



Pursuing Stewardship

In last month's Third Press, we shared a summary of our strategic planning process, including the emerging focus for Third, and our five strategic priorities. Since then, teams have already begun to assemble within the church, people are coming together, praying together, and seeking the Father's guidance on how we'll carry out these initiatives. It surely is an exciting thing to witness. Many of the initiatives that will take shape will be visible and evident. Others will happen quietly, behind the scenes.

As you remember, one of the strategic objectives we're tasked with is modernizing our infrastructure (Objective #4). In this initiative, we ask ourselves: how will we wisely steward what God has given? Are we taking good care of our properties and resources? Are we using our time, volunteers, finances, and people wisely and effectively? As we processed this, we've found that there are a few immediate updates we can make to take steps toward better stewardship of our time, talents, places, and resources around the church.

Psalm 24 says that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Our calling is to wisely steward what is rightly the Lord's. In the spirit of these words, we should not spend unnecessary money, and we should not produce unneeded waste. We're excited to share with you now a few of the projects we're leading as we kickoff these initiatives and strive to better steward what the Lord has given us.

1. Recycling Program: Before now, we have had no formal or consistent recycling program. We have recently established a biweekly rhythm for our recycling to be picked up – this includes all papers as well as cans and bottles. As part of this effort, we encourage you to locate the recycling bins around the church to deposit your recyclables. You'll be able to find blue bins in the Narthex or Steeple Corridor for an easy place to drop bulletins or extra papers. Recycling is an easy step towards cutting back our waste and sending more trash into this earth that we've been called to steward.

2. Third Press: While it is our joy to share the stories of the Third family in this publication, it demands valuable expenses in the form of volunteers, finances, and labor. As we update our infrastructure – particularly as it comes to how we communicate with one another – we will be updating Third Press. Our goal is to phase out the mass physical mailing of Third Press, and choose instead to mail to those who opt to receive it via physical copy. Otherwise, we'll be posting Third Press prominently to our website, sending it out via email, and printing plenty to place around the church for pickup on Sundays.

[Continued]

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)

Andrea Woie
Student Ministry Associate

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

Becca Payne
Director of Communications

Tim Latham
Director of Young Adult Ministries

Rev. Richard Haney
Parish Associate

Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate for
Care Ministries

**THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR
APRIL: Fri., March 11**
Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org

We will continue to learn and understand the most effective ways to share the stories of Third, and we hope that our communications methods will be timely, relevant, and meet you in the ways that most resonate with you. [For more information on this change and how to sign-up to continue receiving a mailed Third Press, see the back page of this issue.]

3. ShelbyNext Database: In the coming months, we'll be migrating our old database to a new, web-based system, that integrates the many functions of the various systems we're currently using: Shelby, ServiceU, sharepoint, and more.

This database will transform the way we keep updated on member's information, how we communicate with each other in groups, how we schedule our calendars, plan events, and track membership and involvement. This update will give us greater access to each other in a way that's long overdue. Be on the lookout in the coming weeks and months about this migration and how it will benefit your small group, your calendaring, and your giving.

This is just the beginning, Third Family. These small changes are a move towards the direction of understanding our impact, evaluating our stewardship, and making the tough decisions needed to do well with what the Lord has so generously given to us.

We have all been given the responsibility to care for this church and this church family. This is not just reserved for the trustees, deacons, elders, or staff. We invite you to be a part of this effort, to seek the shalom of these places we inhabit through being wise and discerning stewards.

Grace and peace of our Savior+
Corey Widmer

SUBMITTING TO THIRD PRESS

Our vision for Third Press is that it will continue to be our primary storytelling venue. The place that we celebrate what's happened on the Mission field, share stories of God on the move in the city, or testimonies of people being moved and matured in small groups. These are stories of God's living and active presence in our lives today, and that's what we're after.

As we grow, we'll be optimizing Third Press for web formatting, and will hopefully be able to start including more interactive elements. It's definitely exciting to see how best we can continue to tell Third's stories in compelling and encouraging ways.

Interested in submitting to Third Press? Here's some details for you:

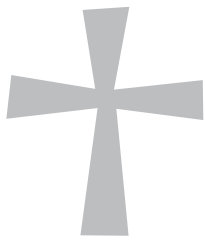
Submission Deadline:

- Second Friday of the month (unless otherwise noted)

Suggested word count:

- Reflective pieces 300-450 words
- Recaps, sharing about a ministry: 100-150 words
- Include photos if possible!

Submit to: Becca Payne, beccap@thirdrva.org



HOLY WEEK

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 19, 11:00 a.m.

Families with children ages kindergarten and younger are invited to the Olmsted's farm to search for eggs and hear the story of Jesus' last week on earth. See page 15 for more details.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary

Special music by the choir, readings, and the sacrament of Communion. Childcare provided for children kindergarten and younger.

Good Friday Worship

Friday, March 25, 12:00 noon, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

A brief worship service in the Sanctuary followed by a Lenten lunch (\$5) in the Fellowship Hall.

Childcare available for kindergarten and younger for the service from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Journey to the Cross

Friday, March 25, any time from 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.

A personal, multi-sensory experience of Jesus's final hours, from betrayal to burial. The journey begins in the Steeple Corridor, and includes both indoor and outdoor installations and reflections of Christ's last days.

Come anytime between 1:00 - 8:00 p.m. and prepare to take your time through the stations. See page 4 for more information on this event.

Suitable for children and adults.

Resurrection Day

Sunday, March 27 | Services: 8:00, 9:15, 10:30, and 11:45 a.m.

Sunday School*: 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate the risen King at one of our four services in the Sanctuary!

*Each Adult Discipleship class will decide if the class will meet. Check with your class leaders for whether or not your class will convene on Easter Sunday.

Children and youth Sunday School will continue as scheduled at 10:30 a.m.



JOURNEY *to the* CROSS

A personal experience of Jesus' final hours.

Before celebrating God's triumphant resurrection at Easter, many Christians first observe Lent—an annual season of fasting, prayer and penitence aligned with the movement of Jesus towards the cross. Jesus willingly bore a cross and died in our place; judged in our place, the Lamb of God by his death paid the wages of our sins. Lent invites us to remember this supreme sacrifice and to renew our gratitude for God's emptying of himself, in love—for all of us, who do not deserve such grace.

As a part of Lent, Third Church offers an artistic and experiential Journey to the Cross. Participants may meditatively move through the events, from the Last Supper to the garden prayers, betrayal, arrest, trial, and more, before facing Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The Journey is sensory and interactive, and a final room for prayer and quiet artistic reflection invites participants to celebrate the gift of Jesus' victorious resurrection, Easter, with an awareness of its cost to God.

Will you follow the Journey this year? Followed at one's own pace, the Journey to the Cross is appropriate for all ages and stages of Christian maturity or curiosity. Written guides aid participants through the Journey and propose devotional activity and questions to consider along the way. Families are encouraged to take the Journey together, with the help of a personal illustrated guide. This Journey to the Cross offers a captivating and worshipful preparation for our celebration of Easter.

Open after the noontime worship service and lunch on Good Friday, The Journey to the Cross will be available **from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on March 25.**

You, your friends, your neighbors—all are welcome.

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."

Revelation 22:17

REFUGEE CRISIS: *An update from the Middle East, Part 3*

This past fall, the Third Church family rallied together and raised \$76,461 for refugee and internally displaced Syrians and Iraqis. The funds were sent to our partners on the ground in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq in late October. This is the third update of how your gifts are being used. This time, our focus is on Iraq.

In Iraq, the majority of the fighting has occurred in the northern part of the country. When ISIS overtook Mosul in the summer of 2014, Christians and moderate Muslims fled their homes, many with only the clothes on their back, to save their lives. Instead of heading to neighboring countries (Syria to the West, Iran to the East- not much of a choice!), many stayed within the country traveling to “safer” locations. They aren’t refugees, they are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)—3.5 million refugees in their own home country.

Where did they go to live? Anywhere they could find safety— displacement camps, homes of friends and strangers, abandoned buildings, and even churches. The church is a beacon of light in Iraq, for both Christians and Muslims. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Kirkuk is one of the brightest lights.



Rev. Haitham Jazrawi is the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk. Seeing the growing needs of the people, Rev. Haitham opened the doors of his church and invited entire families to move in. Sunday School rooms were partitioned off and turned into multi-family living quarters. The Christian radio station, a ministry of the church, was temporarily suspended so a family could move into the facility. Even parts of the sanctuary were set up for families to live. There is not a spare space available. Muslim families camp out on the sidewalks outside the church.

Once such family living at the church is Nashwan, his wife, his two children ages 2 and 3, and his widowed mother. They lived in Mosul when ISIS took the city through violence in the summer of 2014.

Nashwan is a very skilled mechanic and electrician who worked for an oil company, earning a respectable income for his family. Other members of his family also lived in Mosul, where his brother owned and operated a grocery store. His brother was threatened and made to pay a ransom to ISIS, which he did. They returned, demanding more. He asked for some time to collect the funds, but ISIS refused and killed him on the spot.

Fearful for his own family’s life, Nashwan quickly gathered his family and mother, and set off for an unknown but hopefully safer place. They eventually ended up at the door of the Kirkuk Presbyterian Church. He and his family now live in the church, in the radio facility. Nashwan is unable to find work, but they are active in the life of the church and helping others in need. And, they are most grateful to the church for the safety and security it provides.



Your generous gifts are helping the Kirkuk Presbyterian Church feed, clothe, provide medicine, help find jobs and even educate the children. Simple needs, but sustaining the lives of the people in Iraq. **Third Church, thank you for reaching out to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

For more information about the refugee crisis, contact Tom Widmer at tgwidmer@gmail.com.

Why should you be involved with Jobs for Life? Good question.

We asked a few people from Third about what Jobs for Life has meant to them. Here's what they said:

“ We got to hear the touching testimony of a student who graduated from the Jobs for Life program at STEP, and it moved us to get involved. Jobs for Life is not only a restorative opportunity for students and volunteers alike, but a chance for Third to embrace the community around us, **intentionally inviting individuals of all walks of life into our church family so we can fully reflect the body of Christ.**

Charlotte & Derek Gage

“ I am the blessed one to have had the privilege to serve as a mentor to a student in Jobs for Life. I walked away from every session “filled up” with the rich teaching and the meaningful fellowship with my student and all of the class. Jobs for Life poured far into me than I could ever have given— **I am grateful and humbled by what I received by serving as a mentor.**

Connie Byers

“ When I think of the Gospel message and its redemptive and healing message, I think of the work that happens at Jobs for Life. Many students find themselves surrounded by brokenness, fear, pain, and (frankly) messy lives that have little to no hope. When that student is surrounded by a loving and caring community who see in that broken life something beautiful that God has carefully crafted with great purpose, there is a resurgence of life and hope.

I'd encourage you to join in the transforming power of God's grace as it is extended to those who long to find their place and purpose in this world.

Luke Swygard

“ Even though I wasn't able to attend the weekly meetings I was able to support and serve the JFL participants and mentors by providing them with dinner one meeting night. They seemed delighted to arrive to the smells of a hot meal, and dug in with enthusiasm when dinner was served. **It was a delight to me and my family to provide encouragement through nourishment** to the hardworking JFL families.

Allene Brown

“ Jobs for Life is an amazing opportunity for the church body to help people see their God-given talents and value, while at the same time having the power to transform the heart of those who are serving. **There is something very profound about watching someone realize their self worth in Christ.** This is truly a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Stephen Jenkins

Learn more about Jobs for Life at: jobsforlife.org



Jobs for Life is a 12-week, relationship-centered jobs training program.

Each student is teamed with a Champion who walks with them through the class and the months following, as they journey from unemployment or underemployment to better employment. Our teachers interact closely with students, providing practical job training within a framework of God's good design for work.

WHEN & WHERE:

Monday Nights, March 7 through June 6
6:00 - 8:30 PM | Fellowship Hall
Graduation: June 13

HOW CAN YOU HELP:



CHAMPION

Walk alongside a student as a mentor throughout the 12 weeks of the class.



BUSINESS LEADER

Join one of the many opportunities to serve by sharing expertise or financial supporting the class.



MEALS

Meals are an important part of each class. Volunteer to cook and serve meals to the class.



CHILDCARE

Volunteer to provide childcare services for the children of students during class.



TEACHERS

Facilitate our Jobs For Life curriculum as a teacher.



RECRUITERS

Know someone who'd benefit from the class? Invite them to apply to join Jobs For Life.

READY TO SIGN UP?

Contact Ed Satterfield (eds@thirdrva.org),
or go to: thirdrva.org/jobsforlife

MISSIONS PROFILES: *The Kishore Family*

Joseph and Marie Kishore have been Third Mission Partners for 30 years! They are from and work in Hyderabad, India, the capital of the southern state of Telangana and the 4th most populous city in India.

They work through New Life Associates, an organization started by Joseph's father. They minister the gospel through evangelistic crusades, televised Bible studies, pastoral training seminars, church services, feeding programs and health care for the indigent.

Their most recent newsletter was filled with the word of God on the move! Beginning in January, they started a new television program entitled "Abundant Word." Through those TV Bible studies, they're nurturing million of Christians in the Biblical way of life.

They have also held many conferences and gatherings, including a three-night Gospel carnival in December in a nearby town. The weather was cool and people came in great anticipation to hear the Word of God. As Joseph began to preach, it started to rain on their open-air meeting. They persisted in faith and Joseph continued. Within minutes, the rain stopped. The Holy Spirit was powerful that night—touching hearts— and in response, over 200 people came forward and accepted Jesus.

New Life is also closely involved with a hospital they built to minister to the poor of Hyderabad. Emory Mission Hospital is the first Protestant mission hospital in their area. It currently has 120 beds, and medical equipment is slowly being added. Marie Kishore is an obstetrician and their son Suhas is an orthopedic surgeon. They give medical care backed with Christian love and concern to the poor and needy. In the past five months their doctors have treated 1005 patients, delivered 34 babies and performed 21 major and minor surgeries.

They invite us into prayer over the following:

- New Life Pastors' Conference February 23-25
- 40 days of Prayer Meetings during Lent, Good Friday Service at Trinity Church – the church they built
- Emory Mission Hospital
- Financial resources and protection

Let us join together in praying for the Kishores this month!



Joseph and Marie Kishore



Gathering of people at the open-air Gospel revival

DISPATCHES FROM THE ECO NATIONAL GATHERING

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

During the week of January 25, while we were all digging out of our mountains of snow, a few of our Third leaders traveled to sunny California for the ECO National Gathering. Here’s what a few of our representatives took away from the experience.

“ The gathering took on it's own life as those attending converged and began to mingle. The eagerness from each for our common call to bring the Kingdom of God to a broken world was deeply moving. From the beginning it felt more like a movement than an organization. This idea of a **movement** was recognized and articulated by the leadership and resonated with the congregated believers. What a blessing to witness the work of God's Spirit.

This movement took on many facets as the weekend unfolded but one I want to highlight is **unity**. It is my understanding that previous PCUSA General Assemblies were a time of much conflict and debate over foundational principles. In contrast, the debate among this gathering was forward looking. How do we function together to bring God’s Shalom to our Communities, Nation and World? What wisdom does the Word of God have for how we should live in the growing secularization of our culture?”

Andy Burgess

“ The teaching of the National Gathering exemplified the ECO mission - *to build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ*. A host of speakers, on the caliber of a Willow Creek Summit or Catalyst in Atlanta, presented on topics meant to challenge, inspire and encourage the people of the local church. Interestingly, several of the topics resonated with what God is doing at Third, like: our '**neighbors**' (Luke 10:25-37) being those who are culturally and racially different from us; that each of us need to be trained to be disciples of Jesus that then go and make disciples; how to experience the benefits of inter-generational (versus multi-generational) worship and community.

It was a privilege to be a part of this ECO National Gathering and to experience the sense of being in a denomination where God is at work.”

Melissa Lincoln

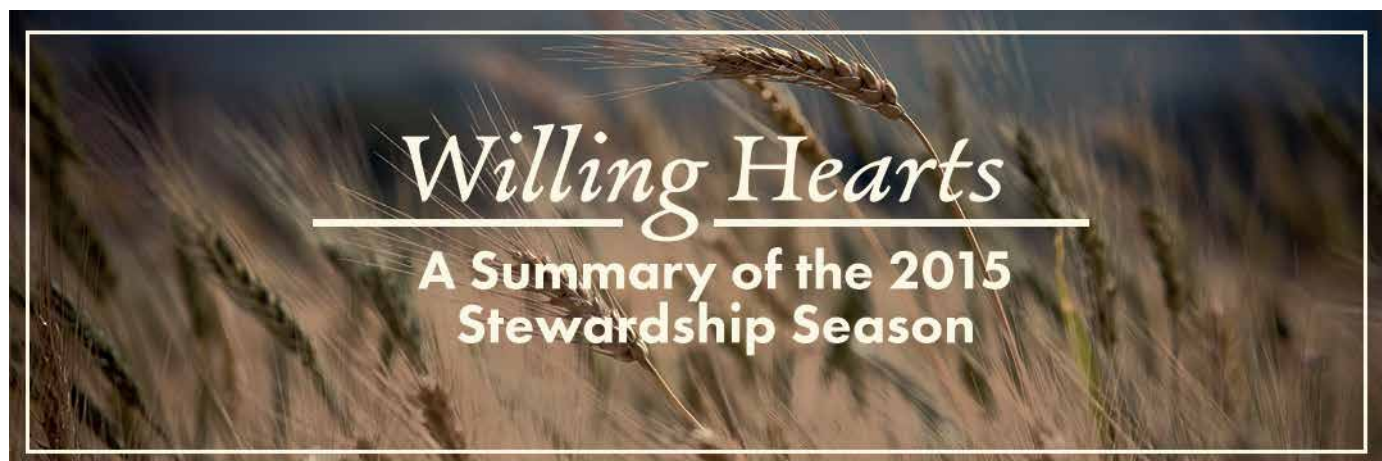


Gathering at St. Andrews Presbyterian
in Newport Beach, CA

“ Speaker Mark DeYmaz gave us a clarion call to move our churches toward reflecting the rich ethnic and socioeconomic **diversity** of our communities. Then Jeff Vanderstelt shook us up by reminding us that we can and should share the Gospel with others through the everyday stuff of life. And Kara Powell shared about the importance of intergenerational relationships in helping our youth and young adults have “sticky faith”— faith that sticks with them once they leave the confines of high school youth group.

In between those powerful but practical messages, we had challenging breakout sessions, wonderful meals, and worship opportunities that ran the spectrum from classic to modern and everything in between. Who knew that stuffy Presbyterians could **worship** so fully in so many ways with so much joy? I’m pretty sure those worship sessions gave us an authentic taste of what heaven will be like.”

Jennifer Parham



“Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work.” Exodus 35:21

This stirring verse comes from a section in the book of Exodus in which God invites all those with “willing hearts” to give generously to the work of the Lord. “Willing hearts” was our theme in 2015 for our giving as a church community. As we look back on 2015, we are grateful that God did indeed grant us hearts to willingly and generously give to the work of the Lord here at Third. We saw these “willing hearts” expressed in many ways, but we wanted to highlight just a few:

2015 Operating Budget:

Our 2015 budget was \$2,860,000, an 11% increase from the previous year. We knew that 2015 would include major maintenance to our facilities that could no longer be deferred, and the filling of needed staff positions. Although we ended the year with a \$20,000 deficit, we were thrilled overall that giving remained strong throughout the year. This enabled us to fulfill our commitments in support of our numerous mission partners, and allows us to enter into the new year with confidence in God’s faithfulness and provision. Thank you to all who gave generously to the work of our church in 2015.

Special Offerings:

The heart response to special giving opportunities in 2015 was tremendous! Last winter during our Stop Hunger Now campaign, you gave \$25,000 and countless hours to provide and package 100,000 meals for those in need. During this summer, the students and volunteers at VBS demonstrated that a willing heart does not come with age restrictions – donating \$10,000 to rebuild the destroyed Aleppo Church in Syria. Then, this fall during the height of the international refugee crisis, you gave \$66,500 in less than three weeks time! That money went directly toward relief, care and evangelism benefitting millions of internally displaced peoples in Syria and other places in the Middle East.

WILLING HEARTS: A 2015 *Financial Review*

“Joy of the City” Capital Campaign:

We concluded our five year “Joy of the City” capital campaign in December 2015. Capital campaign receipts during 2015 were \$539,000 and giving over the five year campaign totaled \$4.0 million. While the scale of the campaign was less than originally planned, Third members demonstrated faithful obedience in honoring their pledges during the great recession, PC(USA) dismissal process and change in senior pastor. Funds contributed have been used to acquire our administrative offices at 500 Forest, purchase “buffer” real estate property adjacent to the church at 600 Forest, help East End Fellowship get settled into an office and children’s space, and support Community West Church’s purchase efforts of the Pump Road land for reaching the unchurched in the west end of Richmond. Further details on the closure of the “Joy of the City” campaign are forthcoming and we look forward to celebrating this special occasion in the spring of 2016.

2016 Operating Budget:

To date, we have received 281 faith commitments toward the 2016 year. Despite fewer overall pledges than 2015, total pledged dollars have increased \$133,746 and the average pledge is almost 10% higher than that of last year. Based on your faith commitments, our elders have approved a budget of \$3,048,000 for 2016. Again, we thank you for your willing hearts to help contribute to the work God has called us to in the coming year.

If you have not submitted your pledge for 2016, would you prayerfully continue to seek guidance from the Lord about your faith commitment? As 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, “Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” While your pledge commitment and giving decisions are ultimately a personal matter, the collective decisions of the Third congregation impacts our ability to plan mission support, personnel matters and church-wide improvements and programs.

As we reflect back on 2015, we praise God for his own willing heart that flowed forth generously in giving us grace through his Son Jesus Christ. May God continue to give us hearts willing to generously give out of love and gratitude for all that God has given to us.

PRAYER & COMMUNION SERVICE

We have moved our weekly Sunday Morning Communion Service! Now, it will be held **every Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. in Room 101.**



However, there will now be a heavier emphasis on prayer at this service. One of the main purposes of this gathering will now be to have a weekly gathering of prayer for our congregation and for other prayer needs that may arise.

This will also be a time when people may come for healing prayer. Communion will be served on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th (and 5th) Sundays. On the 1st Sunday, we will only have prayer since communion is served at the other Sunday morning services that day.

EVENT RECAPS: *Parent Forum*



Parents and friends gathered for our first ever Parent Forum on January 20 to discuss how we talk to our kids about sex and sexuality. The discussion was led by a panel of parents, pastors, and experts and included Lead Pastor Corey Widmer, Associate Pastor for Student Ministry Rick Hutton, Parish Associate Nan Clarke, and licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Jera Nelson Cunningham. The conversation, although a tough topic, was frank and honest, and taught parents how to frame these conversations with their children.

Our panelists shared their own experiences of talking about sex with their children and then parents had the opportunity to ask questions in an open forum. Dr. Nelson Cunningham also shared helpful context for the age (and developmentally) appropriate times to share things with our children.

One of our parents beautifully expressed her thoughts after the forum, "We all have our stories of how sexuality and sex were introduced, communicated by our parents or not, sexual sin or not, broken relationships, possible abuse... and how Satan wants to use that to shame us as parents. He wants to stop us from effectively communicating the beautiful story of redemption and the gospel. As parents we can feel isolated if we hide our fears or questions. How great God is to free us of shame and guilt, and to allow us to live as *his* children, redeemed and *loved*."

The Student and Family Ministry teams want to walk alongside parents as we all raise our children to love Jesus. We have resources you can borrow to help jumpstart these conversations.

We also hope to do more forum-type programming in the future. If you have ideas or questions that you would like to see addressed, please email questions@thirdrva.org with "Parent Forum" in the subject line.

If you'd like to listen to the audio from the forum, please contact Tracie Meadows at traciem@thirdrva.org. Due to the sensitive nature of this subject, we have decided not to post it online.

NEWCOMERS

On Sunday, January 17, 2016 we had twenty-eight people become new Covenant Partners of Third Church. Please welcome them into our church family and find opportunities to meet them and get to know them!



Tammy & Brad Bishop



Melinda & Ned Bothe



Marlo & Todd Burdge



Natalie & Andrew
Colhoun



Lynne Daley



Al & Donna Davis



Becky & Bill Edwards



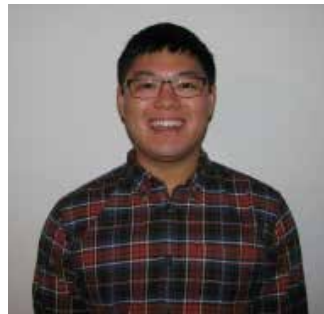
Mark Grubbs



JoeAnn & Buck Lewis



Jenny & Billy Harper



Craig Heah



Kari & Jon Hershey



Peyton & Becky Jenkins



Adam & Kerrissa
MacPherson



Chris & Becca Payne



Heather Zulauf



A Reflection on Art & Prayer, by Val Kling

I grew up in a family that valued, lived among, and practiced art. With oils, watercolor, yarn and fabric, my mother inspired, clothed, taught and entertained us with art. My dad made beautiful furniture and was an accomplished photographer. I was an artsy kid: I loved drawing, knitting, beading, rug hooking, painting, and “helping” my parents with their projects.

I understood art to be for home and family life, and academics and “productive” work to be for a public life. Thankfully, in these later years, I've had a chance to practice and share art in a more formal way.

While teaching and rearing children into teen years, a bout with colon cancer moved me to re-engage with art. My husband and I decided that I would leave my job and find the most life-giving ways to spend my time. As it turns out, I've done lots of teaching since then...but have also developed skills in watercolor and oil painting.

God inspired me, early on, to pray as I painted, for people connected to the art. For instance, while painting images of children from Afghanistan that were supplied to me by missionaries our church supported, Libby and Tom Little, I prayed that God would reveal Muslim “enemies” in a faraway war zone as lovely people made in His image. The proceeds from the paintings I sold went back to the medical mission. Tragically, Tom was martyred in 2010, but Libby now has one of those paintings in her home, colored with many prayers.

My husband, Fritz, works on nation-building in Myanmar (formerly Burma). A country of pristine beauty and ancient practices, Myanmar has been the subject of many paintings. Those works afforded me time to pray for Fritz, the work, unreached people groups, and recipients of the paintings.

Whether painting portraits, landscapes, figures, and abstracts, I've prayed for those on the other end. Praying is an art too! As visual art does, prayer moves me away from my self and towards both God and others. Like painting, prayer sometimes is loose and free form; sometimes, formal and studied; and always layered many times over in love and hope. A simple dog portrait included strokes of petition for my niece who lost her pet. A watercolor of friends' boys on a dock inspired prayers for lifelong friendships. A sunflower from Provence was washed over with prayers for light and hope for a young cancer patient sick of hospital halls; and a vast mountain scene capped with appeals for God to remind an orphaned daughter that He is our helper in facing craggy hills. A recent cat portrait prompted prayers for its owners to come to know Christ.



God leads me to pray creatively by way of my art. It's such a privilege...and joy! More than a hobby, more than a job, painting is part of my devotion: a tool of discipline, an art of love. I love to do it—and I love by doing it.

Visit Gallery 500 in the 500 Forest Ave office building front lobby to see Val Kling's art. If you're a Third artist and would like to have display your art in Gallery 500, please contact Peggy Larmore at pwlarmore@gmail.com.

MARCH & APRIL CALENDAR

March

6

**9:45 - 11:00 a.m.
Parlor**

WELCOME COFFEE

If you are new to Third, or if you meet someone new to Third, please join us for our Welcome Coffee in the Parlor from 9:45-11:00 a.m..

This is a time when visitors can meet Corey and some of our lay leaders, see a short video about the vision and mission of Third, and find ways to connect at Third.



Upcoming Welcome Coffees: March 6, April 3, May 1

March

19

**11:00 a.m.
Olmstead Farm**

3rd ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Families with children ages kindergarten and younger are invited to the Olmsted's farm (1633 Devon Way, Manakin-Sabot) to search for eggs and hear the story of Jesus' last week on earth.

Bring a picnic lunch and stay for fellowship and fun. Please register online at: thirdrva.org/registrations. If you have questions, contact Kathy White at kathyw@thirdrva.org.



April

16

Richmond

WOMEN'S MINISTRY MORNING OF SERVICE

Join us for a morning of serving together with the women of Third. We will meet together for a devotional and cup of coffee before we disperse throughout the city to serve our neighbors. Mark your calendar and spread the word.

Sign-ups will be open soon!



April
14-17

Third Church

NEWCOMERS CLASS

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.



Next Newcomers Class:

Thursday Evening, March 14 from 7-8:30 PM

Friday Evening, March 15 from 6-9 PM with dinner

Saturday, March 16 from 1:00-4:30 PM

Sunday, March 17 – Joining service for those deciding to become members

Childcare is provided with a reservation for the class.

Sign up on-line at www.thirdrva.org/membership or contact Beth Nichols at bethn@thirdrva.org or 282-4645.

Third Church
500 Forest Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23229
804.282.4645

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ATTENTION: UPDATES TO THIRD PRESS!

As described in Corey's letter, we'll be making some changes to the distribution of Third Press. Instead of sending out the mass physical mailing each month, we'll be doing the following:

- Posting Third Press prominently to our website
- Sending it out via email
- Placing copies around the church for pickup on Sundays

If you already receive the weekly Third Online email from Corey every Thursday, you will be automatically signed up to receive an electronic version of the newsletter.

We will still send out physical copies for individuals who request to continue receiving Third Press in this format.

If you would like to continue to receive a mailed version of Third Press to your home, you must contact us: call Miranda at 282-4645 ext. 133 or email Becca at beccap@thirdrva.org.

If you contact us, we will make sure that the mailing continues to reach you at your place of residence.

