

The word "renewal" is written in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter "l" is stylized as a green stem with three leaves at the top. Below the word, the phrase "A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE" is written in a smaller, green, uppercase, sans-serif font.

renewal

A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

One of my favorite words in the whole Bible is the Greek word *palingenesia*. It occurs only twice in the New Testament, once spoken by Jesus and once used by Paul in his letter to Titus. The word is translated as "renewal," "regeneration" or "re-birth." It literally means "again-beginning." It speaks of the renewal and new-ness we all consider at this time of year.

And yet, this word refers to far more than some new resolutions or fresh resolves at the beginning of a new year. In Matthew 19:28, Jesus says "I tell you the truth, in the new world (*palingenesia*), when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne..." (ESV). In this context, Jesus is speaking about the final coming of the Kingdom of God, the end-time renewal of the whole world in the time of his return. This is what we have yearned for in Advent and what we look for as our final hope. We do not just simply desire "heaven." We anticipate the new heavens and the new earth, depicted in Isaiah 65 and Revelation 21, when the curse of sin will finally be lifted, death will be banished and every tear wiped away.

This future vision of *palingenesia* is what makes Paul's use of the word in Titus all the more remarkable. He says in Titus 3:5-6, "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal (*palingenesia*) by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior." In this context, Paul speaks of the personal renewal that God can bring in each of us through the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a renewal that can begin here and now!

So in other words, the future *palingenesia* in which the whole cosmos will be restored can begin in us now through the power of the Holy Spirit. Like the first bud of spring that will later become countless forests of trees and fields of flowers in full bloom, the Spirit now can begin in each of us the new life that will one day renew the whole earth. That is a remarkable affirmation! Did you realize that such potential was possible in your own life through the Holy Spirit? The very power of God's cosmic restoration made available in each of us!

THIRD CHURCH

Staff

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

Mark Sprinkle
Director of Arts + Cultural
Engagement

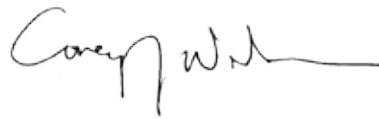
Rev. Richard Haney
Parish Associate

Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate

On January 8 we'll begin a vision series called "Renewal." The 4 weeks of the series will be anchored by these two paligenesia passages. Throughout the month we will be communicating plans for renewal at Third as we look to implement features of our strategic vision in the coming years. Each Sunday, various members of the strategic planning team will be sharing with you aspects of the work we have been doing together, and looking for your support and prayer in the year ahead. We are excited about the plans of renewal before us!

Above all, we hope and pray that any plans for renewal within our church will be like buds anticipating the coming spring. May all our plans at Third be directed by God, girded up by prayer, and express faithfully our future hope. May God use Third to give everyone around us a taste of the renewal that Jesus is bringing even now.

Peace and grace of our Savior+



Corey Widmer

RENEWAL

2017 VISION SERMON SERIES

DATE	TITLE	VERSE
January 8	Renewing the Person	Titus 3:3-8
January 15	Renewing the Church	1 Peter 2:4-12
January 22	Renewing the City	Jeremiah 29:4-7
January 29	Renewing All Things	Matthew 19:28-30

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR

February: Friday, January 13

Submit to: beccap@thirdrva.org

2017 DISCIPLESHIP AT THIRD

FEBRUARY TERM

WHAT IS FEBRUARY TERM?

Each winter, we take a month to get on the same page as a church. We combine our adult Sunday discipleship classes and study an issue together that has bearing on how we live our lives as Christ-followers—no matter what age or stage of life we find ourselves in.

Our time together each Sunday will be dynamic and engaging, using a variety of elements like videos, panels, and storytelling to create an interactive experience that is meaningful and relevant.

WHAT WILL WE STUDY THIS YEAR?

This year, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays in February from 10:00-11:00 a.m., our normal education hour, to look at the theme: *The Whole Gospel for the Whole World*. Our goal is to help our church family grow in cultural intelligence so that we may better extend God's grace and shalom to our changing population.

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE?

- Week 1 - February 5: God's Vision for Cultural Reconciliation [Teacher: Corey Widmer]
- Week 2 - February 12: Engaging the World Next Door [Teachers: Jon Wheeler, L J Jaworski]
- Week 3 - February 19: Cross Cultural Relationship In Christ [Teacher: David Bailey]
- Week 4 - February 26: Engaging our Arabic Brothers and Sisters [Teacher: Fakhri Yacoub, Corey Widmer]

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Sunday school classes kick off on January 8 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!

For more information on any of these classes, please visit our webpage: thirdrva.org/classes-and-fellowship. You can find more information about the class, contact info for the teachers, and more.

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.

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

Room 215

Teachers: Keith & Connie Byers

More info: thirdrva.org/marriage-fellowship

Third's Marriage Ministry includes the Marriage Fellowship class, offered to support and strengthen marriages through biblical teaching and fellowship. This coming semester, we will be watching and discussing various mini-studies by Andy Stanley, such as the "Comparison Trap" and "Balanced." You'll be encouraged and equipped!

[Continued on next page]

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.

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.

FOSTER & ORPHAN CARE WORK GROUP

Room 207

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

Do you have a heart for orphans or children in foster care? Join us in January to discuss how Third can start to implement the Gospel's vision for orphan care, here in Richmond and across the world.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Our children's Sunday school classes will continue to meet during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour.

ROOM	AGES
102	Infants
109	Todder 1
105	Toddler 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

ROOM	AGES
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

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.

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.

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

WEDNESDAYS AT THIRD

Come to Third on Wednesday evenings to serve, grow, and build community. All our Wednesday evening activities and groups start (unless otherwise stated) **on January 11**.

For more info on these activities and studies, visit thirdva.org/wednesdays-at-third.

WEDNESDAY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ARABIC STUDENT HOMEWORK TUTORING

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

Kick-off: January 11 (through March 29)

This Arabic Student Tutoring Program is in its 12th year and we have 60-70 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.
2. If your time wouldn't allow for a weekly commitment, you could sign up to fill in when needed.
3. You can help with transportation to or from the church. Dependable transportation is a big issue.

Contact Andi Redmond (andir@thirdva.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: January 11 (through March 29)

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).

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONTHLY PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

6:30 p.m.

4th Wednesdays

Location: Parlor

Contact: Ashley Boyles (boylesfam@gmail.com)

Come join other moms and/or dads of children who have physical, emotional or developmental issues for a monthly time of Bible Study, prayer and support.

REFRESH

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Location: Room 121

Contact: Caroline Hutton (cmhutton6@gmail.com)

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.

RECOVERY COMMUNITY

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: 500 Forest Cafe (Kitchen)

We are people who know firsthand our woundedness, the brokenness of our own addiction to substances and compulsive behaviors, as well as more subtle addictions to our own obsessive thinking and powerlessness to do the right thing. We also are the families of those trapped by addiction and mental illness. We desire to share a safe place to work out our faith and recovery and introduce others to the grace of Jesus Christ. Our context is the hope and freedom we have experienced in 12-step recovery, the radical love and healing of God.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Choir Room

Teachers: John White, Jimmie Ames

First through 4th grade students will learn basic music fundamentals.

PLAY AND WORSHIP

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

(Childcare available until 8:00 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.

ALLELUIA CHOIR

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Teacher: Kim Taulbee

CLUB 56

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Basement

Teachers: Rick Hutton, Andrea Woie, Beth Sprinkle

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

NURSERY

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Room 102

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE: Working Group #4 - Charrette Update

As you know, Third is in a Strategic Planning process designed to think carefully and creatively about the idea of place and more specifically the physical place and property where we all gather weekly on Forest Avenue; the Tuckahoe area of Henrico. We're engaging the idea that every individual property contributes to an area. For example, think of a bustling neighborhood bakery. Think of the smell of warm, fresh baked bread wafting down the street and immersing pedestrians as they go about their day. What kind of aroma are we generating to the Tuckahoe community as members of Third Church?



Our next critical steps in developing a plan that guides the use of our land and facilities are scheduled for January 18-21 st. Mike Watkins and an experienced group of other nationally known land planners are coming to Third to help guide us and the surrounding community through a process of articulating what we all value about the Tuckahoe area, and help us think creatively about how we can all continue to build on those things. We invite your participation in this process in several ways:

// Pray that this process would bear spiritual fruit in relationships and practical guidance as we update our facility and grounds.

// Participate in working sessions led by Mike Watkins on January 18-21 st, 2017.

Wednesday, January 18th, 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Opening discussion and framework, opportunity to express values, contribute ideas, imagine opportunities and get more involved

Friday, January 20th, 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall

Working session to present initial drawings and receive feedback on initial concepts generated from ongoing conversations

Saturday, January 21 st, 2:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Presentation of updated drawings capturing ideas, discussions and feedback received

Your participation is encouraged and welcomed. The richness and value of the January working sessions are enhanced through broad participation. We're excited to hear from you!

The result of the working sessions will be a community area plan showing Third's property as well as the surrounding area. This plan will serve as a **guide** as we consider specifics of how to use our land, update our facility and improve or expand our internal space. The plan will serve as a **gift** to the community as we help the Tuckahoe area stakeholders think together about what makes this area uniquely valuable and how we can collectively take steps towards making it even better. The process will generate healthy conversations and strengthen relationships with those whom Third shares the Tuckahoe area.

If you have any questions or would like to be more involved, please feel free to contact Rob Lanphear (804-641-4947; roblanphear@gmail.com) or Andrew Moore (va011101@gmail.com, 283-6819)

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 February and March 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.

FAMILY MINISTRY

ANURA SCHOOL LIBRARY: An Exciting Update!

The children at the 2015 Vacation Bible School adopted the Anura School in Niger, West Africa and had a goal to raise \$6000 to build a library for the school. This goal was met and exceeded! The library has been built and opened for the beginning of the academic year, October 2016. The children of the Anura School are so grateful for the gifts given by so many toward this project!

May the peace of the Lord Jesus be upon you. I would like to thank you for your enormous support for the operation of the Anoura School as well as your support for the different micro-projects for innovations at the school.

We acquired some of the books on the spot in Niamey. In addition, the book collection of the library will be complemented by African children's literature and Biblical children's literature.



*Cordially,
Yves Bengongo, Administrative Director, Anoura School*



MISSIONS

2017 HAITI SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP!

This trip is an awesome opportunity to serve alongside your church family and with one of our wonderful mission partners, Haiti Outreach Ministries. There are three teams: construction (no experience necessary), medical (experience? yes, please!), and VBS.



When: July 15-22 | Deadline to sign up: February 1

Ready to go? Send a deposit (\$100) to secure your spot to: Third Church, Attn: Sue Hendrickson, 600 Forest Ave., Henrico, VA 23229 ("Haiti" in the memo!).

Questions? Need more info? Contact LJ Jaworski at lj@thirdrva.org.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEW THIRD CHURCH SERMONS PODCAST!

If you have subscribed to our sermons podcast in the past, you may have noticed a disturbance in your feed! We're actually migrating our sermons to a new podcast that's compatible with our updated technology that you will now have to subscribe to. To find the new podcast, go to thirdrva.org/itunes or search the iTunes store for Third Church, and select the podcast with our gold logo. Questions? Contact Becca Payne at beccap@thirdrva.org.



PRAYER & COMMUNION SERVICE

Beginning in January, we will no longer be holding the Sunday morning prayer and communion service that was held in Room 101 at 8:00 a.m. We look forward to continue meeting you at the Communion table on the first Sundays of the month!

COMMUNITY POSTINGS

HELP REFUGEES BY COLLECTING SUPPLIES

The Hila Sewing Project welcomes refugee women as our neighbors by providing an opportunity and space for them to learn new sewing skills, to practice English, and to be connected to each other and the community. The project is in need of fabric (2 yds and larger), bottles of water, packaged snacks, and paper products (e.g., napkins, paper dessert plates).

Donations can also be made at alcansa.org/donate under the Hila Sewing Project.

For more information, contact Lisl Ruckert, Project Coordinator, (ruckertl@reachthenations.org) or Jill Fuller (jillafuller@hotmail.com).

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday morning discipleship season kicks off on **January 8**. Wednesday evening programs will begin on **January 11**. For more info, check out pages 3-6.

**Jan.
3**
Fellowship Hall

MEN'S MINISTRY: ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DINNER

Join us as our friend Tommy Thompson shares with us at our annual Men's New Year Dinner. This is just a great opportunity for guys to meet, visit, and eat together. Join a band of brothers who exhort and enable each other to put Jesus Christ first at home, at work, and in the world. Dinner will be provided by Annhorner Truitt, and we promise it will be good!



Cost: Free for first-timers and guests! \$5 for everyone else. [Register today!](#)

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

**Jan.
8**
9:45 a.m.
Parlor

WELCOME COFFEE

Want to learn more about Third, or know someone who is? Start here. Come to this gathering to meet a few people, and learn about Third's vision, what we believe and how to get involved.



Questions? Contact Beth Nichols: bethn@thirdrva.org.

**Jan.
15, 20-21**
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, January 15 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor
Friday evening, January 20 from 6-9 p.m. with dinner in the Fellowship Hall
Saturday, January 21 from 1:00-4:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 29 – Joining service for those deciding to become members.

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join the women of Third for this monthly gathering to meet other women over coffee, goodies, and a short devotion on the fruit of the spirit. This is a great opportunity to connect at Third, especially if you are new. Questions? Contact Missy Murchie (murchiefamily@yahoo.com).



Tuesday mornings: Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. | The Parlor
600 Forest Ave.

Childcare provided with a reservation with Kathy White (kathyw@thirdrva.org).

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February Term kicks off on **Sunday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** For more info, check out page 3.

**Feb.
3-4**

600 Forest Ave.

ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

Restoring Hearts, Catalyzing Friendships, Initiating and Engaging in Good Works

Guest Speaker: Pat "Goodie" Goodman



Do you wonder: Why do I keep responding that way? Where did that reaction come from? Why don't I have at least one person in my life that I feel I can be completely honest with? How can I be a change agent within my spheres of influence? How can the skills, abilities and experiences of my life be leveraged to benefit others? If any of these questions has ever crossed your mind then you will find the retreat worth being a part of.

As our lives progress, things tend to get more complicated. So staying tethered to a few life-giving realities is paramount to living well. Understanding the role that our "Hearts" play in life, the power of "Friendships" in helping us grow, and the necessity of "Engaging" our lives in efforts that make life better never changes. During this retreat we will unpack these areas while hearing personal stories and working to make practical applications.

Friday evening: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Dinner, fellowship, and message from Pat

Saturday: 7:45 - 8:15 a.m. - Optional guided prayer gathering by Tom Barila

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Breakfast, lunch, and messages from Pat

Cost: \$60 for the entire weekend (or \$30 per day). Scholarships available; contact Tom Barila (282-4645).

[Register now!](#)

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

Feb.

10-12

Camp Willow Run

STUDENT MINISTRY WINTER RETREAT

Join us for the annual Student Ministry Winter Retreat! This year, we're headed to Camp Willow Run. It's gonna be a weekend filled with worship, games, fellowship and some great talks from speaker, Percy Strickland. You don't want to miss it. We promise an awesome time.



Cost: \$155 per student for the weekend. [Register now!](#)

Questions? Contact Rick (rckh@thirdrva.org) or Andrea (andrew@thirdrva.org)

**Feb.
19**

9:45 a.m.
Parlor

WELCOME COFFEE

Want to learn more about Third, or know someone who is? Start here. Come to this gathering to meet a few people, and learn about Third's vision, what we believe and how to get involved.



Questions? Contact Beth Nichols: bethn@thirdrva.org.

Third Church
500 Forest Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23229
804.282.4645



**Join us for this year's
CommonGoodRVA conference!**

Saturday, February 11
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Early Center at Union Theological Seminary
3401 Brook Road

SIGN UP: commongoodrva.com

Katelyn Beaty, author of *A Woman's Place* and former managing editor of *Christianity Today*, will serve as keynote in this conference exploring the re-imagining of calling, career, and collaboration for the common good.

About Common Good RVA: There's a whole lot of good going on in Richmond these days. Just about everywhere you look — in art, business, food, neighborhoods, families, etc. — there are huge, exciting changes afoot. Want to be a part of the positive energy that's taken hold of our city, but feel like it's an unattainable goal if you don't work at a non-profit or a think tank? Common Good RVA has grown out of the desire to affirm that goal, to find out ways we can achieve it in our everyday lives, and to recognize and be inspired by others who are already promoting the good of Richmond in their workplaces daily.