Kathy, kathyw@thirdrva.org.

Room	Ages
Room 102	Infants (crawling)
Room 124	Infants
Room 107	Toddler 1 (walkers)
Room 122	Toddler 2 (older walkers)
Room 105	Little Lambs 1 (2 by 9/30/17 younger group)
Room 103	Little Lambs 2 (2 by 9/30/17 older group)
Room 223	Little Lions (Young 3's)
Room 204	Little Monkeys (older 3's/young 4's)
Room 202	Little Eagles (older 4s)
Room 227	Kindergarten
Room 220	1st Grade
Room 221	2nd Grade
Room 201	3rd Grade
Room 209	4th Grade
Basement	Club 56

FALL KICKOFF



MEET OUR NEW NURSERY DIRECTOR: MEGAN PIERCE

Megan Pierce will be our new Infant Nursery Director. She goes to EEF, has extensive experience with child care, is CPR trained and a doula (hopefully won't need her for that!). Best of all, she comes highly recommended by Mary Kay Avula and Corey! God is so very good to have brought her to us.

UPDATES ON THE NURSERY ROOMS

We are busting at the seams in our baby department and want to be prepared for more children! Parents, you will receive an email letting you know which room your child is assigned to since we have more than one room for different age levels. That room assignment will be during the 10 a.m. hour, when we have most of our children attend. At 8:45 and 11:15 we combine rooms: Infants in Room 102, Toddlers in Room 107, Little Lambs in Room 103, and all three-year-olds in Room 223.

Please take note of the room assignment from the email and be prepared to take your child there on Fall Kickoff Sunday, Sept. 10. Thank you for your help! Questions? Just reach out to Kathy White: kathyw@thirdrva.org.

STUDENT MINISTRY SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP

SUNDAY MORNINGS

During the 10 a.m. worship hour, students (ages 7th grade through high school) meet in the Student Ministry area and split into their Sunday morning classes.

Room	Ages
Room 121	High School (co-ed)
Room 132/134	Middle School girls
Room 125/127	Middle School boys

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Each Sunday night, our student ministry gathers to deepen relationships with each other and with God. We invite all students from grade 7 through the end of high school to join us. We meet in the Fellowship Hall all together at 7 p.m., play a game together, then meet for worship, a message, and split into small group breakouts by gender and grade. We finish up by 8:30 p.m.



FALL KICKOFF

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT THIRD KICKING OFF ON SEPTEMBER 20

Join us on Wednesday evenings at Third for opportunities to worship, serve, and find fellowship. All our Wednesday evening activities and groups start (unless otherwise stated) on Sept. 20.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



ARABIC STUDENT
HOMEWORK
TUTORING

ARABIC STUDENT HOMEWORK TUTORING

Wednesdays, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall
September 20 – November 15

This tutoring program is in its 13th year and we have over 70 students coming each week, mostly from the Arabic Christian Church. We have all age ranges of children from kindergarten through high school students. Ready to help? There are a few ways to be involved:

1. Be a weekly tutor. We need at least 20 more!
2. Sign up as a substitute, and fill in when needed.
3. Help with transportation to or from the church. Dependable transportation is a big issue.

Contact: Andi Redmond, andir@thirdrva.org
to learn more or sign up.

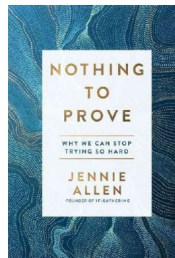
ESL TUTORING

Wednesdays, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m., Room 101
September 20 – November 15

Join this team to provide ESL help and build a relationship with an Arabic-speaking adult. We need a few conversation partners to help reinforce the lesson.

Contact: Don Smith, OwlOrchardva@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES



REFRESH

1st and 3rd Wednesdays,
6:30 – 8 p.m., Parlor

Join young working women and/or young mothers for the study of Jennie Allen's *Nothing to Prove*. This group does a video Bible study together and is "open" all fall and spring. Because there's no homework you can drop in anytime it is convenient for you.

This study uses the book of John to look at how, when we do not feel we are "enough," Jesus is. We can admit our greatest needs and watch the Holy Spirit form our desires into offerings. We will see how God moves wildly through people who have nothing to prove.

This group is full of wonderful women and includes folks who are single, married, have kids or no kids; all with caring hearts and a desire to know Jesus more deeply. We'd love to see you.

Contact: Caroline Hutton, cmhutton6@gmail.com;
Erin Holbrook, echolbrook@gmail.com;
Blair Bigelow, blair.bigelow@gmail.com

FALL KICKOFF

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT THIRD

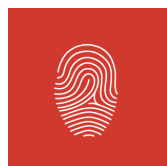
KICKING OFF ON SEPTEMBER 20

FREEDOM ROAD: A RECOVERY COMMUNITY

**Wednesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m., 500 Forest Ave.,
2nd Floor Conference Room**

We are people who know firsthand our woundedness, the brokenness of our own addiction to substances and compulsive behaviors, as well as more subtle addictions to our own obsessive thinking and powerlessness to do the right thing. We also are the families of those trapped by addiction and mental illness. We desire to share a safe place to work out our faith and recovery and introduce others to the grace of Jesus Christ. Our context is the hope and freedom we have experienced in 12-step recovery, the radical love and healing of God.

Contact: Mary Damon, merryoh@gmail.com



CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

**Wednesdays, Sept. 20 – Nov. 15
6 – 8 p.m., 500 Forest Ave.
Kitchen and Multipurpose Room**

Christianity Explored is an eight-week course designed for those who are engaging with the basics of the Christian faith and have questions they want to work through in community. The group will be walking through the Gospel of Mark while examining the basic truths of who Christ is, who we are before God, what God has done for us in Christ, and what our hope is in him. Each week, we will share a meal together before diving into the coursework.

Taught by: Charles Teixeira

CLUB 56

Wednesdays, Sept. 20 – Nov. 15, Basement

5th and 6th graders! Come to Club 56 to learn more about Jesus, and build relationships with other students your age.

**Contact Andrea Woie, andreaw@thirdrva.org
or Tracie Meadows, traciem@thirdrva.org**

PLAY & WORSHIP

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Room 103

For children three years old to kindergarten. Bible stories, songs, and playtime from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., then childcare until 8 p.m.

NURSERY

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Room 102

Nursery care available in a godly, loving atmosphere for infants through two years old.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HANDBELLS

Wednesdays, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m., Choir Room

Learn the handbells and prepare music for worship and outreach.

**Contact: Jeff Hummell, jeffh@thirdrva.org
and John White, johnw@thirdrva.org**

ALLELUIA CHOIR

Though this choir doesn't meet weekly, we will convene occasionally to work on special projects. Want to be involved? Contact Kim Taulbee: kimt@thirdrva.org.

FALL KICKOFF



SEVERAL YEARS AGO the Family Ministry team at Third Church developed Faith Milestones, a framework to assist parents in guiding their children on a journey of faith in Christ. Parents have an average of 3,000 hours each year to influence and lead their children, compared to the church's 40 hours. Third Church wants to come alongside parents, using the Faith Milestones, to nurture the spiritual growth of our children.

Milestones—including baptism, the 2nd grade Bible presentation, family prayer, and Night to Remember—span a child's life from birth/adoption through high school graduation. We want to celebrate these milestones with families at Third and give parents tools to help them impress upon their children the love and character of God. Faith Milestones brochures are available on the 2nd floor of the Sunday school wing and are on our website at www.thirdrva.org/faith-milestones. You can read the milestone that is applicable to your child's age and development and find resources to help as well.

For more information about Faith Milestones, contact Tracie Meadows, traciem@thirdrva.org or Kathy White kathyw@thirdrva.org.

MISSION PARTNER



NATHAN AND AMY CALLAWAY ARE NEW MISSION PARTNERS OF THIRD CHURCH.

They will be moving to the Middle East in the fall to commence Arabic studies. Nathan is a pharmacist and Amy is a school teacher. Their long-term goal is to work with a Christian mission hospital that serves many Middle Easterners with lung disease as well as the refugee community. They will serve with a team that is reaching out to Bedouin people among whom there is no church.

Amy grew up in Kenya where her parents served as missionaries. While in college in Richmond she met Nathan who had short-term mission experience in Latin America. In 2009 they participated together in a Perspectives on the World Christian Movement class shortly before their marriage.

Since then they have lived in Church Hill where they are members of East End Fellowship. They have been involved in the community serving ministries such as CHAT and Blue Sky Fund. Over the last year they have completed an internship with World Horizons and are now fund raising and making final preparations for their move to the Middle East together with their 20-month-old daughter, Layla.

NEXT STEPS AT THIRD

If you've been coming to Third for a while or are brand new here and are interested in how you can get more involved, start here! For any questions about these events, contact Beth Nichols, bethn@thirdrva.org.



WELCOME COFFEES

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. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17
Parlor, 9:45 – 11 a.m.



BETA GROUPS

Beta groups at Third are six-week small groups that are designed especially for those who are new to our church, new to small groups, or interested in getting more involved and meeting people at Third. They are open

to new members and visitors, and allow for folks to build relationships, connect with others at Third, and deepen their relationship with Christ.

New groups are forming for the October and November timeframe. Want to join one? Contact Beth Nichols, bethn@thirdrva.org.



NEWCOMERS CLASS

Are you ready to explore a deeper commitment to this part of the Body of Christ? We'd love to get to know you and provide an opportunity for you to learn about Third's vision for worship, discipleship, community, serving

and outreach. We have a Newcomers Class several times a year where you'll hear from Pastor Corey Widmer and other Third Leaders and laypeople and find out about the community and missional life of Third.

At the end of the class you can decide if God is calling you to membership at Third at this time. The class includes a time when you'll be asked to share your story of God's work in your life with your classmates, elders and pastors of Third, for those wanting to join the church. Childcare is provided with a reservation for the class.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday morning, Sept. 10, 10 – 11 a.m. in the Parlor

Friday evening, Sept. 15, 6 – 9 p.m., with dinner in Room 213/215

Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:30 a.m. – Noon, Room 213/215

Sunday, Sept. 17, the Sunday morning service you normally attend (for those deciding to become members)

To sign up for the class: visit thirdrva.org/newcomers or contact Beth Nichols, bethn@thirdrva.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS: SEPT. & OCT.

SEPTEMBER 10

HAITI RECAP LUNCHEON

12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Lunch included (free!)

If you've ever been interested in hearing more about the Haiti trip, or if you were praying for the team and want to hear how the trip went, come to this trip recap meeting luncheon. We'll share stories, watch footage, and see photos from how God worked on this year's Haiti trip! We'll provide a traditional Haitian lunch, and different team members will share from each of their work areas (VBS, Construction, and Medical) about the impact of the trip.

Questions? Contact LJ Jaworski, lj@thirdrva.org

SEPTEMBER 11

JOBS FOR LIFE KICKOFF

Monday evenings, Sept. 11 – Nov. 27
6 – 8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Jobs for Life is a 12-week, relationship-centered jobs training program. We are still looking for folks to be involved through mentoring and providing meals. Interested? Learn more and sign up to help at:

thirdrva.org/jobsforlife.

SEPTEMBER 13

CLUB 56 KICKOFF DINNER

6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Fifth and 6th grade students and their families are invited to the Club 56 Kick-Off Dinner. We will talk about the vision of Club 56, meet the Sunday school teaching team, and discuss what is happening with your children during these middle years.

Please RSVP to Andrea Woie no later than Sept. 6.

THE CHURCH ABROAD & THE CHURCH IN OUR BACKYARD

A Conference with Tharwat Wahba exploring how the Church in the Middle East affects, challenges, and encourages the church here in the States.

SEPT. 15 & 16
7:00 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL



SEPTEMBER 16 - 18

THE CHURCH ABROAD & THE CHURCH IN OUR BACKYARD

Friday, Sept. 15 and Saturday, Sept. 16
7 p.m. both nights, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m., Sanctuary with the Christian Arabic Church

Tharwat Wahba, a professor and chair of the Missions Department at the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo, will be with us to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the church in the Middle East, and specifically in Egypt. His talks will be informative but also encouraging to us as the global church to help do our part in advancing the gospel.

This event is in partnership with the Christian Arabic Church, and is another wonderful opportunity to meet more brothers and sisters from the CAC, to learn alongside them, and partner with them in our care for the Middle East.

SEPTEMBER 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 no later than Oct. 17.



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



On September 24, Third Church will join with hundreds of churches to recognize "Freedom Sunday" when we will pray and learn what we can do to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

Sponsored by International Justice Mission, IJM.org, Freedom Sunday is dedicated to carrying out our scriptural responsibility to "seek justice and defend the oppressed." (Isaiah 1:17)

IJM reports that there are more than 45 million children, women and men who are enslaved or victims of human trafficking around the world. Many perform exhausting

and life-threatening labor. Others are trapped in sex trades, including the 21st century evil of cybersex. Sadly, this isn't just a global crisis; there are many victims of human trafficking in our local communities.

On Freedom Sunday, our services will include a video by IJM, as well as prayers focused on our responsibility to act missionally towards these suffering sisters and brothers. Between the services, there will be an opportunity to learn more about IJM and its local partner, Richmond Justice Initiative.

Additionally, in conjunction with the Freedom Sunday initiative, there will be a Sunday discipleship class for 10 weeks this fall focusing on "Doing Justice in a Hurting World." In this class we will learn more about our biblical responsibility to those who are suffering, and we will be given practical opportunities to serve with our mission partners in RVA.

“Be ye doers of the word,
and not hearers only.”
James 1:22

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER: Friday, Sept. 15. Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org