



THIRD PRESS

June 2017



LETTER FROM COREY

Dear Third Family,

Since January 2016 we have been progressing in a season of strategic planning. I'd like to communicate a couple of important and exciting updates!

NEW VISION STATEMENT UPDATE

Last month the Session voted to approve a new vision statement for Third Church that will replace our old vision statement. This new statement reads:

Called together for the renewal of all things through Jesus Christ.

I love this vision statement! It says so much in such a succinct way.

- First, we are *called* by God. The church is a community called by God through the grace of Jesus Christ.
- Second, we are *together*. The Christian life is fundamentally a communal journey.
- Third, we are called together not just for ourselves and our own spiritual edification, but for *the renewal of all things*. The gospel renews not just individual lives, but whole communities, institutions and cities.
- And all of this is *through* Jesus Christ, the one who saves and redeems us by grace.

Soon you will see this statement appear on Third's media and publicity materials, so be looking for it!

PARISH STRUCTURE UPDATE

In January, we communicated that we will be creating a "parish structure" for Third Church. Parishes are smaller expressions of the larger community of Third. There will be eleven parishes initially, each comprised of 100-150 adult covenant partners plus children and regular attenders. At the outset, parishes will primarily serve as a vehicle for connecting newcomers and for elders and deacons to provide spiritual and practical care. We will continue to gather for worship all together on Sunday mornings as usual.

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

Mark Sprinkle
*Director of Arts &
Cultural Engagement*

Alex Sawyer
Technical Director

Tim Latham
Director of Young Adult Ministries

Rev. Richard Haney
Parish Associate

Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate Care Ministries

Why are we doing this? As our church has grown, we have been seeking a way to integrate people more effectively into Christian community, while also deepening our commitment to share the good news of the gospel and seek the renewal of our whole metro region. This new Parish Structure will address both of these needs, by enabling greater connection between Third members, and by facilitating a distributed form of congregational mission in neighborhoods all over our metro region.

A couple of updates about the Parish Structure:

- We have bumped the launch of the Parish Structure to **January 2018** (previously September 2017), to give us more time to get all the pieces in place.
- Session has approved the hiring of a new **Pastor of Discipleship and Parish Ministry**. This person will have a key role in overseeing the parishes, training leaders, and helping with preaching and teaching. Please pray for the search team as they begin their process of seeking a candidate.

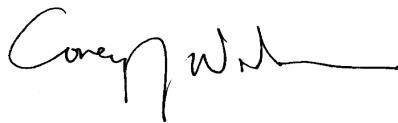
Here are two ways you can respond:

First, **pray!** There is a lot of work to be done, and we need God's empowering presence and leading more than anything else. Please pray for his blessing and leading in this new exciting chapter of our church's life.

Second, **we need your help with Parish Groups**. Each parish will have several Parish Groups, which are mid-size communities of people seeking to follow Jesus together and love their neighbors in a specific place. Would you consider starting, leading or joining a Parish Group? We'll be starting leader training soon in preparation for our January 2018 launch. Please email Beth Nichols if you are interested at bethn@thirdrva.org.

Thanks, friends. It's a joy to be called together for the renewal of all things through Jesus Christ!

Grace and peace of our Savior+



Corey Widmer



LEADERSHIP UPDATE: MARCH & APRIL

The article on page 3 begins something new that we plan to do monthly in the week following each Session meeting. With the start of a smaller Session, the Shepherding Elder ministry, and all the developments in Strategic Planning, we need to have good communication with each other as leaders and as a congregation. This will give you up-to-date knowledge of developments and decisions as you interact with each other.

What follows is a summary of the April and May Session meetings and information from the East Central Presbytery along with an overture on our Confessions.

This monthly message will be sent to all Elders, Deacons, Trustees and staff, and will also be included in the Third Press (although it will generally take an additional month to appear in the Press). Let us know if this is helpful or not as we go along and if there is anything we can do to make it more useful.

Thank you,
Ed Satterfield

SESSION MEETING UPDATE & COMMITTEE ACTIONS

PERSONNEL (CONNECT, TRAIN & SEND GOD'S PEOPLE)

- **Approved Motion:** That the Session approve the creation of the Assistant Pastor for Discipleship and Parish Ministry and that the search for the position begin immediately.

The search has begun and we have already received one excellent and well qualified applicant.

NOMINATING (ALIGN STAFF & SESSION)

Nominating Committee will be seeking to complete its slate of Shepherding and Governing Elders, Deacons and Trustees by the end of May.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Three approved motions from WG1 (Communicate our Purpose):

- That Session approve as the new vision statement “Called together for the renewal of all things through Jesus Christ;” and approve that this statement serve as a replacement for the existing vision statement for Third Church.
- That Session approve the long form explanation of the new vision statement as the new mission statement, and that Session approve that this statement serve as a replacement for the existing mission statement for Third Church.
- That Session affirm the ongoing accuracy of the Core Values as foundational descriptors of our community and the ongoing value of the Focus Statement as an internal guide for ministry.

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP

(MODERNIZE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE)

- **Approved Motion:** Budget and Stewardship moves that Session approve the request by Working Group 4 (Modernize Infrastructure) to authorize unbudgeted expenditures for work by BCWH/Waldron Studios for up to \$89,300. This pays for the next three phases of developing an architectural master plan for 600 Forest Ave. including: Campus/Facilities Assessment/Engineering; Master Plan/Space Program; and preparation of the Conceptual Master Plan. The work is expected to proceed through the remainder of 2017 and possibly into early 2018. Of the \$89,300 requested,

\$78,500 is currently held in restricted accounts. If the shortfall of \$10,800 becomes payable in 2017, it will first be met by a personal request to members of the congregation and/or secondly paid from the working capital reserve account.

This work should complete work that would present to Session plans (or options of plans) to meet our projected needs for a decision on what we might build. Subsequent to a decision to go forward would be additional expenditure for detailed plans and preparation for a capital campaign.



DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS (COMMUNICATE OUR PURPOSE)

ECO East Central Presbytery meeting was held at St. Giles on April 28 and 29. We considered an overture to the synod for consideration at the January national gathering. In it we seek approval that the Book of Confessions be changed to exclude:

- a. The Second Helvetic Confession,
- b. The Confession of 1967, and
- c. The Brief Statement of Faith.

It also calls for a new confession to be written, a preface for the Book, an introduction for each confession, and a list of resources for further study.

OTHER KEY ITEMS

Antioch Residency Program (Love Our Neighbors)

- **Approved Motion:** That Juan Ledon be approved as our first church planting resident in the Antioch Residency Program (ARP), to begin formally in August 2017.

RECAPS, UPDATES & NEWS

30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

Praying with Faith, Hope and Love for the Muslim World, May 27-June 25, 2017

This prayer guide focus coincides with Ramadan, an important month of fasting and religious observance for Muslims. Christians worldwide have an opportunity to make an intentional, respectful effort during this period to learn about, pray for and reach out to Muslim neighbors.

Each year a new illustrated prayer booklet is published in a number of languages and locations around the world. The booklet contains daily readings that focus on various topics, people groups and geographical areas of the Islamic world; each day's subject focus is followed by prayer points. It also features informative background articles and resources for involvement.

“We are in the midst of the greatest turning of Muslims to Christ in 14 centuries of Muslim-Christian interaction. More than 80% of all the Muslim movements to Christ in history have occurred in the past two to three decades, a time period that coincides with the modern prayer movement for Muslims. At the heart of this modern prayer movement is 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.”

David Garrison, Mission strategist and author of *A Wind in the House of Islam*

“Every Christian today should know about Islam. Every church should be wrestling with how God might have them reach out to and pray for Muslims around the world and in their communities. There is no better resource available to accomplish this calling of living in the modern world than the 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World. By joining this movement, you are joining the Holy Spirit's work in drawing Muslims to Christ.”

John Stonestreet, President of Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview

4. www.thirdrva.org

Media sound bites about Islamic extremism can too easily incite anger, fear and even hatred towards Muslims. We seek to resist this temptation to generalize, and instead resolve to respond and pray with the mind and heart of Christ. It has been well documented that many Muslims have come to faith in Christ during Ramadan. Won't you join with praying believers around the world during this season?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! We invite you to pick up a prayer guide (various locations on campus) even if Ramadan has already begun. There are two versions: one for adults and some just for kids. You can find similar resources online at: pray4them.org. Let's pray as a church family, together, and join in the Holy Spirit's work in drawing Muslims to Christ.

LJ Jaworski
Mission Pastor

UPDATE: HELP FOR ONE OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS — THANKS, THIRD CHURCH

Praise God—housing, a car, and editorial assistance has been found for Missions Partners Lyle and Diana Thomas, who minister in St. Petersburg, Russia, and their three children (pre-teen and teen). Way to go, Church! (If you would like to be called on for future housing needs, drop a line to Mission Pastor LJ Jaworski.)

Learn more about the Thomases at <https://orphan-dreams.com/about/lyle-thomas-3>.



VBS MISSION PROJECT

This year at Vacation Bible School we have the opportunity to support two exciting missions projects: SAT-7 Academy and CrossOver Ministry.

We are taking a two-pronged approach to missions, with a focus on one local and one global project, which we hope will help children learn that missions is not just in far-off countries, but can happen in their own neighborhood!



2017 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CROSSOVER MINISTRY (LOCAL)

Established by volunteers in 1983, CrossOver provides health care services to the uninsured in the greater Richmond metropolitan area and serves over 7,000 people each year! Their mission is to provide quality health care, promote wellness, and connect the resources of the community with people in need, all in the name of Jesus Christ. The two clinics offer dental and vision care, women's health services, and a licensed pharmacy. Learn more about the mission and vision of CrossOver on their website: www.crossoverministry.org.

2017 Mission Goal: \$5,000

Help us exceed our goal this summer!

SAT-7 ACADEMY (GLOBAL)

Over 13 million children in the Middle East and North Africa cannot attend school because of conflict. Many are trapped in war zones where their schools and homes have been destroyed. Others have been forced to uproot their lives, driven out of their homes by relentless fighting.

SAT-7 is a group of Christian satellite television channels penetrating borders with broadcasts of Christ's hope and spiritual stability in an increasingly unsettled world.

This summer, SAT-7 will begin SAT-7 Academy, a 24/7 educational TV channel bringing quality education to displaced children with the goal of decreasing the education gap in the Middle East.

Learn more on their website: <https://sat7education.org>.



LAST CALL: EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TOUR 2017

UPDATE: There are just a few openings remaining for our trip to Israel from September 30 to October 10 of this year. During this incredible opportunity to visit the Holy Land, you'll walk where Jesus walked, alongside experienced, biblically-knowledgeable tour guides.

WHEN: September 30–October 10, 2017

WHERE: You'll stay in first-class hotels in the following places: 1 night on the Mediterranean, 3 nights on the shore of Galilee, 1 night at the Dead Sea, and 4 nights in Jerusalem.

TOURING: You'll tour the sites of Israel in a comfortable tour bus, with a biblically-knowledgeable tour guide.

FULL ITINERARY: Check out our event posting on the website: thirdrva.org/news-events/experience-israel-tour-2017

COST: \$4,295

DEADLINE: June 19, 2017. If past this date, please call or email Tom to see if there are any spots left or to learn about future trips.

QUESTIONS? Concerns? Want to know who else is signed up to go? Get in touch with Tom Barila.

"You'll enjoy the beauty of the land, Israel's wonderful food, and her open and safe hospitality every step of the way."

SUMMER FUN

SUNDAY LUNCHES @ SHORE DOG

WHO: All college students and high school seniors

WHERE: ShoreDog restaurant, across the street from church

WHEN: Every Sunday, May 21-July 30, 12:30 p.m. (after last service)

Enjoy lunch and sermon chat with fellow college students and other Third members.

CHAT & CHEW: BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL – YOUR FAITH IN COLLEGE

WHO: High school juniors and seniors AND college freshmen and sophomores

WHEN: Sundays from June 25-July 30 (excluding July 2), 5-6:30 p.m.

Join your student ministry/college interns for dinner and discussion about faith and college.

Wrap up in time for youth group.

WOMEN'S SUMMER SESSION BIBLE STUDY

WHO: College-age women and older

WHERE: Third Church Fellowship Hall

WHEN: Wednesday nights, July 12 – August 6 (6 sessions), 7-8:45 p.m.

Join 200 women from Third to study the Bible together and socialize! Register online at thirdrva.org/events.

SPORTS SKILLS CAMP 2017

WHO: Children and youth, rising 1st to 12th grades

WHEN: July 10-14, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

WHERE: 2340 Pump Rd.

COST: \$80 provides a space for each camper (a second child: \$70, a third child: \$60). (\$20 of the fee is tax deductible.) Scholarships available.

HOW CAN I SIGN UP? Visit thirdrva.org/events

Learn more about this awesome week at thirdrva.org/sports-skills-camp.

QUESTIONS? Contact Tom Barila.

BON VOYAGE – COLLEGE SEND-OFF PARTY

WHO: All college students

WHEN: Sunday, August 13, 7 p.m.

Gather for food, fun, encouragement and prayer before heading to school or starting your job.



WELCOME, NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

God called twenty-nine people to attend the April Newcomers Class and to become covenant partners. They learned about the gospel, the Presbyterian church, the ECO denomination, and Third's vision and mission. Twenty-seven of this group joined on April 30, 2017 by answering the questions of commitment, and two people will join on July 23, 2017. Alex Bruce was baptized on May 14, 2017.

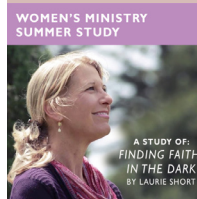
The Newcomer Team, our pastors, and some of our elders were blessed to get to know these folks and to hear their faith stories. We are excited to welcome them into our church family and we hope you will pray for them and find opportunities to get to know them.

- Tracie & Chris Adams
- Blair & Will Bigelow
- Alex & Janice Bruce
- Karen & David Carroll
- Phil Choi
- Erin & Cody Fleeger
- Matt Foster
- Will Hayes
- Colin & Margaret Hunter
- Billy & Jen Martin
- Yuliya & Spencer Porter
- Sean & Kira Rhorer
- Matt Schindler
- Mark Smith
- Liz & Christian Stiff
- Nate Story
- Nate Tate
- Alexa & Braxton Vinson

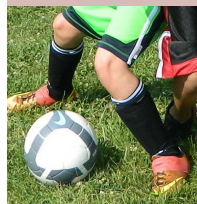
EVENTS CALENDAR



JUNE 19
Annual Sam Jackson
Charity Golf Outing



BEGINS JULY 12
(through Aug. 16)
Women's Study



JULY 10-14
Sports Skills Camp



AUGUST 13@7PM
Bon Voyage – College
Send-Off Party



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500 Forest Ave.
Richmond, Virginia 23229
(804) 282-4645



THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR JULY: Friday, June 9. Submit to: kjeffer@recreativeinc.com