

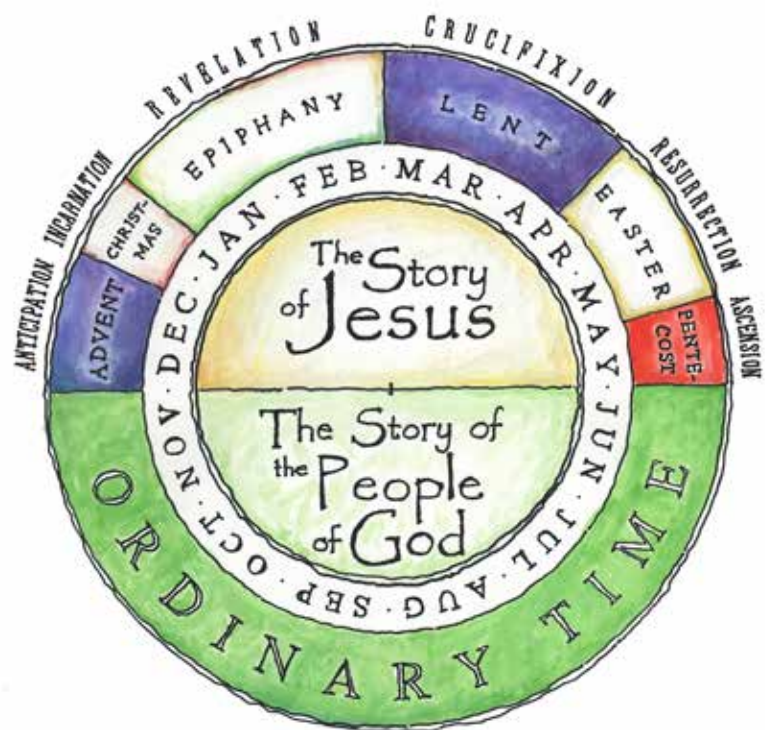


TELLING TIME DIFFERENTLY AS CHRIST FOLLOWERS

Understanding and Practicing the Christian Calendar

We often say at Third that as followers of Jesus we are called to live differently than those around us. We are called to behave differently. We are called to approach family, friendships and careers differently. We are called to engage with money, sex, and power differently. But have you ever considered that as disciples of Jesus we are also called to tell time differently?

I don't mean that we refuse to use clocks and calendars. I'm referring to the fact that very early on in the life of the church, Christians made their own calendar that helps us to this day have a different rhythm of life and reminds us of the gospel. When we "tell time" according to this calendar, it can become a powerful tool of Christian discipleship. So, how does this happen?



First, keeping time with the Christian calendar helps us remember and re-tell the story of God's redemption year after year. The year is divided into two halves. The first half begins with the first Sunday of Advent in late November and runs through Pentecost Sunday, typically in May or June. As we walk through the first half of the Christian year, we tell the story of Jesus. We tell the story not just through our words but also through the distinct music, art, Scripture, prayers, and colors that we use in different seasons to tell different parts of the story.

- **Advent** is about his *anticipation*. We imagine ourselves as the people of Israel, hoping and longing for the coming Messiah. In Advent we also remember that his Kingdom is not yet fully come, so we also anticipate Christ's coming again to restore all things. There are four Sundays of Advent, and the colors of this season are purple and blue.
- **Christmas** is about his *incarnation*. We recall the incredible mystery that the Immortal became mortal, that the One beyond us came among us. There are twelve days of Christmas (typically 2 or 3 Sundays), and the color of this season is white.

[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

- **Epiphany** is about his *revelation*. Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Magi to honor Jesus, representing Jesus' mission to bring his good news to all nations under heaven. In Epiphany, we remember Jesus' earthly life and mission to bring God's Kingdom among us and to reclaim the world and make it whole again. Epiphany typically runs for 7 or 8 Sundays, and the colors of this season are white with many other accenting colors representing the Kingdom life Jesus brings into the world.

- **Lent** is about his *crucifixion*. The long season of Lent reminds us of Jesus' suffering and atoning death for us, and calls us to renewed repentance. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and runs for 40 days or 6 Sundays, and the colors of Lent are purple, brown and black.

- **Easter** is about his *resurrection*. We celebrate his rising from the dead and his triumph over sin, death and hell! Easter runs for 50 days or 6 Sundays, and the colors of Easter are white and gold.

- **Pentecost** is about his *ascension* and gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father and animates the church through his life-giving Spirit. We generally celebrate Pentecost for at least 2 Sundays, and the colors of this season are orange and red.

The second half of the Christian year, which typically runs from May or June through Christ the King Sunday in November, is about 24 Sundays and is called "Ordinary Time." The color of this season is green, which reminds us of the ordinary seasons of natural change that we experience year by year. Whereas in the first half of the year we focus on the story of Jesus, this second half focuses on the story of God's people throughout the Old and New Testaments. We are reminded year by year that we are part of the great community of believers throughout time and history that are called together to bear witness to Jesus and his Kingdom.

Keeping time with the Christian calendar not only helps us re-tell the stories of Jesus and his people, it also helps us to live differently as disciples of Jesus. As Jamie Smith writes, keeping time in this way helps us recognize that "Christians are a people whose year doesn't simply map onto the calendar of the dominant culture." In December, when everything around us is swirling with consumption and indulgence, followers of Jesus quietly focus on lamenting the state of the world and anticipating the coming Messiah in Advent. In the Spring, when the broader culture acknowledges Easter as a day of candy and bunnies, we celebrate Easter for 50 days, going deep into the implications of his resurrection for the world. Keeping time in this way puts us out of step with the broader culture around us, but reminds us in every single season that we are called to tell the world through word and deed about the true King who has come to save.

As we finish the current Christian year in the next few weeks and prepare for the new year beginning November 27, will you remember that we are called to tell time differently? Will you prepare your heart to anticipate again the Messiah who has come into our space and time to transform it forever? Let's join the story of Jesus and his people again as we start a new year together.

Grace and peace of our Savior+
Corey Widmer

**THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR
December:** Friday, November 11
Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org

FALL NEWCOMERS

We are delighted to welcome the following people into our church family. They have attended the newcomer class, shared their faith stories and have been approved for membership. Please pray for them and seek opportunities to meet them and get to know them.



Mary Antcliff



Josh & Erica Babcock



Katie & Josh Bishop



Ann & Boyd Brown



Brandon Carter



Barbara & Tom Corry



Bradley & Rich Crawford



Abby & Brian Fishero



Kyle & Jean Fuschetti



Amy & John Grigg



Keith & Anna Henderson



Jeanette Jeffer



Juan & Silvia Ledon



Bill & Nancy Payne



Elizabeth & Ben Rand



Kyle & Emily Sherman

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 20, 12:30 p.m.

Please mark your calendar for our next congregational meeting on Sunday, November 20, following the 11:15 a.m. service. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect the Deacons, Trustees, and Elders who will begin serving in 2017, as well as elect the Nominating Committee for 2017. We'll also hear an update on the strategic planning process.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Help serve in Third's Office.

We're looking for someone to help serve on a weekly basis (Thursday afternoons) in the church office. The position includes greeting guests, answering phones, and being a welcoming presence at 500 Forest Avenue. If interested in helping out, please contact Miranda Patterson at 282-4645 or mirandap@thirdrva.org.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving statements were sent via email on Monday, October 24. If you have **not** received your statement, but have an email address on file and haven't specifically requested a mailed copy, please check your spam folder. Feel free to contact the Finance Office with any questions: 282-4645 or email lynleys@thirdrva.org or sueh@thirdrva.org.

GALLERY 500 - New Work Up!

We're pleased to welcome Sally Lawson to show her work at Gallery 500 starting in November. All work is available for purchase in the 500 Forest Office building lobby.

From Sally: "I am drawn to many different subjects, but the common thread between them is color! I use bright colors in my paintings and I find great satisfaction in the joy it brings my clients and me. I love the richness of oils and often paint with a heavily loaded brush or palette knife for texture. I find it stimulating to experiment with different styles and techniques, but, again, my colors remain the common thread. Many of my paintings are of the landscape. I am constantly amazed at the beauty and intricacy of God's creation.



Painting is my true **passion** and I consider it a privilege to be able to pursue it throughout the rest of my life! I hope you enjoy viewing my paintings as much as I enjoy creating them!"

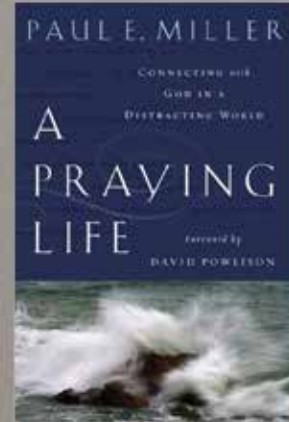
UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

DISCIPLESHIP

A PRAYING LIFE: CONFERENCE WITH PAUL MILLER

Paul Miller, author of *A Praying Life*, will be with us to host a day-long conference and workshop, inviting us into a deeper prayer life with God.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL



One of Third's priorities is to grow disciples who pray incrementally more than they are right now. Most of us recognize that we need some help praying. We feel inadequate. We get distracted. Yet, we yearn for something more and something deeper. After all, prayer is communion and connection with God! Paul will help us connect with God in a distracting world. He will encourage us to see the story of prayer and our part in it. We will see for ourselves that "life is prayer."

Paul's daughter was born with significant health and emotional needs. After visits to the best physicians and getting the best medical care, Paul soon found out that the only solution for emotional and spiritual relief and solace was to place his daughter, family, and himself, in a state of total dependence on God.

Paul, an interactive teacher, will guide us in how to make prayer easier and more accessible. Paul will also help us see too, that there is no better place to be than living a life fully dependent on our loving and gracious Father.

Sign up today: thirdrva.org/events

Questions? Contact Tom Barila at tomb@thirdrva.org.

*"No other author and no other book has helped me more in my own personal prayer life than Paul Miller and his book, *The Praying Life*. I am so excited he is coming to do this seminar at Third and hope many of us can participate!"*

Corey Widmer

"The seminar helped me reorient my view of prayer from a goal to accomplish each day (which often meant I felt a lot of guilt when I failed to do it) to seeing prayer a way of life. Paul has a way of helping us see how natural and easy prayer is. I particularly loved how he shows us to see our prayers as a story that is playing out as part of God's ongoing story of restoring all things. Very interactive and practical."

Nan Clarke

NEW SUNDAY MORNING CLASS

CAN WE TALK: HOW DOES AN ANCIENT BOOK GUIDE MODERN LIFE?

STARTS: NOVEMBER 6 AND RUNS 7 WEEKS

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.

Led by: Nan and Boyd Clarke

Time & Location: 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

MAKERS

undone

Friday, Nov. 18th

THE MAKERS
SERIES

CREATIVITY
CONVERSATION
COMMUNITY

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00 - 9:30 on November 18th for an evening of creativity, conversation, and community: the Makers Series

This next installment of the Makers Series will feature visual artist Sarah Irvin, writer and teacher Paul Miller, and producer/composer Isaac Wardell. Each of them has been creating work that tells stories about the profoundly unfinished physical, social, and spiritual places in which they have found themselves, and each also invites us to consider the way God enters into the world (and us) exactly when it (and we) seem most out of control, least satisfactory and complete, and thoroughly “undone.”

Sarah Irvin has long been active in the RVA arts scene as a curator and writer, as well as being a practicing artist who specializes in conceptual and installation projects. Her most recent work, though, has emerged from the experiences and constraints of becoming and being a mother. Paul Miller is a renowned Philadelphia-based teacher and guide on connecting to the person of Jesus through prayer, teaching and offering workshops around the country. He’ll be leading a seminar on the Praying Life at Third Church the morning after the Makers Series. Isaac Wardell leads worship at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, but has influence far beyond our region through Bifrost Arts (a network of Christians thinking and working towards richer integration of the arts and Christian faith) and through the hymns and worship songs he writes, including a new album based on the book of Lamentations.

By focusing on the way that repeated, habitual actions like nursing a baby, writing down our prayers, or singing the same song of longing again and again and again can be as beautiful as (and even more meaningful than) singular, “perfect” performances or objects, these Makers will help us think more creatively about the way ordinary and repetitive parts of our lives can form us positively, not just wear us down. But each of our Makers also gives voice to our collective outcry that so much of the world seems wrong and out of joint—that what happens over and over again does not seem like blessing, but rather toil or injustice, evidence that creation is not yet fully redeemed. What has been left undone can, in turn, leave us undone, too.

WORSHIP

Lessons & Carols
A Candlelit Service of Worship
for the Advent season

Sunday, December 4
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary



What can you expect at our Lessons and Carols service?

1) You Will Hear God's Word

Lessons and Carols is the story of God's plan for the salvation of mankind as revealed in His Word. That story begins with the Genesis account of the fall of Adam and Eve and concludes with the Word made flesh in the first chapter of John. Each reading is followed by one or more carols, allowing for further meditation on the text. You will leave a Lessons and Carols service veritably drenched in Biblical language.

2) You Will Sing, and Singing Is Good

A Lessons and Carols service is a unique opportunity to hear and sing songs that the larger culture mostly ignores. The world needs hope and what better time to sing songs which anticipate the coming of our Lord, Jesus?

3) You Will Unite with Christians Across Time and Space

You will be united across time and space, not just with those standing at your left and right, but with Christians around the world both today and in the past who have listened to the same readings and sung the same texts

4) You Will Be Transported to Another World

You will be transported to a world removed from the one with which you contend on a daily basis. The Incarnation is the most mind-blowing, awe-inspiring event in the history of the universe, and we Christians can sometimes be strangely casual about it. The other-worldliness of Lessons and Carols is an antidote to such casualness. It will place you in the middle of that ancient field with the shepherds, reminding you of what it means to be sore afraid at hearing the trumpeting that proclaims, "fear not!" This message brings "good tidings of great joy for *all people!*"

Set aside an hour this Christmas season, and give yourself and your family a gift that will cost absolutely nothing but will immeasurably enrich your spirit throughout the year ahead.

Adapted from a blog by Cheryl Magness, "5 Reasons You Need To Attend A Lessons And Carols Service This Christmas" which appeared on thefederalist.com, used with permission.



Christmas Dinner & Festival of Carols

Wednesday, December 14

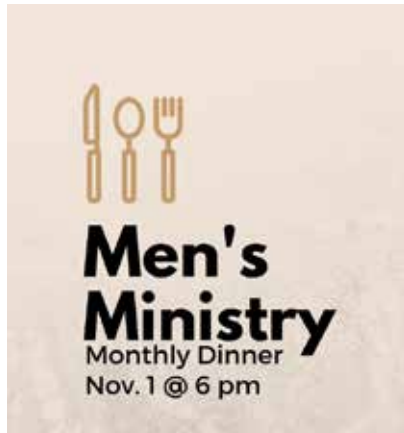
Dinner: 5:45 p.m. Program: 7:00 p.m.

We invite everyone to dinner together in the Fellowship Hall (reservations needed!), followed by a special program in the Sanctuary that joins our Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, Handbells and Orchestra with a program entitled "A Festival of Carols" in the Sanctuary. This is for the whole family and will include a lot of carol singing!

Signups for dinner will open soon, check the website Events page for details!

MEN'S MINISTRY MONTHLY DINNER

This season, we're focusing on what it means to be a "band of brothers." That is, the biblical mandate that deep, spiritual friendships help you to live a gospel-centered life in a broken world.



Join us at this dinner in the Fellowship Hall to talk about the biblical support for covenant friendships, the daily practices that make this kind of counter-cultural friendship possible, and the hope we have at Third to build a culture of covenant friendships that blesses each other and our neighbors. Andrew Fuller will be leading us. Please bring a friend!

Sign up: thirdrva.org/events.

Questions? Contact Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER



Women of Third are invited to join in our Christmas celebration. In addition to sharing a meal together, the program will include worship and stories of service shared by three women.

Please bring: a dish to share, and a small gift to add to the Stocking Stuffers initiative for the Covenant Woods Community (ex. small hand lotions, chap sticks, soft socks, notepads, pens, calendars, and other small gift items.)

Sign up: thirdrva.org/events.

Questions? Contact Beth Nichols (bethn@thirdrva.org)

MISSIONS

We've set the dates for our 2017 Israel Trip!

APRIL 24 - MAY 5, 2017

Please let Tom know ASAP if you'd like to join, as we expect the trip to reach our capacity of 30: tomb@thirdrva.org.

Still thinking about it? Read through the places we will likely visit in 2017. Becky, a member of Third, was one of the sojourners to Israel this past Spring with 28 others from Third. She entitled her Israel Blog a "trip of a lifetime." Read more: rkwetzels.wordpress.com/2016/05/27/links-for-the-trip-of-a-lifetime

Ready to sign up? Contact Tom Barila at tomb@thirdrva.org or by calling the office 282-4645.



COMMUNITY POSTINGS

In October's Third Press, we encouraged you to see the new Disney movie, *The Queen of Katwe*.

For many years, Third has faithfully supported Sports Outreach Institute as one of our missions partners, and they were the ones who rescued and nurtured Phiona, the "Queen of Katwe." We thought you'd enjoy reading an article about Phiona's visit to Richmond written by Bill Lohmann: [click here for the article](#). [Digital Third Press only.]

And, from Third's archives, a few pictures of her visit to Richmond in 2012:



Share Thanksgiving Day with an International Student: Thanksgiving Day provides a unique opportunity to show hospitality and friendship. The VCU Global Education Office invites you to share this special American holiday with an international student or scholar who is eager to learn about our culture and make American friends. For more information, contact Pam Haney at pohaney@vcu.edu or call 828-8309 **no later than November 7**. A Thanksgiving volunteer information form can be found at: global.vcu.edu/media/geo/pdf/students/ThanksgivingVolunteerInfo.Form.pdf



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 500 children.

We are accepting donations of **books, toys, stuffed animals, and wrapping supplies** now through November 27, for the holiday season. We're also looking for some volunteers who'd be willing to donate their time to sort, wrap, and tag gifts on volunteer days.

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 as follows:

- Place in the bin next to Room 109
- By contacting Carolyn Lilly at 564-7145 or carolynlilly@comcast.net to arrange a pick-up or drop-off

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

**Nov.
1**
Fellowship Hall

MEN'S MONTHLY DINNER

Join the men of Third for this monthly dinner together in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. More info on this gathering on page 6.

Sign up today: thirdrva.org/news-events/mens-monthly-dinner-1



**Nov.
4-5**
Fellowship Hall

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Risky Faith

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.
18**
Fellowship Hall

MAKERS SERIES: UNDONE

Friday, November 18, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Join us for this Makers Series, featuring artists sharing about creating work that reflects the profoundly unfinished physical, social, and spiritual places in which they have found themselves. **More info on page 6. Questions?** Contact Mark Sprinkle (marks@thirdrva.org).



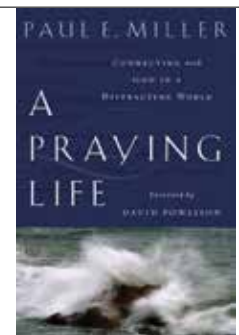
**Nov.
19**
Fellowship Hall

A PRAYING LIFE: A Seminar with Paul Miller

Paul Miller, author of *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World*, will be with us to lead this seminar, where he will not only establish a foundation for prayer, but give you practical steps to live every day in complete dependence on the Father. **For more information, see page 5.**

Sign up today at thirdrva.org/events.

Questions? Contact Tom Barila at tomb@thirdrva.org.



**Nov.
27**
Fellowship Hall

FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

Join us to kick-off the Advent season! During the Sunday School hour (at 10:00 a.m.), parents are invited to bring their children, between the ages of 3 years old through 4th grade, to the Fellowship Hall for a special kickoff to the Advent season.

The event is free, but we encourage registering to we have enough craft supplies for everyone: thirdrva.org/events



DECEMBER CALENDAR

ADVENT AT THIRD CHURCH

**Dec.
4**

Fellowship Hall

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A Lessons and Carols service is a unique opportunity to hear and sing songs that the larger culture mostly ignores. **More info on page 7.**



**Dec.
6**

Fellowship Hall

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Rejoice, the King has come! **More info on page 8.**
Sign up for dinner: thirdrva.org/events.



**Dec.
14**

Sanctuary &
Fellowship Hall

CHRISTMAS DINNER & FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Wednesday, December 14, dinner at 5:45 p.m., music at 7:00 p.m.

We invite everyone to a delicious dinner in the Fellowship Hall then a program entitled "A Festival of Carols" in the Sanctuary. **Signups for dinner opening soon!**



**Dec.
24**

Sanctuary &
Fellowship Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE

This year, we're hosting four services on Christmas Eve. Please join us for this special night, and invite your family and neighbors.

4:00 - Family service in the Fellowship Hall

6:30 - Candlelight service in the Sanctuary

8:30 - Candlelight service in the Sanctuary

11:00 - Communion and candlelight service in the Sanctuary

**Dec.
25**

Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS MORNING

The Savior is born! Let us rejoice!

Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we will be holding one Sunday morning service together at **11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary**. We invite you to come and bring your family and loved ones to celebrate the newborn king together.

Third Church
500 Forest Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23229
804.282.4645

FAITH COMMITMENT SUNDAY

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS?

————— SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 —————

Our challenge now is to meet the call set before us. We remember God's faithfulness this past year, and the many years before, and we look forward to this next year. Please be in prayer for the Lord's leading as to how you will support Third's ministry in 2017. Our prayer is that each gift—no matter the size—will sustain and increase Third's ministry and mission.

