



exploreGod™

On Sunday, September 11, we will begin a 7-week sermon and discussion group series called "Explore God." We're joining close to 100 other churches and parachurch ministries around Richmond in this city-wide campaign, exploring 7 major questions that people often express about God, spirituality, and the meaning of life. As Richmonders see the campaign advertised on billboards or online or hear about it from friends, they can go to the exploregod.com website and find a local church or ministry that is working through the 7 questions on Sunday mornings or in a discussion group during the week. Here at Third, we will work hard to make the sermons on Sunday and discussion groups we offer highly accessible to anyone, regardless of where they may be on their spiritual journey. You can find more information about the topics, schedule, and how to be involved on the next pages.

We hope and pray God will use this campaign to draw people to Jesus. Yet as compelling as these topics are, it is not the intriguing nature of the questions that will ultimately lead someone to Christ. As we have been studying the book of Luke together this year, we've seen that Jesus' primary method of evangelism is not programs but relationships. One of the best examples of this is Luke 10:5-9:

Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house!" And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Jesus tells his disciples that when they enter a town, they should look for a "person of peace" (v. 5). A "person of peace" is someone who is open to you, favorable toward you, and someone who may be interested in hearing your story and sharing theirs with you. Jesus suggests that this is a signal that the Holy Spirit is already working in this person's life and is someone whom "God has prepared in advance" to receive the gospel (Romans 9:23). Jesus says: stay with that person, settle down, accept their hospitality, build trust, hang out with them for a while and see what God will do.

[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)

Laurie Jaworski
Mission Pastor

Andrea Woie
Student Ministry Associate

Alan Ware
Director of Finance & Administration

Tom Barila
Director of Christian Education

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

Alex Sawyer
Technical Director

Tim Latham
Director of Young Adult Ministries

Rev. Richard Haney
Parish Associate

Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate
Care Ministries

We can make evangelism so complicated and programmatic. But Jesus' method is incredibly basic. There are no manipulative techniques, no fancy rhetoric. Just plain old, trusting relationships—that's how he says his mission to the whole world will be advanced. You build the relationships, keep an eye out for how the Spirit may be working, and entrust God with the rest.

As we enter into this Explore God campaign, let's focus on people. Consider one or two "persons of peace" in your life that may be open to you and the gospel, and think about inviting them to one or more services or a discussion group. But don't expect the content itself to change anyone. We don't argue anyone into belief—we love them in. And if you have any doubt, remember how God has loved you right into his family and given you a forever home. He wants to do that for others too—let's show them the way.

Grace and peace of our Savior+

Corey Widmer

DON'T WAIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER!
Visit the exploreGod.com website today.

Watch their videos, pray about who to invite, and start to talk to the "persons of peace" in your life.

EXPLORE GOD SERIES

Each week, we'll be discussing the following questions. The questions will be the topic for our sermons and the discussion groups that will meet that week.

WEEK	DATE	QUESTIONS
WEEK 1	September 11	<i>Does Life Have a Purpose?</i>
WEEK 2	September 18	<i>Is There A God?</i>
WEEK 3	September 24	<i>Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?</i>
WEEK 4	October 2	<i>Is Christianity Too Narrow?</i>
WEEK 5	October 9	<i>Is Jesus Really God?</i>
WEEK 6	October 16	<i>Is the Bible Reliable?</i>
WEEK 7	October 23	<i>Can I Know God Personally?</i>

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR

October: Friday, September 9

Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN



We're asking each person at Third, young and old alike, to join in the movement of Explore God. There are many ways to join the conversation and to bring others in. How will you join us? **Questions:** contact Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org).

1. Join a discussion group (and invite others!)

The Explore God organization has provided robust discussion guides, videos, and articles for discussion groups to use that will meet throughout the week. The smaller group environment fosters more honest question-asking and vulnerable seeking. **Pray about who you could invite to attend a discussion group with you.**

Here's our current list of Discussion Groups:

Sermon Chat Class

Sunday mornings
10:00 a.m.
500 Forest Avenue

Sunday Brunch Chat

Sunday mornings
11:30 a.m.
Check thirdrva.org/exploreGod for location

Village Men

Friday mornings
7:30 a.m.
Martins, at the Village Shopping Center

Recovery Community

Wednesday evenings
6:00 p.m.
500 Forest Avenue

2. Start a discussion group

Want to start your own discussion group? Or maybe your current small group wants to follow the Explore God discussion guides and invite some more friends in. Great! We'll be posting the discussion guides each week on our website (thirdrva.org/exploreGod), or you can get in touch with Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org) for the materials.

3. Share Explore God videos and resources

Visit exploreGod.com today and begin looking through their wealth of videos, articles, and other resources. Share these resources with friends and family, or on social media. Use the rich conversation and dialogue found there to help your own conversations with the "persons of peace" in your life.



Dear Third Church Family,

In May, we shared an update with you that outlined the five different working groups, including their co-leaders, that make up the Strategic Planning Committee. As these groups formed, each focused on one of the key objectives laid out by the TAG Consulting process, it was clear that there would be much overlap and dependency between the teams working on these initiatives. By bringing them together as one team, the Strategic Planning team, we're able to maximize efficiency and collaboration between all the groups.

We also shared with you in May that these groups were compiling their work scope documents – the high-level objectives and work the groups hope to accomplish by the end of 2017. These work scope documents have since been approved by Session, with the understanding that they will guide the direction of the work of each of the teams, and delineate what's in and out of scope. Over the next 18 months, all of the working groups will come back to Session with specific recommendations in each of these five areas. At that point, Session will decide how to approach and respond to their recommendations.

Today, we share (below) the succinct summaries of these groups' work scope documents. To keep you informed and excited about advancements, you may access the full work scope documents with more detail and specific objectives by visiting: thirdrva.org/blog/strategic-planning-update-august-2016. Please reach out to leaders of the working groups with any suggestions, concerns, or questions.

For context and as a reminder, these five groups carry out their work in light of our church's focus statement and core values, below, and in consultation with and approval from Session. Session's Budget and Stewardship Committee closely guards and guides all budgetary impacts of the work.

Focus Statement: To reorient around relationships for community, discipleship and mission.

Core Values: Biblical Faithfulness (rooted in Scripture), Gospel Community (bound together), Intentional Discipleship (growing as Christ-followers), Missional Orientation (sent out), Catalytic Culture (creating partnerships).

Here are work scope summaries from each group and short explanations about the work:

WORKING GROUP 1: Communicate Our Purpose

Clarify the mission and vision of our church, and explore implications for the church name, branding, signage and communication.

Third currently has a variety of guiding statements in play (mission statement, vision statement, motto, and focus statement). This group is studying different marketing, branding, and identity strategies and will recommend to Session the most efficient and most useful expression of Third's God-given uniqueness and aspiration. Related communication changes, guidelines and training materials will follow.

Co-chairs: Becca Payne (beccap@thirdrva.org) and Mark Mendez (markluismendez@gmail.com)

WORKING GROUP 2: Align Staff and Session

Provide recommendations that will align Session and staff structures to emphasize shepherding, equipping and governance by elders and tactical work by staff and ministry teams. Clarify objectives and lines of communication for staff and volunteers.

This group has been actively researching best practices, processes, and key concepts by direct conversations with and study of similar or larger thriving churches across the country. By year's end, the group plans to recommend a new structure for Session and clarify lines of authority and communication between Session and staff, as well as perform a high-level staff assessment based on strategic objectives and mission statement.

Co-chairs: Ed Satterfield (eds@thirdrva.org) and David Skove (dskove@aol.com)

WORKING GROUP 3: Connect, Train and Send God's People

Develop and implement pathways for every person at Third to integrate into authentic community and to grow to be a mature and fruitful disciple.

Aiming to clarify, model, teach, and support adult discipleship, this group is both making assessments of Third's effectiveness in discipleship and creating more consistent models for it. The group is exploring geographic sub-communities to facilitate discipleship, care and mission as well.

Co-chairs: Corey Widmer (coreyw@thirdrva.org) and Jeff Hassler (jeffbhassler@gmail.com)

WORKING GROUP 4: Modernize Our Infrastructure

Provide a plan to update our physical footprint and technological capabilities to glorify God through enhanced worship, fellowship and educational space and connection with our surroundings. All proposals will include recommendations on how to pay for the investments.

Already offering consultation on short-term space and technological proposals from staff, this group will also carefully review past site studies and expansion proposals and will conduct a comprehensive assessment of facility, use of space, and technology by year's end.

Co-chairs: Alan Ware (alanw@thirdrva.org) and Rob Lanphear (roblanphear@gmail.com)

WORKING GROUP 5: Love Our Neighbors

Adapt Third's people and programs to better reach out with the gospel to Third's increasingly diverse local community, particularly internationals and the non-churched, so that Third reflects the diverse community around us and can witness to the power of the gospel even more clearly.

What does it mean to live missionally? How can we at Third best fulfill the Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations? This group is studying how Third might grow in cultural intelligence and better reach across lines of division with the Gospel. The group will recommend specific educational opportunities and missional practices in the next year.

Co-chairs: Ron Klipp (ronklipp@gmail.com) and Jennifer Parham (jenniferparham@yahoo.com)

We hope that you are excited about this ongoing work at and through Third Church. Will you join us in praying that the Lord will lead this process and prepare us all to serve Him more fully as a church?

"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." John 4:35

Prayerfully at work,

The Strategic Planning Committee

Scott Ziegler, Annhorne Truitt, Corey Widmer, Jeff Hassler, Becca Payne, Mark Mendez, Ed Satterfield, David Skove, Alan Ware, Rob Lanphear, Ron Klipp, Jennifer Parham

FALL 2016

Opportunities for Community, Discipleship, and Mission

Pick up a copy of the new Fall 2016 brochure, that outlines all the opportunities for community, discipleship, and mission for the coming months. We've included the discipleship classes and events here in this Third Press, but for more— including service opportunities and other events— look for a copy of the brochure, available around the church and online by Labor Day.

Sunday School classes kick off on September 11 during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour. We hope you join us for one of these classes— even if you've never been to one before. Drop in to any of the classes below!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

A STUDY OF HEBREWS

Room 101

Teachers: *Dave Carroll & David Skove*

Hosted by: *Good News Fellowship*

More info: thirdrva.org/good-news

Hebrews makes it clear that Jesus Christ exceeds all other people, pursuits, objects, or hopes to which human beings offer allegiance. Our study will reveal just how superior Jesus is to the many things of this world, offering a better hope than the Mosaic law, and how he is the ultimate salvation.

WHERE IS GOD IN THE BUSINESS AND BUSYNESS OF LIFE?

Room 217

Teachers: *Luke Swygard & Rich Crawford*

Hosted by: *Fusion Fellowship*

How do we fuse our faith with our actions? Where do we meet with God, and where does God meet with us in the day-to-day? Each week we will look at a "real life" topic, and in a conversational setting we will examine what the Bible reveals to us about how we engage with the life Christ calls us to live.

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

Room 215

Teachers: *Keith & Connie Byers*

More info: thirdrva.org/marriage-fellowship

This Fall, we will begin with a powerful 7-week study by Andy Stanley called "iMarriage: Transforming Your Expectations." So what are you to do with your expectations? You can't deny them because most expectations started out as God-given desires. We will learn about three key principles to help you transform your expectations and much more!

ORPHANS & THE GOSPEL

Room 207

Teachers: *Derek & Charlotte Gage, Bob & Karen Tatti, Mike & Missy Murchie*

The gospel of Jesus Christ means our church ought to be at the forefront of care for orphans close to home and around the world. We will draw from personal stories and the book *Adopted for Life* by Russell Moore to educate and build community around this biblical calling. All ages and stages are welcome.

FORGIVING AND RECONCILING:

Bridges to wholeness and Hope

500 Forest Avenue, Room 109

Teachers: *Mary Damon*

Hosted by: *Metamorphosis*

More Info: thirdrva.org/metamorphosis

We are a community seeking God's Kingdom gifts of connection, love, joy, freedom and hope on earth while exploring together the spirituality of brokenness in ourselves and the world and how God speaks healing and wholeness into our lives through a safe, authentic Christian community. We would love for you to join us in this rich, deep encounter.

Now in our 6th year together, we are pleased this fall to be discussing *Forgiving and Reconciling – Bridges to Wholeness and Hope* by Everett Worthington.

CAN WE TALK: How Does an Ancient Book Guide Modern Life?

Starts: October 30, and meets for 7 weeks

Fellowship Hall

Teachers: *Nan & Boyd Clarke*

When we approach the Bible it is easier to say, "God says it, I believe it, that settles it," than it is to actually put this adage into practice in our modern world. In different times and different places, Christians have used a variety of reading strategies to interpret and apply Scripture for their time and place. The purpose of this fellowship class is to develop a reading strategy that is both faithful to the Book and applicable to the complexity of our 21st century lives.

This is a great follow-up from the Explore God series!

SERMON CHAT

Fellowship Hall

Teachers: *Rotating!*

Hosted by: *Tom Barila*

Join us for lively discussions as we chat and reflect about the biblical text used in the sermon, the preacher's main themes, and areas for personal application. An ideal and comfortable environment for those who want to go deeper with the Bible text, ask questions, and meet new folks.

Our first 7 weeks we'll be using this as a discussion group for the Explore God weekly topics.

DID NOT OUR HEARTS BURN WITHIN US?

Room 213

Teachers: *Jennifer Parham, Andrew Fuller, and Grant Holbrook*

Jesus through the eyes of Dr. Luke. The gospel writer Dr. Luke was a Greek and Christian doctor and the only known Gentile author in the New Testament. The gospel of Luke is the most expansive gospel. Come learn from Luke as he stresses Jesus' relationships with people along with his emphasis on: illnesses with diagnoses, prayer, miracles, angels, hymns of praise, and women.

Our Reveal! team of teachers will lead us in the study of the gospel of Luke. We will be covering each section of scripture in an expository fashion with time for Q&A. After a recap of chapters 1-16, we will begin our study in chapter 17.

STUDENT MINISTRY SUNDAY DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday Mornings

During the 10:00 a.m. worship hour, students (ages 7th grade through high school) meet in the Student Ministry area and split into their Sunday morning classes.



ROOM	GRADES
121	High school, co-ed
122	Middle school girls
132	Middle school boys

Sunday Evenings: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Third

Each Sunday night, our student ministry gathers to deepen relationships with each other and with God. We invite all students from grade 7 through the end of high school to join us. We meet in the Fellowship Hall altogether at 7:00 p.m., play a game together, then meet for worship, a message, and split into small group breakouts by gender and grade. We finish up by 8:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact Rick (rickh@thirdrva.org) or Andrea (andrew@thirdrva.org), our Student Ministry leaders.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Our children's sunday school classes will continue to meet during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour. Again, we'll be using the David C. Cook curriculum for all children ages 2 and up. As part of this curriculum, we send out a weekly parent email, equipping parents to be the primary disciplers of their children throughout the week. **For questions or to sign up for the email,** contact Tracie (traciem@thirdrva.org) or Kathy (kathyw@thirdrva.org).

ROOM	AGES
102	Infants
109	Todder 1
105	Todder 2
103	Little Lambs: 2 years old by 9/30/2016
223	Little Lions: young 3-year-olds
204	Little Monkeys: older 3-year-olds and young 4-year-olds
202	Little Eagles: older 4-year-olds
221	Kindergarten
209	1st Grade
201	2nd Grade
227	3rd Grade
220	4th Grade
Basement	Club 56: 5th and 6th Grades

WEDNESDAYS AT THIRD

Join us on Wednesday evenings at Third for opportunities to worship, to serve, and fellowship. All our Wednesday evening activities and groups start (unless otherwise stated) **on September 21**.

WEDNESDAYS AT THIRD: SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ARABIC STUDENT HOMEWORK TUTORING

Wednesdays, 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Kickoff: September 21 (through November 16)

This arabic student tutoring program is in its 12th year and we have 50-60 students coming each week, mostly from the Arabic Christian Church. We have all age ranges of children from kindergarten through high school students.



READY TO HELP? There are a few ways to be involved:

1. If you would like to form a deeper relationship and be familiar with your student's abilities, you could be a weekly tutor. If you are a weekly tutor, you would be assigned a dedicated back-up person to get in touch with on weeks you are not able to be there.
2. If your time wouldn't allow for a weekly commitment, you could sign up to be somebody's dedicated back-up and fill in when needed with the same child each time.
3. You can help with transportation to or from the church. Dependable transportation is a big issue.

Contact Andi Redmond (andir@thirdrva.org) to learn more or sign up.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) FOR ADULTS

6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Location: Room 101

Kick off: September 21 (through November 16)

Join this team to provide ESL help and build a relationship with an Arabic-speaking adult. We need a few conversation partners to help reinforce the lesson. To learn more or to sign up to help, contact Don Smith (OwlOrchardva@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAYS AT THIRD: DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Come to Third on Wednesday evenings to serve, grow, and build community. All Wednesday evening activities begin Wednesday, September 21. For more info on these activities and studies, visit thirdrva.org/wednesdays-at-third.

REFRESH

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Location: Parlor

Contact: Caroline Hutton

Come join other young women (moms and professionals) for discussion about how we can live with simple intention without creating more stuff to do in our already full lives.

THE PRAYING LIFE

6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Location: 500 Forest, Vault Room

Contact: Tom Barila

We will be studying Paul Miller's book, *A Praying Life: Connecting With God In A Distracting World*. Miller shares his insights about how to allow prayer—even if it's poorly delivered—to fill the broken places in our lives with meaning and substance.

WEDNESDAYS AT THIRD: CHILDREN & STUDENTS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Room 201

Teachers: John White, Jimey Ames

First through 4th grade students will learn basic music fundamentals in preparation for singing in worship and for a Christmas cantata with the adult choir.

CLUB 56

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Basement

Teachers: Rick Hutton, Andrea Woie, Beth Sprinkle

5th and 6th grade students gather weekly for fellowship and Bible study.

PLAY AND WORSHIP

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Room 103

Teacher: Hala Hishan

For children 3 years old to kindergarten. Children will hear a story or see a movie that coordinates with the Bible story from their Sunday school lesson. There will also be time for music, activities, snacks, and crafts.

NURSERY

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Room 109

Nursery care available in a godly, loving atmosphere for infants through young twos.

WEDNESDAYS AT THIRD: WORSHIP

HANDBELL CHOIR

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Location: Choir Room

Teacher: Jeff Hummel

ALLELUIA CHOIR

6:45 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Teacher: Kim Taulbee

BRASS ENSEMBLE

7:30 - 8:15 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Teacher: John White



Third will be hosting CARITAS again from October 8-15! CARITAS helps our most vulnerable neighbors break the cycles of addiction and homelessness to reclaim their dignity.

Each year, we host several families from CARITAS for a week in our church building. As a community, we provide them meals, shelter, laundry, and community. These opportunities to serve the CARITAS families will be announced in the coming weeks so please be on the lookout. Please contact Cecilia Elliott (dcnellott@gmail.com) for more info.

When Grant and I volunteered for CARITAS last October, we did so with no previous experience with this particular part of their ministry. We did it partly to engage more with people at Third, having been at the church for a while but not knowing anyone particularly well. We did it partly as a family activity whereby we could show our daughter what it meant to serve others. We did it with very little thought of what we would actually be doing or the people we would meet.

In the midst of sharing meals, packing lunches and doing laundry for the women and children that spent a week at Third we did get to know some of the church families better. But what has stayed with me were the impressions of God's work in people's lives, both people we knew and the total strangers we were serving.

It's not easy being in crisis, particularly with housing. To have roots, to have a stable place of one's own at the end of the day where you can have some solitude, where you can invite others in and express hospitality to a neighbor, where you can be with your family, is important. Shelter isn't the longing of most people's hearts – home is.

As we sat around heaping plates of food, stories were shared of dreams that went unfulfilled, of health issues, jobs lost... people from wildly different backgrounds and even more dissimilar present circumstances were able to share and to listen to each other. I watched and learned from people who were much better conversationalists than I, who talked openly about life and disappointment and hope. I saw families like the Martins, the Whitakers, the Meadows and the Ellens bring their young ones in to serve alongside the adults. I saw those young ones kindly serving dinner to the families and playing with the children from CARITAS like they were old friends.

I was not prepared when we signed up to serve for just how challenging it would be. I was also not prepared for what we were given. These strangers, who owed us nothing, opened their hearts and their stories for us to be able to see God moving. Some were able to secure homes even in the week that they were at Third. Some asked us to keep praying for them as they waited. In dark circumstances, they asked us to remember them as we went home to our houses and apartments– to our homes and families.

As Third is a spiritual home for many of us, delving into ministry and deepening friendships, we remember these women and children who rotate through churches week after week without roots, without a place of their own. As Third is our own, we seek to host these families in their transitions with the grace of Jesus, who makes his home with us. As we are blessed to have a church home, let's turn to extend that dwelling place to people who are waiting in hope for their own peaceful refuge, a place to be planted—a place to call home.

Erin Holbrook

SIGN UP TO SERVE



CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS NEEDED: We have all of our teachers, but need adults to help in the classrooms. Do you enjoy being with children but don't want to teach? This is your chance! Volunteer to help in our 3 and 4 year old classes. We prefer teams for two Sundays a month, but will consider one Sunday a month. Contact Kathy White (kathyw@thirdrva.org).

BUDDIES FOR OUR SPECIAL-NEEDS STUDENTS NEEDED: Would you consider getting to know a child with special needs in our congregation? You would be committing to help during the 10:00 Sunday school hour one-on-one with a child who has special needs. Your "job" will be to help them stay on task, do the craft or take them to the playground for a break. Your heart will be blessed as you help these children be a part of the children's ministry at Third. If you are a Special Education teacher, you can use your gifts and talents without having to teach and do paperwork! If you are not trained, we will train you. You only need a heart for children with special needs. Contact Kathy White (kathyw@thirdrva.org).

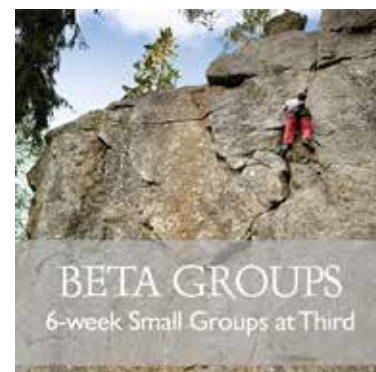
SERVE ON THE TECH TEAM: Have an interest in tech and looking for a way to plug in on Sunday mornings? We're actively looking for folks to serve as part of a growing tech team, making sure everything runs smoothly and sounds great in the Sanctuary. If you're interested in being involved (no experience necessary, just be teachable!), contact Alex Sawyer (alexs@thirdrva.org).

KICKING OFF SOON: BETA GROUPS!

If you're new to Third and want to meet some people and learn how to get involved, or if you would just like to try a small group, sign up for a Beta Group. These small groups will meet **for six weeks in the October and November timeframe.**

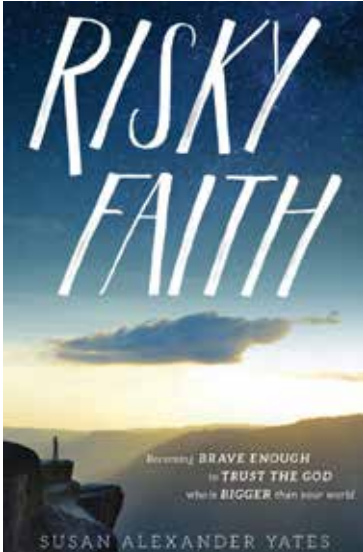
All Beta Groups feature:

- **Visitors and new members:** This is the place to learn more about Third and your next steps in getting involved.
- **Community life:** It is easy to feel lost and disconnected in a large church. As a member of a Beta Group, you will be part of a smaller community, allowing you to build friendships with a group of people who grow to know and care about each other.
- **Seeking Christ:** Join with others in following Christ. We'll cover our discipleship model and learn about ways to join in God's work at Third, in Richmond and the world.



Sign up on the website at www.thirdrva.org/events or contact Beth Nichols at bethn@thirdrva.org.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: RISKY FAITH



Ladies of Third! Mark your calendars for the annual Women's Conference.

Friday evening, November 4
Saturday morning, November 5
Third Church

This year, we're welcoming Susan Yates, the author of thirteen books and who speaks both nationally and internationally. In our conference this year, she will be helping us gain a new perspective and vision to walk in the confidence of a God so much bigger than the challenges we often face. We hope you will join us for this rich time!

Friday evening: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Saturday morning: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Sign up at thirdrva.org/events. **Questions?** Contact Lauren Luck at lauren.luck@gmail.com.

GALLERY 500



I was encouraged to paint throughout my life by an artist mother who thinks everybody can paint! I'm inspired by impressionist painters like Monet, Renoir and Van Gogh. The reason I keep painting is that as the wet brush stirs around in the vivid colors, I feel a connection to the creativity of God. Another reason I keep painting is I find painting forgiving, in that mid-stream the canvas looks like a jumble of brush strokes, but by the end, graciously, an image appears!

Nelson Ould

Nelson was associate pastor and then senior associate pastor of Third Church from 1997-2014. Since 2014, he is lead pastor of Community West Church, a plant of Third.

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

FALL CALENDAR

Sunday morning discipleship season kicks off on **September 11**. Wednesday evening programs will begin on **September 21**. For more info, check out pages 6-10.

**Sept.
11-17**

600 Forest Ave.

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:

Sunday morning, September 11 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Friday evening, September 16 from 6-9 p.m. with dinner

Saturday, September 17 from 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 25 – Joining service for those deciding to become members.

Sign up at thirdrva.org/newcomers. Childcare is provided with a reservation for the class.

**Oct.
1**

Deep Run Park

THIRD'S BIG BIKE RIDE

Saturday, October 1 starting at 12 p.m., we'll host a church-wide bike ride at Deep Run Park. Everyone bring a bag lunch (we'll provide drinks and dessert); come with bikes, strollers, or just come to walk if you want! Everyone is welcome – all ages and abilities! Feel free to invite friends and neighbors too. Please contact Grant or Erin Holbrook for more information or to RSVP if you plan on joining in the fun: holbrookgh@gmail.com or echolbrook@gmail.com.



MEN'S MINISTRY: MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE

Join John Hanscom on the 4th Saturdays from September through November for hikes to the top of Old Rag Mountain (elev. 3268). This is a great opportunity to meet together and enjoy God's rich creation in the fall.

The hike is fairly strenuous but very rewarding. Weather permitting, the group will leave from John's house in Manakin-Sabot at 7:30 a.m., and return by 4:00 p.m. Wear good shoes, and bring a lunch to enjoy at the top. RSVP to John: 804-357-7175.

"It is my great hope that you would join me for one of these Saturdays. I look forward to meeting you, walking, and perhaps hearing about your walk with God." John Hanscom.

FALL CALENDAR

**Oct.
8-11**
600 Forest Ave.

CARITAS

Each year, we host several families from CARITAS for a week in our church building. As a community, we provide them meals, shelter, laundry, and community.

Stay tuned for more info to come on how you can serve during our week with the CARITAS families. Questions? Contact Cecilia Elliott at dcneliott@gmail.com.

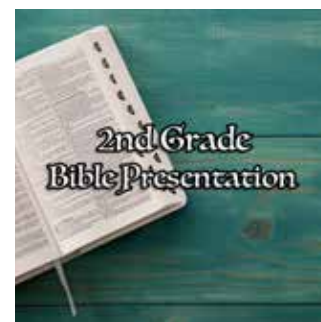


**Oct.
23**
Fellowship Hall

2nd GRADE BIBLE DINNER

Third's second grade students and their families are invited to attend the annual 2nd Grade Bible Presentation and Dinner on Sunday, October 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

We will celebrate our students with dinner and a special program and then give each one a personalized Adventure Bible. Our hope and prayer is that these emerging readers learn to dive deep into God's word! **RSVP to Tracie Meadows** (traciem@thirdrva.org) by October 18, 2016.



**Nov.
4-5**
Fellowship Hall

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Risky Faith

Mark your calendars, and plan to attend! Our annual women's conference is a great way to grow closer to God, and to each other.

Friday evening: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Saturday morning: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Sign up at thirdrva.org/events. **Questions?** Contact Lauren Luck at lauren.luck@gmail.com.



**Nov.
19**
Fellowship Hall

A PRAYING LIFE: A Seminar with Paul Miller

We are excited to welcome Paul Miller to Third in November! Paul wrote the book *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World*. He'll be with us for the weekend of November 18-20, and will teach a seminar based on his book.

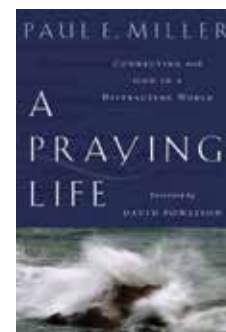
WHEN: November 19, 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Fellowship Hall

WHO: Anyone! Invite friends and family

COST: \$29, includes participant's manual and prayer cards

Sign up today at thirdrva.org/events. **Questions?** Contact Tom Barila at tomb@thirdrva.org.



Third Church
500 Forest Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23229
804.282.4645

ARE YOU GETTING OUR EMAILS?

One of the best ways to receive information from Third and our specific ministries is through our email service. Regular newsletters are sent out from all of the different ministries—women's and men's ministries, children and family ministry, student ministry, and more.

Corey also writes a weekly reflection email in which we'll send timely news and updates, as well as other valuable resources we're excited to share. We call this weekly email *Third Online*.

To sign up for any of these emails, visit:



thirdrva.org/signup



Questions? Contact Becca at beccap@thirdrva.org