

S A CHURCH COMMUNITY, we are passionate about many things—most of which are outlined in our core values. We care deeply about being faithful individual followers of Jesus. We believe in being missional, reaching the lost and spreading God's shalom through our city and the world. We care about the arts, about worship, and we care deeply about being one community together, seeking these things alongside one another. We believe in eating together, serving together. We believe that being dependent on one another is not a sign of our weakness, but our strength. The life of a Christian is both a private and communal experience. As our vision statement says, we are each called first as a unique person made in the image of God. We are called, beckoned forth, by the Holy Spirit into relationship with the living God through Jesus Christ. But we are also called into life with his people. We are called into community, we are *called together*. We are excited that after a summer of comings and goings, sabbaticals, and travels, we arrive at one of our favorite times of the year at Third: the fall. And there is no better time to remember that we are called together than the fall. This is the season when we, in a sense, recommit to our ministry and communal life together. We recommit to serving alongside one another, doing things like leading Sunday school classes and tutoring local students. And we can also use this opportunity to recommit to our communal life together-dropping into a new class on Sunday morning or checking out a parish group in your neighborhood. Starting in September, there is so much being offered through our ministries, classes and parish groups to remind us that we are called together, and that we can live this out throughout the year. You are called into life with God, and you are called into community with his image bearers right here at Third and in your neighborhood. We hope you find a place this fall to connect, serve, and grow together.

THESE ARE ALL

OPPORTUNITIES

FOR YOU

— to —

CONNECT & ENGAGE

WITH THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



CONNECT

Opportunities for community and discipleship

PAGE 06

LEARN

Opportunities to explore the Bible in community

PAGE 09

SERVE

Opportunities to tangibly share the love of Christ

PAGE 11

FAMILIES

Opportunities to care for the next generation

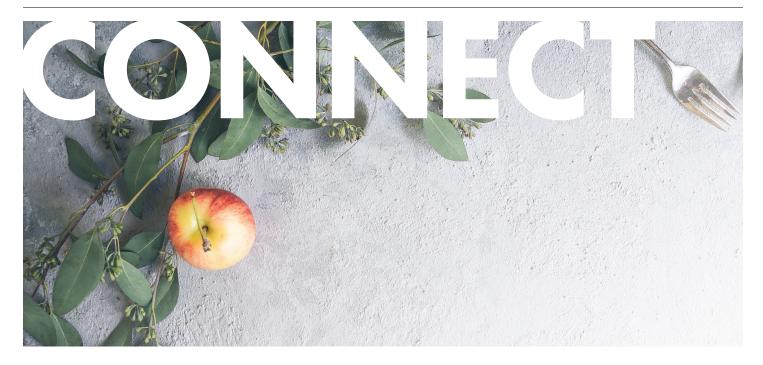
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Opportunities to serve the immigrants and refugees who live around our church area. Opportunities to find deep friendships and community. Opportunities to learn more about this faithful God that we serve and how his living and active word can work in our lives daily. We invite you to read this issue with a heart and mind soft to where God may be leading you to connect or serve.

WHERE ARE YOU BEING CALLED? WHO ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO?



CONNECT 05



WE'RE HOSTING A CHURCH-WIDE FALL KICK-OFF EVENT!

Each Parish Area across the metro Richmond area is hosting an open-house style gathering to kick off our fall season at Third, and we want you to be there. Whether you're active in a Parish Group or not, this is a chance to connect with others from Third who live near you, meet your Shepherding Elders, Deacons, and Parish Group leaders, and just enjoy a meal together.

Our hope is that this will be the first in a series of parish-wide gatherings across the city, open to everyone—neighbors, visitors, covenant partners, anyone—to experience some community in your backyard.

COME TO THE GATHERING IN YOUR PARISH AREA

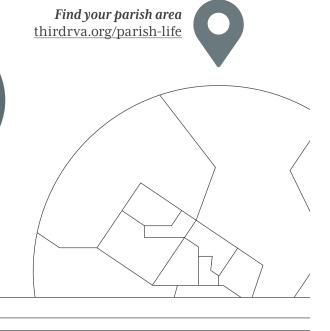
COME EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD.

When: Sunday, September 9 | 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Where: 12 locations! One for each Parish Area.

Find your gathering's location at thirdrva.org/events

Contact: Valerie Holland (valerieh@thirdrva.org)

(804) 282-4645



06 CONNECT



Blair and Will Bigelow, Gayton Parish

hen the Parish Group model was announced in 2017, we were very excited and slightly skittish about how this would all roll out. On one hand, we had been asking God for a more relational community that went beyond the passing of the peace or chit chat at the nursery door on Sundays. While we had found pockets of friends through small groups and the various men and women's ministry opportunities, we weren't necessarily connecting with those in our geographic area of the city. On the other hand, as parents of young children, routines and familiar faces were comforting in this season of constant change and we didn't want to over commit ourselves to one more activity or lose our way of "doing church."

We found ourselves grumbling about how the Parish Group model would change *our* schedules, *our* routines, *our* friendships that had taken so long to establish. We had to confess that we were seeking our agenda in all of this instead of the Lord's.

Our God is so generous to allow us to discover who he is and who we are in him in the comfort and ease of a small group of believers, gathering weekly to share a meal, a lesson and a little life together.

But God in his goodness has shown us over the last few months what life in a Parish Group is like. It's noisy and messy and beautiful because it's filled with people doing exactly what we're doing—seeking God and his kingdom here in our little part of the world. It's rich with laughter and sometimes tears. There's occasional hollering from the kids in the next room drowning out conversation among adults. There is prayer and healing and worship.

We've replaced our old weekly routine with a new one and to be honest it doesn't look that different. We thought it would be radical, but it was simpler than we thought. We spend our Sunday evenings with people we would never necessarily spend time with otherwise and we are richer for it. There are some amazing stories to be heard and relationships to be forged. Our lives are brighter and more colorful than the black and white version we were attempting to hold on to. The growth we are experiencing with our neighbors has overshadowed any feelings over our time and how we thought it should be spent. We are learning new rhythms of how to be part of a group and hopefully teaching that to our children as well.

Our God is so generous to allow us to discover who he is and who we are in him in the comfort and ease of a small group of believers, gathering weekly to share a meal, a lesson and a little life together.

CONNECT 07

END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION

Labor Day Sunday, September 2 | 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

We kickoff our fall season at Third on September 9, but before the rush of events and before the school buses begin their rounds, we want to take a minute to gather together. On Labor Day Sunday, between our services, we want to provide extra space to linger, visit, share stories of the summer, and take a breather before starting the new academic year.

This will help all of us answer those two burning questions, "What did you do this summer?" and "Which service do you attend?" Here you can just hang with friends old and new, and those you don't get to see often.

Third's Session (our governing elders) want to treat all of Third's attenders to an end-of-summer treat from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come for donuts during the 10:00 a.m. hour in the Fellowship Hall, and stick around for food trucks and ice cream from 11:00 a.m. on. We'll have corn hole and hula hoops for some activities too. Bring your families, linger after a worship service, or return for lunch. The donuts and ice cream are free, and additional food can be purchased at the food trucks.

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. At the end of the class, you'll have an opportunity to become a covenant partner of our church family.

HERE'S THE SCHEDULE:

Sunday, September 16 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (in the Parlor) **Friday, September 21** 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. (with dinner)

Saturday, September 22 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 30 If you decide to become a member, come to the Sunday Morning service you normally attend.

Ready to sign up? Visit thirdrva.org/newcomers.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Each fall, a handful of different women's ministry groups begin meeting again, and they open their doors to any other women looking for community, or an opportunity to explore Scripture, serve others, or discuss a new book.

If you're interested in learning about all the different groups that will begin meeting this month — ranging from weekly to monthly meeting schedules — visit thirdrva.org/womens-groups.

CARDS & CARE

Ladies, do you have a heart for comforting, encouraging, praising and praying for others? Then we would love for you to join Cards & Care ministry. The second Sunday of each month we meet in Room 209 to write cards and pray for our fellow Third Church members. If you could join us every week or just once in a while, please do. Any questions, get in touch with Judy Duarte: judithduarte@verizon.net or (804) 278-8779.

FREEDOM ROAD: A RECOVERY COMMUNITY

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.

When: Wednesdays, year-round | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Where: 500 Forest Avenue, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Contact: Mary Damon (merryoh@gmail.com)

O8 LEARN



SUNDAY CLASSES

Our Sunday classes for adults are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Our Sunday morning classes are organized around 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. Starting September 9, find a class where you can meet others, learn about important issues facing us today, and deepen your faith.

If you have any questions about a class, or would like to teach in the future, you can contact Derek Mondeau at derekm@thirdrva.org.

EXPLORE THE ENNEAGRAM

Join us for a journey of compassionate self-discovery, using the enneagram, an ancient personality typing tool. Learn with us about the nine different types, yourself and your relationships as they are and also as God would have them to be. We will learn to see through another type's lens how the world looks. Our base text will be *The Road Back to You*, by Ian Cron and Suzanne Stabile.

When: Sept. 9 – Dec. 2
Where: Multipurpose Room,
500 Forest Avenue

Led by: Linda Walter, Mary Damon

GOOD NEWS CLASS

The Good News Class gathers for the purpose of renewing our minds through the study of God's Holy Word. Our classes focus on expository Bible teaching, and are usually devoted to one book of the Bible each semester, although teachers will sometimes teach on a Biblical theme from the scriptures. This class is centered on understanding and applying God's Word for His glory and our growth as His people.

When: Sept. 9 – Dec. 30 **Where:** Room 101

Led by: David Beckmann, Bob Stamps, Dave Skove

BOOK OF ACTS STUDY

The Reveal Class will continue our study of the book of Acts, exploring through UP, IN and OUT observations, the missionary themes that Luke narrates. The mission of God's people always involves our Theology, our Community, and our Outreach.

When: Sept. 9 – Dec. 2

Where: Room 213

Led by: Jennifer Parham, Andrew Fuller

LEARN 09

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

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 class is being offered at a reduced rate for \$59/per person or \$99/per couple. Scholarships are available! Pre-registration is not required but please contact Valerie Holland (valerieh@thirdrva.org) for scholarship opportunities or to learn more.

When: Sept. 9 – Nov. 18

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Where: Room 215

Led by: Keith and Connie Byers

Special childcare aarrangements available for newborn-6th

grade, since this class meets until 11:30 a.m.

WOMEN, THE BIBLE, AND CHURCH

Why does Third adopt a position of gender equality for leadership in the church? Because we believe that from creation to new creation the Bible consistently affirms the equal standing of men and women in the church. We'll dig deep and explore the breadth of Scripture's affirmation for all God's people in all dimensions of church ministry in an effort to understand why Third Church and ECO have gender equality as one of their key values. We will also look at church history to understand how restrictions on the role of women arose, and how these restrictions owed much more to their cultural context than to the full message of biblical revelation.

When: Sept. 9 – Dec. 2
Where: Fellowship Hall
Led by: Nan and Boyd Clarke,
LI Jaworski, Gina Maio



A GUIDED TOUR OF THE BIBLE

In addition to our Sunday morning class offerings, we're excited to host this class led by Executive Pastor, Ed Satterfield. This will be an opportunity to take a dynamic and engaging look at the Bible, exploring it's historical and contextual significance, as well as it's relevance and power for us today.

A Guided Tour of the Bible is a short 5-week study focusing on one section of the Bible. We dig into that one section, looking at a different book each week, so we can better understand and be impacted by its message. We read on our own in-between classes, so then time in class together is an opportunity to explore things you want to know more about, ask questions about what you've read, and learn from each other. Ed Satterfield authored this special Guided Tour and will lead our time together.

The Fall Term covers two brief segments of the Bible. Join the Tour at any time! We'd love to have you.

September 13 – October 11: Genesis – Deuteronomy
October 18 – November 15: Joshua – Esther

When: Thursday evenings, September 13 – November 15

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Room 217, 600 Forest Avenue

Contact: Valerie Holland (valerieh@thirdrva.org)

Let Valerie know if you want to come so that we can prepare materials for you.

10 SERVE



In addition to the ways we grow together as a church family, building community and fostering fellowship with each other and with our neighbors, we are called to then serve. This fall, we are offering a few ways for you to love our neighbors here in the West End of Richmond through service right here at the church building. Our hope is that every person at Third feels called and equipped to serve their city, and these are just a few ways to start.

ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) FOR ADULTS

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. If you want to commit for the whole season, great! But our lessons are done by topic, so feel free to drop in as you're able.

When: Wednesdays, starting Sept. 20 $\mid 6:45-7:45 \text{ p.m.}$

Where: Room 101

Contact: Don Smith (owlorchardva@gmail.com)

Childcare available for 2-year-olds through Kindergarten!



JOBS FOR LIFE

The Jobs for Life Training Program is a 12-week, relationship-centered jobs training program that transforms lives and builds community. Each student is teamed with a Champion who will walk through the class and the months following as they journey from unemployment to employment, or from underemployment to better employment. Join us in this unique opportunity to serve and love our neighbors.

When: Mondays, September 10 – November 26

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Contact: Ginger James (gingerjamesl@icloud.com)

WE'RE RECRUITING CHAMPIONS!

Walk as a mentor alongside a student throughout the twleve weeks of the class. Journey with your student from unemployment or underemployment to better employment! SERVE 11

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE HOMEWORK TUTORING

This past school year, with the Christian Arabic Church's encouragement, we expanded our tutoring reach on Wednesday evenings to immigrant and refugee students from other cultures. This was a change that truly reflected what the CAC was already doing. They have extensive outreach practices currently in place for these groups – we are now merely coming alongside them and further supporting their work. Therefore, we also need to tweak our name, and will be changing the name of our program to Immigrant and Refugee Homework Tutoring. We hope that this change makes this program feel welcoming to them!

If you're like me, you might wonder what the difference is between *immigrants* and *refugees*? Fakhri Yacoub, the pastor of the Christian Arabic Church, shared with me that immigrants come to the US through a VISA program, and can return to their home country anytime. Refugees on the other hand, come to the US through either the United Nations because of war, violence, or displacement in their country, or on an asylum-seeking VISA. In both of these refugee cases, they do not wish to return to their home country, and probably cannot. Richmond is a designated UN refugee city. Tutoring is just one small way we can meet and help them feel welcome in our country!

WE NEED LOTS OF HELP!

Anyone qualifies—you do not need to be a teacher to tutor! There are a number of new families that have arrived since the end of the school year, which means we're trying to provide tutors to 90 students.

Volunteer as a weekly tutor, meeting with the same child each week, learning their strengths and weaknesses and building a relationship. Or, team up with another person to "share" a student, only needing to come half of the time. You could also be on a sub list to help out when your schedule allows.

Please contact Andi if you are interested in serving or just learning more.

When: Wednesdays, September 19 – November 14 (Term 1)

Wednesdays, January 9 – March 27 (Term 2)

6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Where: Meet at the Fellowship Hall

Contact: Andi Redmond (andi.redmond6@gmail.com)

Childcare available for 2-year-olds through Kindergarten!

Anyone qualifies—you do not need to be a teacher to tutor!

– From Andi Redmond



12 SERVE

MISSIONS UPDATE

We sent out a total of four different short-term mission teams this summer! We are so grateful to have been able to serve in these different ways and are anticipating hearing great stories from these trips for many months to come.







"As one of the few returners, I was frequently bombarded with questions and curiosity. I'm thankful that God was able to use me to answer pressing questions from my friends, because I forgot how daunting the trip appears on the outside. I think this opportunity gave me the chance to realize the bravery of my peers. Whereas I was a timid 15-year-old on my first trip, I saw first-timers accept advice, ask questions, and jump at the chance to give a helping hand. Their confidence never wavered throughout the week. I may have been able to offer a little bit of expertise, but I think that my teammates taught me more than I could have ever taught them. Their willingness to serve in the unknown inspired me to jump in with the same enthusiasm."

"The most surprising thing for me was how well our team worked. I run for my school's cross country and track program, and constantly do group projects, so being on a team is not a new concept for me. I'm used to there being a couple people who don't pull their weight or who isolate themselves from the rest of the group, but that was not the case for this trip. Everyone was always asking what they could do next or if someone else needed a water break and if they could take their place. It was almost like we didn't want to take breaks because we were so productive. I have never felt such a positive vibe from a team before – it made every step so much more enjoyable, and I knew that if I ever got tired, someone was always willing to help me out."

- Allison Potter







FRANCE

"Our six team members (Jonathan Knabe, Cindy Cave, Phillip Yelverton, Blanton Bradley, John White and LJ Jaworski) spent quality time with our mission partners Paul & Reinheld Sydnor in their place of ministry, Lille, France, working with refugees.

Much of our focus was on better understanding how God has called us to "love the stranger or the foreigner in our midst" as we worked with a small number of refugees, and learned more from Paul who has just completed a Ph.D. on migration. We went to see a building that a house church is purchasing and renovate where Paul will have his home base for his ministry in the future. It's nestled in an immigrant community."

–LJ Jaworski

- Rachael Potter

FAMILIES 13



FAMILY MINISTRY

We're excited to begin another year with your little ones in Sunday School at Third! Our children's Sunday school classes will continue to meet during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour.

Infants	Little Lions (young 3's) 223	2nd Grade
Toddler 1 107	Little Deer (older 3's/young 4's) 204	3rd Grade
Toddler 2	Little Eagles (older 4's) 202	4th Grade 207
Little Lambs 1 (9/30/18) 105	Kindergarten 227	Club 56 Basement
Little Lambs 2 (9/30/18) 103	1st Grade	Wiggle Room

ATTENTION PARENTS OF ALL THIRD CHURCH STUDENTS (3 YEARS-6TH GRADE)

Third's Family Ministry believes that you — the parent! — are the primary spiritual leader and champion for your children and we want to help you do this important job that God has called you to do! Each week Kathy and Tracie email a special parent page that previews the upcoming Sunday school lesson. This page includes Scripture for families to read, Bible verses to memorize as a family, and blessings you can say over your children. We want you to be diving into God's word each week and this parent page makes it easy for you.

If you are not receiving the weekly email, contact Tracie (lst-6th grade) at traciem@thirdrva.org or Kathy (infants-kindergarten) at kathyw@thirdrva.org to be added!

THE WIGGLE ROOM IS MOVING (AGAIN!)

We are moving our Wiggle Room into a more permanent location at Room 125, just across the courtyard from the Sanctuary. This room should be ready by Sunday, September 9.

14 FAMILIES

CLUB 56

Our fifth and sixth graders gather weekly for lots of fun, fellowship and a Bible study. This is a very special community for our 5th and 6th grade students where they form lasting friendships and dive deep into God's truths for them. Join us!

When: Wednesdays | 6:45–7:45 p.m.

Where: Church Basement

Contact: Rick Hutton (rickh@thirdrva.org),

Andrea Woie (andreaw@thirdrva.org)

CLUB 56 KICK-OFF DINNER

Fifth and sixth grade students and their families are invited to attend the annual Club 56 Kick-off dinner. We will talk about the ministry of Club 56, introduce our Sunday morning teaching team, and talk about what to expect during the "middle years."

When: Wednesday, September 12 | 6:30 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to Andrea Woie by Wednesday, September 5:

andreaw@thirdrva.org.





STUDENT MINISTRY

Our students are ready and excited for the next school year together. We'll continue meeting together on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings. Hope to see all our students this September!

Questions? Feel free to reach out to Andrea Woie (andreaw@thirdrva.org) or Rick Hutton (rickh@thirdrva.org).

SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

High School (co-ed)	121
Middle School girls132	/134
Middle School boys	127

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Each Sunday night, our student ministry gathers to deepen relationships with each other and with God. We invite all students from grade seven 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.



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD THAT SABBATICALS WERE INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PASTORS.

Older mentors like Steve Hartman and Nelson Ould had told me how revitalizing sabbaticals have been for their minds and souls. I encouraged other pastors to take sabbaticals and to work with their elders to develop sabbatical policies. But in over 13 years of pastoral ministry, I had never actually taken one myself.

A few things happened to me as my sabbatical began on May 1. First, I realized how tired I was. It wasn't until I slowed down and stopped my frenetic activity that I realized just how physically, emotionally, and mentally tired I had become. Second, I realized how overly attached (addicted?) I had become to my work. It was really hard for me to detach, to let go, and to not stick my nose back into church business (Ed even had to scold me once or twice!). Finally, I realized that I had forgotten a lot about my true self. I was able to remember that I am not primarily a pastor and a leader. I am not what I have, I am not what I do, I am not what others think of me, I am more than my worst moment, I am more than my best moment. At root I am a man in Christ, one with Jesus through the Spirit, a beloved son of the Father. I am also a husband, a father, and a friend. The sabbatical gave me ample space to remember and express those vital, foundational parts of my identity that had been neglected.

We know the burn-out rate for pastors is very high. One of the ways we as the Church can combat that statistic is through a commitment to sabbaticals, a necessary time for the pastor to remember their identity apart from the church, and for the church to remember their identity apart from the pastor. My family and I are so grateful for the time we had apart, and we have returned refreshed and renewed. Thank you for the gift of rest!

COREY WIDMER





THIRD CHURCH
500 FOREST AVE.
RICHMOND, VA 23229
(804) 282-4645

Called together for the renewal of all things through Jesus Christ.

OUR 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