



ThirdPRESS

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday
10:00 a.m.
classes

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Serve
this Fall

PAGE 6

DISRUPTIVE GRACE: A NEW SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF

JONAH

PAGE 2

YOU'RE INVITED! PARISH AREA FALL GATHERINGS ARE HAPPENING ON SEPTEMBER 8 (PAGE 3)

What comes to mind when you think of the story of Jonah?

Probably a big whale. Or maybe a big fish if you are more zoologically precise. What most of us know about Jonah is what we learned in Sunday School or VBS as children: a funny little story about a guy who got swallowed up and spit back out again. Few of us have reflected on the story much more than that.

Despite the fact that Jonah may be one of the most familiar stories in the Bible, it is probably also among the least understood. Behind the well-known narrative is a powerful demonstration of one of the most important themes of the Christian faith: the disruptive grace of God. The word *disruptive* is key, because the book of Jonah demonstrates that God's grace often comes in ways that can turn our lives upside down.

Behind the well-known narrative is a powerful demonstration of one of the most important themes of the Christian faith: *the disruptive grace of God.*

We see the disruptive grace of God at work in at least two ways in this story. First, God disrupts the lives of rebellious humans as we run away from him. If sin in essence is running away from God, then grace is God chasing us down to bring us back. Jonah does nothing to get back to God; God does everything to get Jonah back to him, including the purposeful use of a hurricane and a giant fish. So many of us can point to ways that some major disruption in our lives brought us to God when we were not even looking for him. God disrupts our lives because he loves us.

Yet the disruption goes even deeper. Some people have pointed out that the book of Jonah is one of the only books in the Old Testament that includes the active evangelization of non-Jewish people. That is true. However, the true object of evangelism in this story is not the pagan but the believer, not the Ninevites but the prophet. Even after Jonah comes back to God, he is still blinded by his ethnocentric vision of the world and his refusal to believe that God could love the people that he hates. So once again, God's grace must disrupt Jonah's life, teaching him how the grace of God extends to those that Jonah would never choose to love.

Beginning September 8, we'll commence a 6-week sermon series on Jonah and God's disruptive grace. This is a wonderful story for us to learn from in an age of deep cultural conflict like ours. In such a time as this, God continues to call us his people to share his grace widely and generously, to all people and in all places. This is a story that has the power to form us into peacemakers, bridge-builders, and grace-agents in the world. Let's pray that God disrupts us with his grace!



PARISH AREA FALL GATHERINGS

September 8, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

On September 8, each Parish Area across the metro Richmond area is hosting a cookout to share food, to meet one another, and to celebrate the start of fall. And we want you to be there.

Never been to a Parish Group before? That's fine! This is a chance for everyone—whether you're involved in a Parish Group or not—to connect with others from Third who live near you. You'll get the opportunity to meet your Shepherding Elders, Deacons, and Parish Group leaders, and just enjoy a meal together. We're inviting everyone to come and experience community in your own backyard.

CHESTERFIELD

Home of Holly & Don Smith

Time change: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

3174 Three Bridge Rd, Powhatan, VA 23139

Contact: Don Smith (owlorchardva@gmail.com)

and Connie Byers (conniebyers@gmail.com)

CITY SOUTH

Forest Hill Park

4021 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23225

Meet Between Playground and Tennis Courts

Rain Location: Sprinkle's Home (5315 Caledonia Rd)

Contact: Beth Sprinkle (bethsprinkle@me.com)

CITY EAST

Three Lakes Park

400 Sausiluta Dr, Richmond, VA 23227

Rain Location: 9821 Harvest Honey Road, Mechanicsville

Contact: Richard Nance (richardtnance@gmail.com)

CITY NORTH

Meadow Crump Park

3400 Mountain Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23060 (Shelter 2)

Contact: Lauren Luck (lauren.luck@gmail.com)

GAYTON

Community West Pavilion

2340 Pump Rd, Henrico, VA 23233

Contact: Fred Whitten (fred.whitten@outlook.com)

and Lauren Auker (laurenauker5@gmail.com)

GROVE

St. Giles Church

5200 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226

Contact: Kathi Cox (kathietcox@gmail.com)

LAUDERDALE

Community West Pavilion

2340 Pump Rd, Henrico, VA 23233

Contact: Bob Tatti (rjtat24@aol.com)

MOORELAND

Deep Run Park

8917 Tolman Rd, Richmond, VA 23229

Denise Lauranzon (dlauranzon@gmail.com)

NORTHWEST

Home of Valerie & Garrett Holland

18104 Dogwood Trail Rd, Rockville, VA

Contact: Valerie Holland (valerieh@thirdrva.org)

RIDGE

Third Church Playground & Fellowship Hall

600 Forest Ave, Richmond, VA 23229

Meet near playground

Contact: Greg Ellen (gellen@dmwpv.com)

RIVER WEST

Home of Andi and Brian Redmond

9709 Old Club Trace, Richmond, VA

Contact: Patrice Foster (foster1030@aol.com)

THREE CHOPT

Kanawha Pavilion

8100 Holmes Ave, Richmond, VA 23229

Contact: Kerri Vogel (kerrilee7@gmail.com)



Find your Parish Area:
thirdrva.org/parish-life

Sunday 10:00 a.m. classes

Every Sunday School class should be asking at least two questions: How is this helping our people to follow Christ? How is this helping build relationships among our people?

One of my mentors shared this bit of wisdom with me last spring, and it has stuck with me. And he was absolutely right. The gift of Adult Discipleship is in how it can expand our biblical and theological knowledge while at the same time connecting us with others who also seek to be transformed by God.

As the fall season Third kicks off September 8 it is a great opportunity to check out one of our 10:00 a.m. Sunday School classes if you haven't already. These classes are a great chance to expand your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, and to walk alongside others on the journey.

– Derek Mondeau



Club 56 Kickoff Dinner

Wednesday, September 11
6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

5th and 6th grade students and their families are invited to learn more about the ministry of Club 56, meet the Sunday morning teaching team, and learn about the Wednesday night meetings! We will enjoy dinner together and then our Club 56 students will have time to gather while the parents have a short meeting. RSVP by September 4th to Andrea Woie (andrew@thirdrva.org)

FOR CHILDREN

Classes at 10:00 a.m., September–May:

AGES	ROOM
Infants	102
Toddler 1*	107
Toddler 2*	122
2 Year Olds (Little Lambs 1)*	105
2 Year Olds (Little Lambs 2)*	103
3 Year Olds (Little Lions)	223
4 Year Olds (Little Deer)	204
5 Year Olds (Little Eagles)	202
Kindergarten A*	221
Kindergarten B*	220
1st Grade	201
2nd Grade	209
3rd Grade	218
4th Grade	227
5th–6th Grade (Club 56)	Basement

*Wondering which class your child is in? Kathy White will reach out before the start date. Questions? Email kathyw@thirdrva.org.

FOR STUDENTS

Seventh grade through high school:

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00 A.M.

Student Ministry Area

SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 P.M.

Fellowship Hall

FOR ADULTS

September 8 – November 24

Good News Class

Room 101

Led by Dave Skove and Dave Carroll

Join us for expository Bible teaching of the Gospel of Mark in the tradition of "Inductive Bible Study." Our teachers ask the three classic questions of each text: (i) what does it say; (ii) what did it mean to them (the original audience); and (iii) what does it mean to us? This class is centered on understanding and applying God's Word for His glory and our growth as His people.

Study of the Book of Acts Class

Room 213

Led by Jenny Daniel, Jennifer Parham, Andrew Fuller

The Reveal Class will be continuing 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.

Metamorphosis Class

Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

Led by Mary Damon

We're 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 preassigned selections we have read during the week which are chosen to enhance 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 of the book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Richard Rohr. We will examine the spiritual paradox that falling down is, in fact, moving upward and how our brokenness can be the springboard for spiritual growth, no matter what half of life we are in.

Delta: Young Adult Community

Room 217

Led by: Drew Cleveland

Are you in your 20–30s or college age and looking for a place to connect with others and grow at Third? Join us on Sunday mornings for coffee, conversation and teaching on how to connect faith to daily life, work, relationships and culture.

Financial Peace University

Room 215

Led by Keith and Connie Byers

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 & save wisely, and give generously. We all need a plan for our money and God wants us to have financial peace. This special class is being offered by Third at a reduced rate of \$59 for singles and \$99 for couples (to cover FPU workbook and materials). Please note that this class runs from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each week with provisions for childcare. Please email Kathy White at kathyw@thirdrva.org if you plan to need childcare during this class. Scholarships are available.

Guided Tour of the Bible

The Guided Tour is designed to help you get familiar with the Bible, making it easy to understand any section of Scripture. Class times address the things you want to know, flowing from the observations and questions you have as you read ahead in assigned sections of the Bible.

Ed Satterfield authored the Guided Tour as short 5 week studies of one section of the Bible. There are 10 studies in all, five for the Old Testament and five for the New. You can join the tour for just 5 weeks and take any study in any order but our hope is that at some point you will take them all. The only homework required is to read a short assigned section of the Bible each day, noting your questions and observations.

The 10 Guided Tour classes are: *Pentateuch, Historical Books, Poets, Prophets (before Israel's exile), Prophets (after Israel's exile and return), Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Letters of Paul, Non-Pauline Letters, and Revelation of John.*

Guided Tour begins September 12 with the Gospels study.

You can join in anytime. We meet weekly on Thursdays from 7:00–8:30 p.m. in Room 217.

The Gospels

September 12 – October 10

The Acts of the Apostles

October 17 – November 14

Please e-mail or call Sterling Lloyd in the church office (804-282-4645 x 115, sterlingl@thirdrva.org) to let her know you'd like to attend so she can be sure to have all the materials ready for your use in time for the class.



Serve this Fall

From Sunday mornings to Wednesday tutoring and everything in-between, the ministries and programs of Third happen because of our amazing church family, serving in dozens of different ways. Whether this is your first fall with us or you've been here a few seasons, we would love to see everyone find a way to serve our church family and neighbors.



SERVE IN

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

All of these opportunities happen on Sunday mornings.

Classroom Helper

Serve as the classroom helper to support the lead teachers at 10:00 a.m. Take attendance, pass out worksheets, greet and welcome the students, make copies, etc. We do ask that you commit to serve at least twice a month and would love it if you were there each week getting to know the children and becoming part of their faith family!

Classroom Teacher

Lead the class in the lesson twice a month (or more, if you're willing!) Access our digital curriculum, plan and lead the lesson. We supply classroom training, give you access to any needed supplies, offer support through the year.

Classroom Buddy

Work one-on-one with a child who needs extra attention. Communicate with their parents weekly to see if they will be attending and if you will need to be there to assist them. Help child engage with the lesson as much as possible.

Nursery Volunteer

Do you love to hold babies or play with toddlers? We can use your regular help in our nurseries on Sunday Mornings. Each nursery has a paid volunteer who takes care of check in, check out and changing diapers. We need your extra hands to love our little ones just as Jesus loves them! You can volunteer once or twice a month, or when your schedule allows.

Ready to sign up or learn more?

Contact Kathy White (infants-kindergarten): kathyw@thirdrva.org or Tracie Meadows (1st-6th grade): traciem@thirdrva.org.



SERVE WITH

JOBS FOR LIFE: OUR JOBS READINESS MINISTRY

The Jobs for Life Training Program is a 12-week, relationship-centered jobs training program. 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. Our teachers are business leaders who will interact closely with each student, providing practical job preparation training focused on character development, good work behavior, communication, and interview skills.

Ready to sign up or learn more?

Contact Ginger James: gingerjames1@icloud.com.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Monday Evenings, September 9 – November 18

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Graduation: November 20

HOW TO BE INVOLVED:

Champion: Walk alongside a student as a mentor throughout the 12-week class.

Meals: Sharing dinner is a vital part of how we build community during the class. Volunteer to make and serve dinner. A great opportunity for families, small groups, or other ministry teams. Email Sterling to sign up: sterlingl@thirdrva.org.



SERVE WITH OUR

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE TUTORING PROGRAM

For this program, tutors are matched one-on-one with a student. Each Wednesday evening, they will meet together for homework help or extra reading practice. We are continually finding ourselves with more students than tutors, so your participation is very much needed and so appreciated by both the student and their parents! No experience necessary!

Ready to sign up or learn more?

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

WHO DOES THIS PROGRAM SERVE?

This tutoring program is in its 14th year and we have 90 students coming each week from many different backgrounds and nationalities. Some are involved with the Christian Arabic Church, but many are local immigrants and refugees, maybe new to the area! We serve all age ranges of children from Kindergarten through High School students.

WHEN DO WE MEET?

Wednesday evenings, from 6:45 - 7:45 at Third Church. Our tutoring season runs for 10 weeks in the Fall (September 18 - November 20), and again for 10 weeks in the Spring.



SERVE ON A

HOSPITALITY TEAM

We desire to be a church that is known for its hospitality and welcome for the people who come into our doors.

If you have a heart to help Third be a 'welcoming church' on Sunday mornings, we'd love to have you join one of our teams for ushering, greeting, or parking. It is a great opportunity to serve as an individual, married couple, or even with your kids!

Ready to sign up or learn more?

Visit thirdrva.org/serve-here.





An Important Update and an Opportunity to Serve

As September swaps out the heat and humidity of summer for cooler, cozier autumn comforts I find myself daydreaming about all that I look forward to around October. Blankets and boots, sweaters and ciders, school field trips and robust autumnal colors...October has so much to offer and it has also been a special time of year in the life of our church as we have hosted our friends at Caritas for many seasons around this time of year.

This year we will partner with Caritas again, but as the seasons change, so has their program. As Caritas works with our homeless neighbors all over Richmond, they are always seeking new ways to better serve their clients. As Caritas reviewed its mobile-shelter system for families, they started to see the strain of weekly transition on the lives of both parents and children. While host churches (like Third) were wonderfully supportive and provided for all of their material needs for the week, it could not make up for the fact that the model was hard on families having to move every week for as long as it took them to find housing. Children, especially, need stability and parents need to work, both a challenge in the mobile-shelter model.

So, Caritas, seeking the best for their families in crisis, has partnered with Housing Families First, Home Again and the Salvation Army to get families housed faster. These organizations have shelters available that will allow families to stay together in one place until they are able to find permanent housing, which is better for the parents and the children.

Meanwhile, Caritas is taking on more single men and women previously served by the aforementioned organizations and focused on serving them and placing them in housing. The women's shelter is set to open in late spring of 2020 (they are using the mobile-shelter model currently) and the men are served at **The Healing Place**, established in 2006 as a long-term peer-driven residential recovery program.

This fall, Third Church will provide support to the men rebuilding their lives at The Healing Place. This facility houses over 200 clients who work together to do all of the cleaning, maintenance, cooking, and more to have the shelter run smoothly. **We will be a part of what is called a "Bridge Week."**



THIRD'S "BRIDGE WEEK"

September 28–October 4

In 2019 we will be starting our *Bridge Week* engagement.

- 🍏 **Prepping lunches:** Four times during the week we will prep lunches (kid-friendly activity) at Third's kitchen. We need a delivery driver each of those four days to get the lunches from Third to The Healing Place.
- 👤 **Activity Night:** We will have an activity night at The Healing Place (participants must be eighteen years or older).
- 🧰 **Cleaning Kits:** Finally, we've committed to making 25 cleaning kits for Caritas to give their clients who are placed in new homes so they can have a fresh start. **All of the donations will be gathered from September 8 to September 27.** Club 56 will be assembling the kits on September 29 and we'll deliver them to Caritas.

Sign up and get involved at thirdrva.org/caritas2019.

Our goal for 2020 is to support a Bridge Week twice a year: once with the men's shelter in the spring and once with the forthcoming women's shelter in the fall—which will offer a variety of ways to serve.

If you have any questions about the coming Bridge week, please feel free to reach out to me at echolbrook@gmail.com.

— Erin Holbrook

Pray for the Nations

On October 6, we'll be celebrating World Communion Sunday as a church.

This annual celebration offers congregations a distinct opportunity to experience communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October is a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup. On that day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral or a mud hut, on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse or in a storefront, the sacrament of communion is celebrated by Christians in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith.



Our goal on World Communion Sunday is to broaden our understanding of the importance of prayer, to help you pray with understanding for those around the world, and to help you develop a discipline of praying for a hurting world in need of Christ. Please come expecting great things!

Our sanctuary will reflect other cultures. Fabrics from Russia, Malawi, Finland and many other countries will be woven into a tablecloth for the communion table. These fabric items have been transformed by our liturgical arts team to reflect the oneness of the community of faith across the continents. You are encouraged to wear ethnic clothing you may have acquired on a visit to another country. Our worship service will have a variety of international flavors. You won't want to miss it!

We will also be putting a special focus on *praying for the nations* in the Fellowship Hall. International Cooperating Ministries (ICM) has loaned us a large map that will cover much of the floor. You are invited to come and pray as you occupy a particular geographic site. Third's mission team will prepare prayer guides highlighting various countries, and mission team members will be available to help you. You can pray individually or as a family using the prayer sheets, prayer guides and apps available. If you'd like to download apps in advance, check out the Joshua Project app "Unreached" or "Operation World" and begin praying now. Third's mission partner booklets can be used as well to pray for our mission partners in the countries where they serve.



THE QUAKENBUSHES



We're delighted to be hosting a longtime mission partner on September 22. Here is some info to help better acquaint you with the ministry of the Quakenbushes.

Dr. J. Stephen Quakenbush is Director of Strategic Initiatives (Language Services) for SIL International, the primary partner

organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators. In this role, he provides leadership for SIL efforts in the development of resources for Bible translation, and chairs a task force dedicated to helping the global Bible translation movement to respond and adapt to the increasing impact of multilingualism and migration on language communities worldwide.

Third Church has been partnering with Steve and his wife Janice since they first began the Agutaynen translation project in the Philippines in 1984. That New Testament was dedicated in 2004 (you can read or listen to it at bible.com/bible/1124). During their more than thirty years in the Philippines, Janice had several education-related roles—homeschooling their own children and working in schools — and Steve also served as SIL

country director for the Philippines and as academic services coordinator for Asia before taking on more global roles since 2009.

Steve has a deep motivation for making the Scriptures accessible to all people, whatever languages they speak, and wherever they find themselves. Steve currently works from Grand Rapids, MI.

*Steve will be joining us on **September 22** for interviews in all services. Afterwards, we'll host a luncheon where he will explain more about his ministry and provide updates.*

We'll send out an email closer to the day as a reminder, as well as list the location for the luncheon. In the meantime, please mark your calendar. You won't want to miss this time of sharing!

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATES

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS IN FAMILY MINISTRY

What a busy and wonder-ful summer we had with three big events for families and a Wild & Wonder-ful Camp for preschoolers and kindergartners.

Participation for the events equaled participation in Family VBS last year as we did events themed families in Community, families in Service and families in Prayer. And our Wild & Wonder-ful Camp was filled to the brim – kids sang awesome songs, heard the gospel and Bible stories, and had hands-on science and art lessons that taught them that our God is *amazing!* Thank you to all the teen volunteers and parents who helped make our first Wild & Wonder-ful Camp a success!

Parents received a beautiful Prayer Journal at our Pastors, Pancakes & Prayer event. It lists the Bible memory verses for each month of the 2019-20 Sunday School year along with a suggested way to pray with your family that month. If you were unable to attend the event, let Kathy White or Tracie know and they will be happy to get you a Prayer Journal.

FAMILY CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."

— 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

We all face unique challenges in parenting — sometimes for a season and sometimes for longer. We want to help connect you with others in our community who can support you as you navigate the unique circumstances you're in. We have developed a list of names and contact info for people in our community who are equipped and ready to answer your questions in areas they have walked through. They would like to listen, pray alongside you and perhaps connect you with resources:

thirdrva.org/family-support

Please reach out! We'd love to support you. For any other questions, or for any specific needs not covered on the website, please reach out to Kathy White (kathyw@thirdrva.org).

Orthodoxy vs. Orthopraxy

A Reflection from Kevin Jeffer

I've been thinking about our series on the book of James, and the importance of orthopraxy (or "correct conduct"). Good stuff — something challenging every Sunday.

As it happens, I'm really big on orthodoxy ("correct thinking") and Reformed theology in general. Can't help it. I went to Calvin University and come from a long line of Reformed folks. And orthopraxy makes me a little nervous, because it can so easily go hand in hand with legalism. (Which our sermons are doing a great job of steering clear of, by the way.)

But what's been most on my mind — during this season of studying James — is that neither orthodoxy nor orthopraxy are solutions in and of themselves. One leads to legalism, and the other to the kind of intellectualism that allows the abuses Corey has mentioned in his sermons.

So what's a person to do?

It occurs to me that the only real answer is in relationship.

Specifically a Love Relationship with Jesus. (Duh! as my son Nick would say). That Love Relationship is what drives right thinking and right action. In fact, the Love Relationship compels both.

Here's a mundane example: when I married Margarete, my Love Relationship with her changed both my behavior and my thinking. To have stayed the same as before would have been, and is, impossible. And the deeper my Love Relationship with Margarete grows, more loving my thinking and actions become. Better not just for me and her, but for all those I come in contact with — children, neighbors, community members.

RIGHT THINKING AND RIGHT ACTING ARE FRUITS OF OUR LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Same with a Love Relationship with Jesus. The very fact of being in this relationship changes me. And when or if it doesn't, the problem isn't really that my thinking or action has gone off base. It's that my relationship with Jesus is not where it needs to be.

We've been talking about having a "Transformational" faith rather than a "Transactional" one. Right thinking and right acting are fruits of our Love Relationship with Jesus. And that relationship is the goal of our faith.

So that's what I've been thinking. Thank you, Corey, Ed, Derek, and Rick, for your leadership and your friendship. I'll close with this quote that popped up on my Pinterest feed:

"Any fool can know. The point is to understand."
— Albert Einstein

KEVIN JEFFER is a *Shepherding Elder at Third*, in the *Lauderdale parish*. He is married to Margarete and the father of Trina and Nick. When he's not thinking about orthodoxy, he can generally be found in his garden.

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

10:00 A.M. Jack Campbell DeJarnette, son of Rick and Anna DeJarnette (*Chesterfield Parish*)

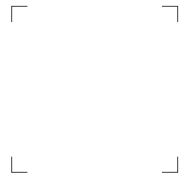
11:15 A.M. Eleanor Joy White, daughter of Chad and Rebecca White (*Three Chopt Parish*)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

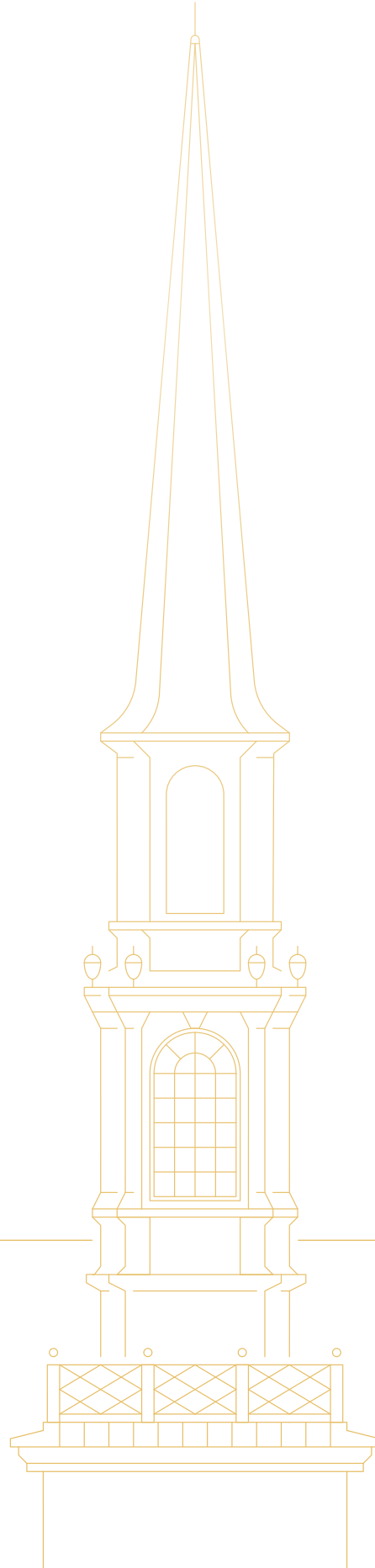
11:15 A.M. Lily (Amaryllis Joy) Allen, daughter of Josh and Jessie Allen (*Northwest Parish*)



THIRD CHURCH
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RICHMOND, VA 23229
(804) 282-4645



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



THIRDVA.ORG

October Third Press Deadline: Friday, September 13. Submit to: beccap@thirdva.org.