



## LETTER FROM COREY

On behalf of the Session and the Strategic Planning Committee, I want to say thank you for engaging in our vision month in January. You listened, prayed, asked wonderful questions, attended Q+A meetings and working group sessions, offered ideas, and dialogued with one another about the exciting things that lie ahead. I am so excited about what God is doing among us and how we can participate together in this work.

To summarize what we covered in January:

- **On January 8, we focused on “Renewing the Person.”** That Sunday we communicated about our plans to re-organize our Session to shepherd people at Third more effectively into personal transformation.
- **On January 15, we focused on “Renewing the Church.”** That Sunday we communicated about our plans to restructure the congregation into geographic parishes to facilitate community, discipleship and mission.
- **On January 22, we focused on “Renewing the City.”** That Sunday we communicated about our process for adapting and upgrading our facility and campus in a way that contributes to the flourishing of our neighborhood.
- **On January 29, we focused on “Renewing All Things.”** That Sunday we communicated about our plans to work more closely with the Christian Arabic Church, to begin exploring a new Fellows Program and to bring on a new church planting resident.

That was a whole lot to take in! And there is still much work to be done—the strategic planning process is far from over. I encourage you toward the following as we continue moving forward together:

- **PRAY.** Please pray regularly for Third as we continue to follow God’s lead for the future. We believe we have heard the Lord and responded to his guidance, but we must continue to stay close to him in the **(Continued on page 2.)**

## OUR 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*

**Rev. Richard Haney**  
*Parish Associate*

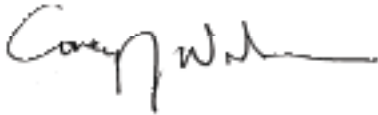
**Rev. Nan Clarke**  
*Parish Associate  
Care Ministries*

months and years to come. Apart from him we can do nothing! Please pray that we would continue to hear and follow God's guidance, and please especially pray for the Strategic Planning Committee as they continue to iron out the details.

- **BE INFORMED.** We have created a whole landing page on our website dedicated to these strategic planning changes: [thirdrva.org/strategic-planning](http://thirdrva.org/strategic-planning). If you weren't present one of the Sundays in January, or just want to learn more, you can find all the details we shared there. You can also personally reach out to one of the leaders who is helping lead an aspect of the plan. Additionally, you could go back and listen to one of the sermons from those Sundays. Be informed of the changes so we can participate together in the work.
- **LEARN.** We are already beginning the process of congregational growth in order to rise to the challenges before us. For example, our February term this month is dedicated to the work of Strategic Planning Working Group #5, preparing us as a congregation to engage with neighbors and even fellow believers who are very different than we are culturally. You can find all the details about the February term on page 4. I really encourage you to attend these sessions.

Again, thank you for being engaged in this exciting time of our church. Above all, we give thanks to our God who has been so faithful in leading and providing, and we anticipate all he will continue to do!

Soli Deo Gloria!



Corey Widmer

## MEET CHARLES TEIXEIRA



Charles Teixeira will be serving as a pastoral intern here at Third Church this year. Specifically, he will be shadowing Pastor Corey and helping to

develop several of the initiatives for parish groups at Third. Charles will have the opportunity to work with several of the staff at Third as he hopes to enter into pastoral ministry someday. As a member of the Southside Parish, he and his wife Elizabeth will be leading their parish group in the Midlothian area.

Currently, Charles also works for XXXChurch, a Las Vegas-based ministry serving those within the sex industry. For the past several years, Charles has counseled and coached dozens of men struggling with sex addictions through XXXChurch. Studying online within the Missional Leadership program, Charles is also a full-time seminarian pursuing his Master of Divinity at Bethel Seminary (St. Paul, MN). He is a graduate of Gordon College (MA) with a degree in Biblical and Theological Studies. Charles is married to Elizabeth and they have two sons, AJ (3) and Isaac (1).

## HAVE YOU HEARD WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT SERVING IN JOBS FOR LIFE?

"As it has been said, one of the greatest ironies of this life is that he or she that serves almost always is blessed more than he or she who is served. Jobs for Life is no exception. My student quickly became, in many ways, my 'champion' as I learned of his many struggles and set-backs in life. Yet his strong determination to persevere was to me something far beyond inspiring. I know my faith was enriched, and my understanding and empathy for others broadened, through my participation in Jobs for Life."

- Don Smith

"Some days, throughout the busyness of life, we wonder or question what God is doing in our lives. Well, in Jobs for Life, I got the privilege of watching God work and move deeply in many lives. God answered the big and small prayer requests, conquered many fears and doubts, and I got to see people walk out the door from that program as different people. I am beyond thankful for those 12 weeks, as it was a gentle reminder of the many ways God is at work within my life and those around me."

- Kerri Vogel

"The fun part was seeing how all the champions and students became a true community. The interesting part of this commitment was that I, myself, learned new things from all the speakers each week. Things I could use in my own personal life. It was the best experience for this time in my life."

- Ellen Stamps

"I've served in many leadership roles in various churches. Never before have I had the fortunate experience of actually walking alongside an individual and participating in a group of people where I could so clearly see God change lives over a short twelve weeks. Being a Jobs for Life champion was an exhilarating experience."

- Kim Gordon

"JFL is an exciting means God uses to bring together sometimes complete strangers from different life experiences to form a community. Through this community, champions and students alike have the opportunity to apply God's word and principles not only to the job arena but also on a personal level. If you enjoy seeing God work in creative, unexpected ways, JFL is for you."

- Tammy Bishop



### ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THEM?

When: Monday nights, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Dates: Feb. 27 – May 22

Where: Fellowship Hall

For more info and to sign up, visit:

[thirdrva.org/jobsforlife](http://thirdrva.org/jobsforlife)

QUESTIONS? Contact Ed Satterfield  
([eds@thirdrva.org](mailto:eds@thirdrva.org)).



# UPCOMING CLASSES

## LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

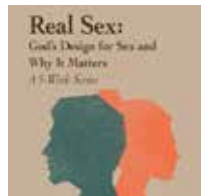
A 4-week class on understanding and reaching out to our neighbors

Sunday mornings in March  
10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

We will study four of the major people groups that are resettling in Richmond, and talk about the resettlement process using case studies to actually see how the process works. This class will help you better understand where your neighbor comes from, their culture, as well as ways in which you can begin to make friends and engage them in dialogue about Christ.

We'll look together at the Pakistani culture, Bangladeshi, and a few more. Join us!

## REAL SEX CLASS



**REAL SEX: A 5-week series on God's design for sex and why it matters**

Wednesday nights, March 8 – April 5

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

First Floor Conference Room, 500 Forest Ave.

This 5-week class on Wednesday evenings this spring will be co-taught by Corey Widmer and Charles Teixeira (Pastoral Intern, Third Church and X3Leader, XXXChurch). The series will present God's original intention for sex in a generation whose sexual expression largely disregards any religious influence. The course will pay particular attention to areas of hurts and struggles in need of pastoral care and guidance: pornography, pre-marital sex, homosexuality, transgenderism, masturbation, sex and singleness, and sex in marriage. The class will be a frank discussion of the issues with opportunities for open conversation. The event will be for adults (18 or older).

Childcare is available for 4th grade and younger (and by designating on registration).

Sign-up: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events)



## 2017 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 10-11 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: John Wheeler, LJ 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)

# EVENTS CALENDAR: FEBRUARY

## FEBRUARY 3-4



**MEN'S RETREAT:** Restoring Hearts, Catalyzing Friendships, Initiating and Engaging in Good Works

**Guest Speaker:**  
Pat "Goodie" Goodman

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 at [thirdrva.org/men](http://thirdrva.org/men).

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Tom Barila: [tomb@thirdrva.org](mailto:tomb@thirdrva.org).

## FEBRUARY 10-12



**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 at [thirdrva.org/students](http://thirdrva.org/students).

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Rick ([rickh@thirdrva.org](mailto:rickh@thirdrva.org))  
or Andrea ([andrew@thirdrva.org](mailto:andrew@thirdrva.org)).

## FEBRUARY 27



**JOBS FOR LIFE KICKOFF**

Participate in this amazing, 12-week, relationship-centered, jobs preparedness program. For more information and personal testimony, see page 3.

To sign up to be a champion, or to volunteer in one of many ways, visit: [thirdrva.org/jobsforlife](http://thirdrva.org/jobsforlife).

# EVENTS CALENDAR: MARCH

## MARCH 1



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND MEAL

5:45 p.m. Dinner in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary

This year's Ash Wednesday service will include a meal together first, then a service with an extended time of prayer using the songs of Taize. These short and simple prayers are sung repeatedly and give us the opportunity to experience an intimate time in God's presence. We will also have the traditional time for the Imposition of Ashes that marks the beginning of Lent.

Sign-ups for the dinner will be open soon at [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).

## MARCH 7



### MEN'S DINNER

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall, \$5

Join us for dinner (Abe Lincoln's famous baked spaghetti!), a panel discussion, and the opportunity to meet other men at Third. Our panel will discuss 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 bless one another and our neighbors.

Sign-up today: [thirdrva.org/men](http://thirdrva.org/men)

QUESTIONS? Contact Tom Barila ([tomb@thirdrva.org](mailto:tomb@thirdrva.org)).

## MARCH 25



### WOMEN'S MINISTRY MORNING OF SERVICE

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Join the women of Third as we participate in service activities throughout the city!

We will meet for coffee and a group devotional at the church, then break into smaller service groups on and off-site. There are a wide variety of options that will appeal to all. Some will be working with existing mission partners, others with interesting non-profits and local groups. Join us as we seek to serve in our communities!

Save the date; sign-ups will open soon!

QUESTIONS? Contact Kate Mendez ([kate.g.mendez@gmail.com](mailto:kate.g.mendez@gmail.com)).



# ONGOING & UPCOMING EVENTS



## WOMEN'S 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](mailto:murchiefamily@yahoo.com)).

**Tuesday mornings: 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](mailto:kathyw@thirdrva.org)).**



## SAVE THE DATE: SPORTS SKILLS CAMP

**July 10 – 14  
2340 Pump Road  
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

At our Sports Skills Camp, we combine the fun and excitement of great sports training in soccer and basketball with the great news of the Gospel. Sponsored by Third, Community West, and the Christian Arabic Church, this week offers time for your children to build sports skills and to learn about Christian character-building from skilled college athletes from the Sports Outreach Institute and the RVA community. Learn more about this awesome week at [thirdrva.org/sports-skills-camp](http://thirdrva.org/sports-skills-camp).

**Plan ahead and sign up now!**  
[Thirdrva.org/registrations](http://Thirdrva.org/registrations).



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](http://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.

**THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR MARCH: Friday, February 13. Submit to: [beccap@thirdrva.org](mailto:beccap@thirdrva.org)**