



Dear Third Family,

As we prepare to come to the end of our study of the book of Exodus this Fall, what will be your biggest takeaways? Before we move right into Advent, it would be fruitful to spend a little time reflecting on what God has taught you and how he might be inviting you to respond to what you've heard. To paraphrase James 1:23, there's no use learning a lot about a particular book in the Bible without making any changes to apply it to your life.

One of the things I have been learning is just how much I can relate unfortunately, to the Israelites in this great story. I can especially relate to their tendency to forget – forget what God has done for them, forget how terrible slavery was, forget how generously God has provided, forget the promises God has made, and the list could go on. So many of their problems arise because they fail to remember the goodness and promises of God.

In his great book *You Can Change*, author Tim Chester identifies four liberating truths about God from the Scriptures. Chester suggests that underlying all of our sinful behavior and negative emotions is a failure to believe and remember one or more of these truths on a functional level. These four truths, or the "4 Gs," are a great diagnostic tool for addressing sin in our lives and how capable we are of forgetting what is true. Here they are:

- God is great – so you don't have to be in control
- God is glorious – so you don't have to fear others
- God is good – so you don't have to look elsewhere
- God is gracious – so you don't have to prove yourself

When you forget God is good, you grasp for more and more control, are overwhelmed by life, and descend into anxiety. When you forget God is glorious, you are too concerned about others' approval and may resort to the wrong things to get it. When you forget God is good, you spend way too much of your life looking for the "good life" in the wrong places. When you forget God is gracious, you fall into guilt or shame and feel that you must work to prove yourself to God or others.

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

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Lead Pastor

Rev. Ed Satterfield
Associate Pastor for Congregational
Care & Administration

Rev. Rick Hutton
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(grades 6 - 12)

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Kathy White
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Kim Taulbee
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Becca Payne
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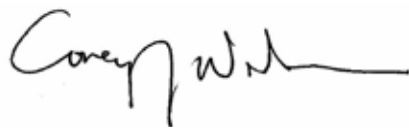
Rev. Richard Haney
Parish Associate

Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate for
Care Ministries

But think what would happen if you remembered and believed these truths! These wonderful truths can set us free from anxiety, from fear, from disappointment, from guilt! But how quickly we forget them like the Israelites, barely remembering what God has done for us and only seeing the circumstances in front of us. One of my takeaways from this study of Exodus is this simple prayer: "God, help me to remember and live what is true!"

As we move into the season when we focus on giving thanks, take some time to remember the greatest things we are called to give thanks for—God's liberating work and generous kindness for us exhibited in Jesus. Let's remember that—and not just remember, but embrace these beautiful truths to our very core.

Yours in Christ,



Corey

STAFF DEVELOPMENTS

Welcome Mark Sprinkle as our **Director of Arts & Cultural Engagement**



This September, Mark Sprinkle became our Director of Arts + Cultural Engagement, joining staff in a part-time volunteer position to facilitate the inclusion of arts and creative practices in our worship, discipleship, and missional outreach. The centerpiece of those efforts will continue to be the Makers Series, which brings visual artists, musicians and writers to Third, and offers a platform to collaborate with other individuals, churches, organizations and communities across our region to renew the historic relationship between following Jesus and artistic excellence.

Mark graduated from Georgetown University and earned his PhD from the College of William and Mary, and has worked as a painter, frame-maker, writer, editor and curator. Mark and his wife Beth have three boys, ages 13, 16, and 18.

neighbor

Friday, Nov. 20th

THE MAKERS
SERIES

CREATIVITY
CONVERSATION
COMMUNITY

“Who is my neighbor?” In Luke 10:29, a lawyer wishing to test the Lord and justify himself asked Jesus this question, prompting the Lord to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan. While the lawyer was looking for a list of the kinds or classes of people he was obligated to care for (and also, therefore, the kinds he was allowed to ignore or mistreat), Jesus gave him a story, instead. That story upended the lawyer’s categories of worthy and unworthy people, but also directly challenged him to take action: to notice and show mercy to all he might meet along the road—to see even his enemy as his neighbor. Jesus used an imaginative act—a work of art—to reframe and reform community.

On November 20, we’ll welcome three local artists to the Fellowship Hall for our next edition of the Makers Series, picking up on the way contemporary works of art (and artists) can also help us rethink “neighbor” and make spaces to connect and care for them.



Tom Allen

Making art (and being a neighbor) often begins with paying attention—noticing what and who are immediately around us and wanting to know more. Writer Tom Allen excels in seeing people and situations that often get overlooked, but also at using the humor, irony, and absurdity of everyday situations to awaken compassion in his readers. A graduate of the University of Richmond, Tom is the Director of Print Communications for the Virginia Education Association and a frequent contributor to the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Style Weekly, and other local and regional periodicals.

Stanley Rayfield

If the first step of rethinking “neighbor” is to include groups we’ve overlooked before, the next step is to ask more probing questions: Who are these people around me? How do I come to know this person as an individual made in the image of God? Perhaps no form of art presents individual identity and personality more directly and forcefully than the portrait, and portraitist Stanley Rayfield excels at presenting the human face in a way that makes the viewer want to know more about the people he represents on canvas. A graduate of VCU’s School of the Arts, Stanley is a popular teacher as well as painter, and his portrait of Jesus was acquired for the permanent collection of the VMFA.



John Gonzalez del Solar

Finally, artists can connect us with our neighbors in physical as well as social space—they not only respond to and represent the local scene, they can be (literally) instrumental in creating places that shape community. Musician John Gonzalez del Solar grew up in Richmond and trained at VCU before moving to Hawaii as bassist for the Navy Band. There, he learned to play and repair ukuleles before returning to RVA with his wife, Genie, to open Fan Guitar and Ukulele on Main Street. Making music, providing lessons and repair services, and creating a space for community are all parts of how they practice being neighbors through the arts.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

SMALL GROUP STORY

Why are all these people in my house?!

Stop by our house Sunday evenings and you'll find seven kids tearing around the yard and six grown-ups pouring out their hearts in the living room.



We three families come together at 4, send the kids outside (hopefully) and share and pray together until about 6. Then dinner. One family provides the main course, one salad, and one dessert, rotating meal assignments.

Why? Well, with life so busy, sometimes it's the only time we adults actually catch up with what our spouses have been thinking (pitiful, I know). More than that, as we share our lives, we see that we aren't the only ones struggling with the hardships we face. That helps build compassion and gratitude. And as we pray together, we acknowledge together that God is in charge, God cares, and God is powerful enough to handle everything we've got. And our kids get to see their parents making prayer and relationships a priority.

Dinner is pretty awesome, too.

Kevin Jeffer

SMALL GROUPS FOR FALL/WINTER 2015

Are you interested in joining a small group? If you are, please email Beth Nichols at bethn@thirdrva.org with the following information:

- Type of group (mixed, women, men)
- Your availability

We will seek to connect you with others interested in forming a small group, and will help guide you in getting started.



WEEKLY COMMUNION - TIME CHANGE!

The early Sunday morning communion service will be now be starting at 8:15 a.m. (instead of 8 a.m.).

The service takes place in Room 101 on every non-communion Sunday: the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month. We would love for anyone to join us for this quiet, reflective time together.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Christmas Dinner



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015
FELLOWSHIP HALL
6:30 P.M.
Bring a dish to share!

Mark your calendar to join the women of Third for our special Christmas Dinner together. This year, we'll discuss how *God is with us*, and hear stories from several women on this topic.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to experience community around the table.

You can sign up on Third's website on the Events page, or in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings in November.

THIRD CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

"Several years ago, when I was new to Third, I was looking for an opportunity to gather in a group setting and be challenged to read quality Christian literature. I also wanted to enjoy what members learned from the books they read. This group continues to meet my expectations."

Stephanie Holt

We're a group that enjoys reading Christian books alongside one another, and meeting every few months to share how they challenge us to grow in our faith. We bring our lunches and discuss the book together.

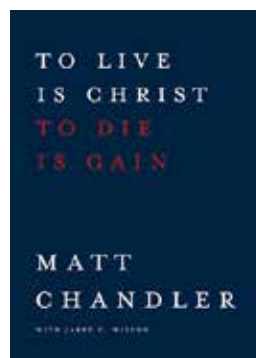
Our next meeting:

Tuesday, November 24 at 12 p.m.
Bonhoeffer Room of the Church Office building
500 Forest Avenue

November book to discuss:

To Live is Christ, To Die is Gain
by Matt Chandler

We'd love for you to read this month and join us in November! For questions: contact Stephanie at stephanierh52@aol.com or 370-1744.



NEWCOMERS & HOSPITALITY

WELCOME COFFEE: *November 22*

Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about Third? Come to our monthly Welcome Coffee to meet a few people, learn about Third's vision, what we believe and how to get involved.

Questions? Contact Beth at bethn@thirdrva.org.



NEWCOMERS CLASS: *Exploring Covenant Partnership*

Interested in learning more about Third, or considering membership?

Join us in our next Newcomers Class where you will 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 member of Third.



NEXT NEWCOMERS CLASS:

- **Sunday morning:** January 10, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- **Friday evening:** January 15, 6-9 p.m. with dinner
- **Saturday morning:** January 16, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Sunday morning:** January 17, joining services for those deciding to become members

To sign up, register online at www.thirdrva.org/membership or contact Beth Nichols at bethn@thirdrva.org or (804) 282-4645 ext. 124. Childcare is provided with a reservation for the class.

GALLERY 500

Visit Gallery 500 in the 500 Forest Ave office building front lobby to see some of Holly Smith's art, entitled *Haiku Commute*. Below is an excerpt from the full article that Holly wrote for the October newsletter.

"A daily twenty-mile commute through pastoral countryside and over a fog-drenched James River provides moments of breathtaking beauty and noteworthy interest. The intentional act of noticing, especially on such a repetitious route as a commute, connects the traveller with the journey, while the act of recording observations and impressions bestows value, mystery or even sacredness to the familiar landscape."

Holly Smith

Invitation to Artists

If you are a Third artist and would like to have your art on display in Gallery 500 for a month, please get in touch with Peggy Larmore at pwlarmore@gmail.com or 387-1250.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LANDSCAPING HELP

We're looking for members and volunteers who can perform landscaping tasks on the rental properties owned by the church, as well as around the church buildings. The work includes such tasks as hauling brush away (may need access to trucks, chainsaws, and equipment), trimming ivy and limbs, gardening in different beds, and general landscaping upkeep.

If you'd like to serve, please contact Stephanie Holt at stephanierh52@aol.com or call her at (804) 370-1744.



THANKSGIVING HOSPITALITY

Thanksgiving Day is an opportunity to show hospitality and friendship to VCU international students and scholars who are eager to learn about American culture and experience the warmth of a home. The VCU Global Education Office invites you to share this special American holiday with a VCU international student or scholar.

For more information: Contact Pam Haney at pohaney@vcu.edu or call 828-8309 no later than November 11.



CARE 2 SHARE: USED TOY DRIVE

The Care 2 Share toy drive collects gently used, like-new toys, and delivers them to children in need throughout the metro Richmond area. Last year, through the generous participation of Third Church, Care 2 Share used toy drive was able to gift wrap and deliver a like-new used toy, book, and stuffed animal to over 400 children.

We are accepting donations of books, toys, stuffed animals, and wrapping supplies now through November 30, for the holiday season.

All donations should meet the following criteria:

- Each toy should be in a bag or box containing all its parts
- Each toy should be clean, appear to be new, and in good working order

Donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

- The bin next to Room 109
- By contacting Carolyn Lilly at 564-7145 or carolynlilly@comcast.net to arrange a pickup or dropoff



Third Church
500 Forest Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23229
804.282.4645

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ADVENT CALENDAR

Mark your calendar to celebrate the Advent Season with Third this December.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for a meal together and to share and discuss how God is with us in this season.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 6 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for a special interactive service of worshipping and reading scripture together.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE: JOHN RUTTER AND "GLORIA"

Sunday, December 13, all morning services in the Sanctuary

Join us for a special worship offering during our Sunday morning services.

HIGH SCHOOL LOCK IN

December 18-19 from 8 p.m. - 8 a.m. at 600 Forest Ave

STUDENT MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Sunday, December 20 at the Huttons' Home

Middle School: 4 - 6:30 p.m. & High School 7- 8: 30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Thursday, December 24

Services at: 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 11 p.m.

Christmas Pageant at the 4 p.m. service

