



## *An Opportunity for Grace*



### **Dear Third Family,**

In the light of recent decisions by the Supreme Court, it's clear that we are living in a unique period of history. Before our very eyes, our culture is moving from a generally Christian culture to a post-Christian culture. Viewpoints that just a few decades ago were considered unthinkable are now not only broadly accepted but even codified by the law. To some this is cause for great celebration, but for others, including those who hold to the historic Christian faith, it may be a time of grief, loss, and circumspection about our role and call in society.

I do not want to downplay the sense of loss and sadness that many of us feel. There is a genuine reason to grieve when what has been so familiar to us is eroding. There is also good reason for us to be wise and strategic about what challenges lie before us and how we might respond. But for now, I want to focus briefly on the opportunity this moment in history presents for us as followers of Jesus. I believe it is a moment of great opportunity, perhaps a greater opportunity than the Western Church has possessed in a long time.

Just one skim of the book of Acts reveals that the earliest Christians were out of step with the surrounding society. They lived as religious and ethical minorities under the governance of an oppressive state that did not share or support their worldview. Indeed, they suffered at the hands of the authorities, and their leaders ultimately were executed much like their Lord. And yet, the church flourished more than at any other time in its history, shining like stars in a world that needed hope. They lived courageously, hopefully, and joyfully, looking not to the government but to God for the support and strength they needed to be faithful to their calling.

Could it be that we are entering into a period more like the earliest centuries of the church? This is what we mean when we speak of the "missional church." "Missional" indicates the shift from seeing the church as an institution in a Christian society to a community in mission in a non-Christian society. Rather than seeing "mission" as just one activity or department of the church, God is calling us to re-discover our fundamental identity as missionaries in the society around us.

What will it mean for us to embrace our missional identity? It will mean approaching our everyday lives and work as opportunities to spread the gospel in word and deed. It will mean being willing to accept alienation and even persecution at times for our beliefs. It will mean that the church can no longer be a Sunday religious activity, but must become a deep, counter-cultural community in which wealth and possessions, sex and family, racial identity and power are all practiced in godly and attractive ways. It will mean the call to love our neighbors and love our enemies is a very real possibility every single day.

Family, I am excited about this. The church has always flourished the most as a life-giving minority, not a political majority. There is great opportunity before us not to do church better on Sundays, but to be the church in a world that truly needs hope. There is nothing to fear, because we cling to the promise of Jesus who said, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

So in this year ahead, may we live out counter-cultural community, may we love those we disagree with, may we care for the poor and marginalized, may we give our lives away, may we proclaim the good news with grace and truth. May we follow Jesus together with all the strength the Spirit gives.

And maybe, just maybe, we will be part of a holy revolution of grace.

In Christ,

Corey

## NEW STAFF DEVELOPMENTS

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### **Meet Alan Ware – New Director of Finance and Administration**

The Director of Finance and Administration Search Committee of Allene Brown, Dean Dennis, Stephanie Holt, Malachi Mills, Ed Satterfield, and Lee Sauvain were privileged to talk with many excellent candidates from our local area. Many stated that they were happy in their current area of service but wanted to explore the possibility of working at Third because of the church's reputation. Alan Ware was one of those candidates. Having served for 12 years as Administrator at Grove Avenue Baptist, he was the most experienced of those we talked with in doing the tasks that we outlined for this newly designed role at Third.

The Search Team was impressed that Alan had taken Grove Avenue from financial management by one person working at home to a well-organized, well-managed finance team. He also instituted security and cost-saving heating and air conditioning controls for the Grove Avenue facility so they can be handled remotely. He built a very small facility staff into a larger team, making it more effective and thorough in caring for, cleaning, and setting up the building.

However, the attribute which elevated him above the other candidates is his relational gifts. He is extremely personable, engaging, and good at communication. He has experience at handling tough situations with grace, compassion, and firmness. We are excited to have his skills as an excellent manager who is comprehensive and detailed in comprehending and solving organizational and personnel issues.

Lastly, Alan's longest and strongest work history is in Information Technology. Alan will be transitioning with Tom Barila to oversee our IT needs.





### Welcoming Back Andrea Woie

We are very thankful to have Andrea Woie step back into her former role as Student Ministry Associate. We are thankful to benefit from her love for students, her knowledge and experience with the ministry, and her gifts in leading and teaching. Her return has been facilitated by her husband, Ian, taking a new position with Priority 1 building and managing a sales team on the East Coast. Pray for their transition back to Richmond and into these roles.



### Introducing Alex Sawyer – Production and Technology

For quite some time, we have been longing to address multiple key issues at Third. We rejoice in the diverse but unique gifts and experience of Alex Sawyer to address many of these issues. Alex brings great skills and experience in sound and video, Information Technology, and Web Design. A graduate of Liberty University in Worship and Music Studies with specialization in Worship Technology, Alex has worked in sound production since he was in 6th grade. He has recently been Creative Director for a small non-profit in the area.

We have added Alex on a temporary, part-time basis as an Associate for Production and Technology. He will tackle assigned tasks while assessing longer term goals in this area with our new Directors of Communication and Finance and Administration, as they get settled into the team over the next several months. He will help support and provide training for our Sunday morning sound and video teams and work to train new persons to add to the team. He will help us work to improve our live streaming of the worship services. In addition, he will assist our Communication Director with completing and improving our website design and help troubleshoot IT issues. We are thankful to have his gifts and talents!

**THIRD** —  
*training disciples to  
love and transform  
the world through  
Jesus Christ.*

Rev. Corey Widmer  
Lead Pastor

Rev. Ed Satterfield  
Associate Pastor for  
Congregational Care &  
Administration

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

Tom Barila  
Director of Christian Education

Lynn Hardwicke  
Associate Dir. of Family Ministry

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 Lay Ministries

Arielle Swarr  
Director of Communications

Tim Latham  
Director of Young Adult Ministries

Rev. Richard Haney  
Parish Associate

Rev. Nan Clarke  
Parish Associate for  
Care Ministries

Rev. Jack Schilthuis  
Parish Associate & Counselor

#### Editor's Note

Email submissions with suggested photos for the September newsletter to Vickie O'Dell (vodell@comcast.net) before the 2nd Friday of the month.



# GOING FROM OFF-WHITE TO IVORY

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I remember when Third Church changed the paint color of our Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary is a beautiful space with big bright windows, deep moldings, and a high-vaulted ceiling. Wonderful, classical architecture. It's where I was married. Both my children were baptized here, using the old marble baptismal font. I've spent 27 Christmas Eves worshipping here.

Yet, I still remember the reaction when we repainted the Sanctuary.

From off-white to ivory.

You know, at the time (I was 28) this reaction seemed over-the-top. Really? Off-white to ivory? I think the only way I could tell was the tiny bit of additional contrast between the cornice and the ceiling. But now, with all the wisdom of 25 more years under my belt, the reaction makes sense.

Where we worship has meaning. Worship creates shared experiences. Great highs and deep lows. We rejoice and mourn. Meet new friends and say goodbye to old ones. We experience God within these four walls. And fellowship, too. And beautiful worship. Candlelight services. Cantatas. Prayer vigils. All significant in our lives together.

**So, change to where we worship — our Sanctuary — is a big deal.**

Change anywhere is a big deal. And now, change is afoot once more. We've taken out pews to make way for members in wheelchairs. And it definitely changes the way the Sanctuary looks, and the way we use it.

Session spent a lot of time discussing all the options before making wheelchair space. Would the Sanctuary look weird? How would it affect communion? We even asked if removing some pews would mean that the mother of the bride and the mother of the groom would not be parallel at weddings! And for wheelchair users — how much turning radius do we need? What are the sight-lines? What is the best solution?



Our first thought was that folks could sit in front of the existing pews, or in the aisles, like we always have. That was nixed pretty quickly. For one, folks would have to really crane their necks to see the preacher (kind of like when your flat screen is hung too high). And they wouldn't be able to see the choir at all. Not to mention the fact that there wouldn't be room for folks to get by to take communion (kind of a big deal). Also, the fire marshal doesn't like people blocking the aisles. Go figure.

Next thought was to simply take out the first few pews, and everybody who uses a wheelchair could sit there. That would be simple, and cheap. But then someone asked a pretty good question. Where do our members who use wheelchairs WANT to sit when they worship? I mean, I never want to sit in the front row. Do you? And we certainly didn't want to create a "Wheelchair Ghetto."

So we started asking around. And the answer was, "All over the place." My family likes to sit halfway back, by the center aisle. Another guy likes to sit right up front. Our friend prefers to sit in the back, on the outside aisle. Wheelchair users. We're obnoxious that way.

So what did Third do? They took out pews in the front AND in the middle!

That's kind of a big deal. Because taking this approach is certainly more expensive. And it has a big impact on the way the Sanctuary looks.

I have to say, as the dad of one of our more vocal wheelchair users, I am comforted by this discussion and attention to minutia. As Pastor Ed says, "We want to welcome wheelchair users into the middle of our fellowship."

**My church wants to get it right. We want all to be welcome. And some of us are even willing to give up our usual seats to make it so. Awesome.**

– Kevin Jeffer, Member since 1989

This article is reposted from "Through the Roof," a blog supported by the Mosaic ministry of Third Church, ECO. You'll find additional posts at <http://www.thirdrva.org/mosaic>. New posts are uploaded on Wednesdays.





# MOSAIC MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

*for Children with Special Needs in Haiti*



When Third's Team Haiti visited Gertrude's Notre Maison Orphanage outside of Port-au-Prince in the summer of 2014, they realized that the children were not getting what they needed to eat. Most of the fifty children who live at Notre Maison have special needs and many health concerns. Even with multivitamins, the kids don't get all of the nutrients they need in their diet, which consists mainly of flour-based porridge, rice and bean sauce.

Third's Mosaic Ministry is partnering with Notre Maison to raise money to kick off a new nutrition program which will add meat, fish, fresh produce, and juice to the children's diet every week.

**Register at [www.thirdrva.org](http://www.thirdrva.org) to join us on the evening of Sunday, August 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall** for a rice and beans dinner, a time of fellowship, sharing, and learning more about these orphans and about our Haitian brothers and sisters. You can register through August 16. The cost is \$30 for an individual (which will feed a child at Notre Maison for 30 days) or \$50 for a family (which will feed every child at Notre Maison for one day). If you cannot attend but would like to contribute, you may do so online as well.

Questions? Please contact Charlotte Gage ([charlotte.jean.gage@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.jean.gage@gmail.com) or 804-382-0181).



# TINY TYKES

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Did you know that in addition to its after-school tutoring, life skills and mentoring programs and its high school academy, CHAT also runs a preschool, Tiny Tykes? Now beginning its fourth year, Tiny Tykes is a Christ-centered, community-focused preschool, serving economically and racially diverse families in the Church Hill/ East End area. Begun by Beth Whiting, Taylor Winters and other East End Fellowship parents, Tiny Tykes has grown to a full-week preschool, housed at Bethlehem Baptist Church. Tiny Tykes is committed to 50% scholarship enrollment, and dedicated to transforming the lives of children and their parents through God's powerful love and intentional, play-filled learning.

Having been long-time tutors for the slightly older Church Hill kids in CHAT's Little Tykes Program, Dana Moore and I now have the privilege of serving on the Tiny Tykes advisory board and praise God for how he is reconciling families to one another through their children. We've witnessed how rewarding working in this environment can be for teachers as well as students, and see the opportunities for further growth and mission in Church Hill. Right now, there's also a pressing need: new teachers to lead and care for the kids. Not only have we grown, but two of our lead teachers have had to step aside as they prepare to welcome their own new babies into the world. So, **Tiny Tykes is now hiring part-time lead preschool teachers for our 3-4 year olds and pre-K classes, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.** Might God be calling you into this role of service and encouragement? Do you know someone who has experience teaching young children and is looking for part-time work? Please help us pray for this ministry and spread the word about this opportunity. For all the details on Tiny Tykes and the teaching positions, please visit :

<http://www.chatrichmond.org/employment-opportunities/>

– Beth Sprinkle



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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## The Christian Arabic Church Backpack Donation

Tax-free weekend is August 7-9. Take advantage of this weekend to fill a backpack with school supplies for our sister church, who meets in our building on Sunday evenings. The Christian Arabic Church uses these backpacks as an outreach tool, giving them to new immigrant families in the area. Be a blessing to our community by giving a backpack to help families who live right in our area. Questions? Contact Kathy White at [kathyw@thirdrva.org](mailto:kathyw@thirdrva.org) or Tracie Meadows at [traciem@thirdrva.org](mailto:traciem@thirdrva.org).

Choose items from the following list of needed school supplies:

- Notebook paper
- Spiral notebooks – 1 subject
- Pencil sharpeners
- Crayons
- Binders
- Rulers
- Writing utensils (highlighters, markers, pens and pencils)
- Math flashcards



Bring your filled backpack any Sunday to the Fellowship Hall by August 16.

## Family Fellowship Opportunities in August:



### Meet me at the zoo!

Come to the Richmond Metro Zoo with others at Third on August 3. We are blessed in Richmond to have such a wonderful, truly hands-on zoo! Enjoy a day of fellowship...and feeding giraffes!

Meet at the picnic tables after you enter at 10:00 a.m. We will be entering the zoo individually (not with a group rate), then gathering and meandering through the zoo. We will gather again for lunch at 12:30, so bring a picnic lunch (food is available for purchase at the zoo as well). Let Kathy White ([kathyw@thirdrva.org](mailto:kathyw@thirdrva.org)) know you are coming so she can be looking for you! For more information, go to: <http://www.metrorichmondzoo.com/>

### Meet me at Twin Hickory!

On Sunday, August 16 at 4:00 p.m. meet at Twin Hickory's wet/dry park for a time of fun and fellowship. Bring a lawn chair and picnic if you'd like and enjoy this time with the Third family – the kids play, the adults visit! Let Kathy White ([kathyw@thirdrva.org](mailto:kathyw@thirdrva.org)) know you are coming so she will be looking for you. Information about the park is available at: <http://henrico.us/rec/places/twin-hickory/>



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WRAP-UP

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The sounds of over 250 children singing worship and praise to Jesus filled the Fellowship Hall during our “Mission Possible” Vacation Bible School! This year’s curriculum was written by a team of incredible volunteers from Third and after praying, dreaming, and writing for 5 months, it was exciting to see it come to life!

Our special agents-in-training used their skills of observation and investigation to explore Jesus and his miracles, from his miraculous birth to the gift of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church. Our agents-in-training learned that even though some things seem impossible, nothing is impossible with God!

Each year the children at Vacation Bible School are encouraged to bring in offering money to support a special mission project. This year our goal was to raise \$5000 to support rebuilding efforts of the Aleppo Presbyterian Church in Syria, a church destroyed by bombing several years ago.

Due to the unbelievable generosity of our church family and the VBS participants, the mission was accomplished! Our children raised over \$8900 for our brothers and sisters in Aleppo. **What a beautiful reminder that nothing is impossible with God!** And how exciting to see our children doing extra chores, hosting lemonade stands and asking their friends and family to support this project.

We are already beginning to pray about next summer’s VBS, seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance and wisdom to choose a curriculum or to craft a new one! Please join us in that prayer, and if you would like to be involved in sharing the Gospel of Christ with over 250 kids in 2016, please contact Tracie Meadows at [traciem@thirdrva.org](mailto:traciem@thirdrva.org).



## MISSION FOOTPRINT 5K

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On Saturday, September 12, Third Church is joining Trinity United Methodist and River Road Baptist in sponsoring the Mission Footprint 5K. The race begins and ends at Trinity and winds through our surrounding neighborhoods. There's a Fun Run for the kids before the 5K. All proceeds from the race go to support Camp Alkulana, CARITAS, CrossOver Ministry and the Micah Initiative.

Visit [www.thirdrva.org](http://www.thirdrva.org) for links to register.

7:30 a.m. - Kids Fun Run | 8:00 a.m. - 5K Run/Walk

Trinity United Methodist Church, 903 Forest Ave., Henrico, VA 23229

Fees:

Individual - \$30

Kids Fun Run - \$5

Family Max - \$60

If you would like to volunteer, commit as a corporate sponsor, or be on the 5K committee, please contact Cassandra Ducca (804-288-1131).



## EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TRIP

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Join us as we tour Israel from March 24 - April 3, 2016 as well as Petra, Jordan. We hope to have 24-26 on the trip but need at least 20 people to go. Contact Tom Barila ([tomb@thirdrva.org](mailto:tomb@thirdrva.org)) for more information or visit our website for additional details. Registration deadline and deposit due by September 15.



## EVENING OF PRAISE & PRAYER

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### SAVE THE DATE!

We're starting off the Fall Season as a community focused on the praise of our Redeemer and Healer. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27 in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of praise and prayer.

## RECONNECT: *Wednesdays at Third*

Get connected to more of the body of learning, fellowship, and ministry at Third by joining us on Wednesday evenings. We want to be a part of each other's lives, connecting piece by piece!



### **KICK-OFF!**

September 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, September 16, you'll be an essential piece of our fall kick-off! Come out to Third on Wednesdays to serve, learn something new, or engage with each other around a table. We are excited to see our community-building puzzle grow! Here is how everything is fitting together:

#### **SERVING**

Adult choir practices, along with tutoring for Arabic children and adults, are confirmed parts of our Wednesday puzzle. Children's choirs will be offered several weeks prior to Advent and again before Easter.

#### **STUDYING**

Club 56, "Refresh" for young women, and A Guided Tour of the Bible are discipleship definites.

#### **SOCIALIZING**

Have a desire to reconnect between Sundays in a casual way? Consider hosting a book club, a game night, or spirited conversation chat room!

If you see a missing part of this puzzle and have an idea for a gathering centered around missions, learning, or relationships, we want to hear from you. Contact Tom Barila at [tomb@thirdrva.org](mailto:tomb@thirdrva.org) or Lynn Hardwicke at [lynnh@thirdrva.org](mailto:lynnh@thirdrva.org). We want to help you shape your interest and passion, then launch it!

*Note: Childcare will be provided weekly for kindergarteners and under 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.*



## SMALL GROUPS FALL 2015

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Small groups are formed for the purpose of community, discipleship and outreach. Most groups have 8-14 members and meet weekly, bimonthly or monthly in homes. The best time to form a small group is in the Fall.

**If you are interested in being part of a small group this fall, please email Beth Nichols at [bethn@thirdrva.org](mailto:bethn@thirdrva.org) with the following information: type of group (mixed, men, women) and your availability.** We will seek to connect you with others who are interested in forming a small group and guide you in getting started.



## NEWCOMERS CLASS

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Interested in learning more about Third or would you like to consider membership? Join us in our next Newcomers Class where you will learn about Third's vision for worship, discipleship, community, serving and outreach.

Sign up online at [www.thirdrva.org/membership](http://www.thirdrva.org/membership) or contact Beth Nichols at [bethn@thirdrva.org](mailto:bethn@thirdrva.org) or 804-282-4645 Ext. 124. Childcare is provided with a reservation for the class.

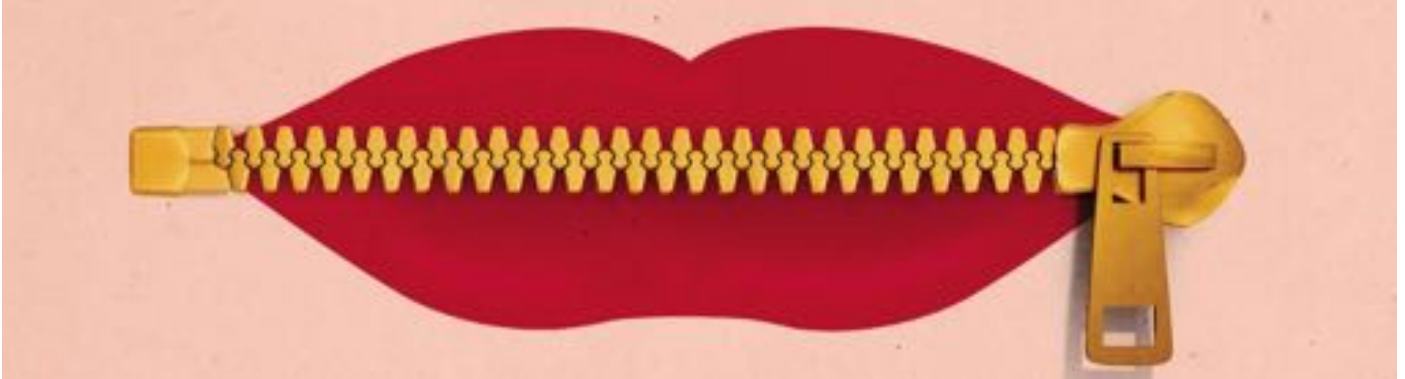


## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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### Women's Summer Study

We had a great response to our women's summer study *Keep It Shut* by Karen Ehman. Over 160 women in sixteen small groups are gathering for six Wednesday nights to learn about the power of our words – to bring life or death (Proverbs 18:21 a). Connie Byers and Karen Hayes are leading our teaching and sharing time.



### Seasons of Life Small Groups for Women

Seasons of Life small groups are designed to help women at Third get to know one another better and begin to develop intentional relationships with women in different seasons of life. In these relationships, women will encourage one another to grow in their faith and in their passion for Christ.

Groups meet once a month in homes and focus on authentic sharing, studying biblical truth, and prayer. Groups are forming now to begin in late September/early October and usually meet for the school year.

If you are interested, contact Viqui Potter at [potters@comcast.net](mailto:potters@comcast.net) or 804-497-3244 by September 1, 2015.

## MEN'S MINISTRY

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### James River Float/August 1

Bring your canoe/kayak or let us know if you need one. Skillfully guided by a former river guide: Third's own Cort Rosebro. Email Cort if you are interested at [cort.rosebro@gmail.com](mailto:cort.rosebro@gmail.com).

### Men's Steak Night/August 24

A great time to connect with other men while eating a delicious steak meal. Also a time to hear what's coming up for 2015-2016. Email Tom ([Tomb@Thirdrva.org](mailto:Tomb@Thirdrva.org)) if you are joining us.

## YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

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Young Adult Community is a relevant, Christ-centered gathering for those in their 20's and 30's to spend time in the Bible and build relationships. Whether you are single, married, or married with kids, there are many ways to connect and become part of our community at Third. Contact Chris White ([cwhite52@vt.edu](mailto:cwhite52@vt.edu), 804-690-3118) or Sarah Londrey ([slondrey@vt.edu](mailto:slondrey@vt.edu), 804-363-2211). **Join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. upstairs in Room 215.**

## UPCOMING FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

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You will soon begin seeing signs of some major improvement initiatives in our facility. These improvements are not ones that will spruce up the place like new carpet and painting, but are very important to the ongoing upkeep of an aging facility.

About a year ago water damage was noticed on a few of the interior walls of the Sanctuary and, over the course of the last few months, it has been determined that our Sanctuary gutter and downspout system is failing. Unlike a house with exterior downspouts, our Sanctuary was designed with gutters that are not visible from the ground. The downspouts are between the interior and exterior walls of the Sanctuary and have been leaking. In studying this issue, it was determined that our underground water drainage systems were failing as well. After a thorough analysis of the problem, the Trustees have created a plan that will replace all of the existing underground drainage systems and replace the existing gutters and new exterior downspouts. This project will be undertaken the first few weeks in August and will require ingress and egress obstructions in the front of the Sanctuary. Portions of our brick walkways will be removed as certain drain systems are installed. Every effort will be made to return the brick walkways to their original condition. The new exterior downspouts will be installed with direct drainage into the new systems. These improvements will pave the way for interior wall repair and painting in the Sanctuary.

We request your attention to areas that will be marked off during these times, as your safety is our utmost concern. After these Sanctuary repairs are completed and as we move into fall, Third will begin replacing all of the flat roofs on the church. You may have noticed some interior damage as a result of roofing leaks. It is imperative that we complete these repairs before more visibly aesthetic improvements can be considered. Current plans call for replacement of the flat roof over the Good News Sunday School classroom and the flat roof that is over classrooms 213, 215, and 217. Both of these flat roofs house HVAC systems that will need to be removed during the process. Every effort will be made for these roof replacements to be completed during the week so that our Sunday School classrooms will be cool and comfortable on Sundays.

These repair projects are being funded by your generous giving and from certain maintenance reserve accounts. However, we will need to replace our aged and deteriorating HVAC systems in the next two years. This expense is considerable and is not funded. **Expect to hear more about that in the months ahead and please pray for wisdom and generosity as the Budget and Stewardship Committee considers how to fund these necessary infrastructure improvements over the next few years.**

## CLEAN UP AND CLEAR OUT!

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Saturday, August 22 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

It is time for a little cleaning. We need your help to remove “junk” and trash from classrooms and meeting areas in the church so we can make better use of the space we have. No skills required. Sign-up is on the Third registration page. Please contact Charles Zoffuto for more information at [ac\\_zoffuto@alumni.citadeledu](mailto:ac_zoffuto@alumni.citadeledu).





# HANDYMAN HELPERS

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As my time as the Interim Administrator has ended, I would like to thank the many volunteers who have given their time and service for a multitude of repair and maintenance issues that have arisen at the church over the last seven months.

The projects have been varied and have involved expertise in plumbing, electrical, mechanical, masonry, and woodworking. One of our volunteers replaced 9 ballasts in our office building, giving much better light to our talented and dedicated staff. A father and son team replaced over 3 dozen damaged and stained ceiling tiles in the education area of the church and the office building. Other volunteers have replaced a half dozen door stops and magnetic door holders. Bathroom fixtures have been replaced and chairs from our Fellowship Hall have been repaired. One job of particular note was the reinstallation of the handrail and brickwork repair on the steps on Silverspring Drive to the Sanctuary and additionally into the education wing.

One Saturday when the basement flooded, one of the volunteers spent the better part of a day replacing the parts in the faulty toilet. I was deeply grateful to have two volunteers work with me one day this winter when there was a real risk of pipes freezing which could have resulted in significant damage to our Sanctuary. They were by my side in below-freezing temperatures as we insulated the pipes and warmed the area with space heaters—ultimately getting through those nights without damage. There are many other instances of the stewardship of this facility that are examples of this great group of guys. We often think of generosity of people in terms of money, but the generosity extended by these Handyman Helpers goes far beyond money and is a visible example of their love for this great church body we have.

**There is no way to place a value on the amount of money these fine men have saved Third, but I would estimate collectively it would be in the neighborhood of \$5,000 already this year.** More importantly, I am indebted to them as they were, in no small part, my “go-to” guys for many of the issues that were addressed in the last seven months.

The Handyman Helper Team is made up of the following members. Please pass on a big *Thank You* whenever you see one of them.

THANK YOU!

Jeff Bailey

Russ Corson

Paul Drumwright

John Ireland

Rick Hendrickson

Doug Kinney

David House

Robert Luck

Lawrence Loyd

Abe Lincoln

Doug Macomber

Paul Murphy

Matt Maio

Wade Perkins

Harmon Saunders

Buck Rosenberger

John Rupel

Jacob Shealy

Bob Temps

Rob Temps

Patrick Wallace

Tom Widmer

Charles Zoffuto

– Lee Sauvain, Interim Administrator

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## JOBS FOR LIFE

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Third is seeking to take on a new initiative to make a difference in affecting people's lives. We hear regularly of the high unemployment rate and the difficulty many have in getting jobs. For those with broken family backgrounds living in communities of high unemployment, there is often low hope for finding a good job. Many lack role models for good relational skills, and those that have not worked before often lack the basic skills to even open doors to employment, let alone to keeping a job.

Third would like to host the Jobs for Life Training Program and work to connect those who would benefit from coaching and training in the relational skills and work values that will help them gain a better opportunity to become employed. **Jobs for Life is a 10-week proven training program teaching Christian truths about the value of work, our value to God, and practical work and relationship skills.** It combines classroom and homework learning with mentoring through "champions" who are believers with a heart to support and coach them through the class and beyond as they seek employment. The class teaches skills by its own structure in requiring weekly attendance and completion of homework to graduate. Graduates earn a certificate that is recognized by employers as commending their readiness for the workplace. It is a highly relational ministry and offers great opportunity to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ.

The STEP ministry has been using this training program for years. Our plan is to join up about 10-12 "champions" to go to the next training class at Eternity Church this Fall to participate as mentors and learn the program from an experienced team. We would then work to host our own class and seek participants to join us in the program in the Winter/Spring of 2016. We already have a small core of people seeking to make this happen, led by the Deacons' Practical Needs Team.

Over the next month, we will be seeking to fill out a team of people who want to join in this initiative. **If you are interested in being a "champion," helping become an instructor, providing the weekly meal, or helping us work to seek out participants in a 2016 class, please contact Ed Satterfield at 804-282-4645 or eds@thirdrva.org.** Pray with us that the Lord may lead us in preparing for and offering this ministry that will make a difference in the "shalom" of our community, helping train needed skills and open opportunity for the gospel to be heard.