



Third Baptist
CHURCH

Annual Report

2017

Table of Contents

From the Pastor	4
Church Council and Executive Committee.....	5
Children’s and Youth Ministry Committee	6
Board of Deacons.....	7
Des Peres Baptist Endowment Fund for Inner-City Ministries	7
Environmental Ministry Team	8
Music and Worship	10
Global Missions.....	11
Women’s Missionary Society.....	12
Stewardship Committee	13
Trustees.....	14
Third Baptist Church Foundation.....	15



From the Pastor

Friends,

Since our last report, God has written others into Third's story...

- ◆ Craig and Michelle Robinson
- ◆ Georganna Ekpo
- ◆ Edem and Pam Dzungu with Etonam
- ◆ Ronald Gordon
- ◆ Ronald and Anna Littlejohn
- ◆ Kingsley and Morayo Wabara with Nneoma and Obim
- ◆ Mona Harrison by baptism
- ◆ Cecil Peets
- ◆ Tory Cooper by baptism
- ◆ Colton Simons by baptism
- ◆ Joel and Peggy Pittenger
- ◆ Steve and Dawn Phillips
- ◆ Kelly Watts

Faithfulness is required concerning God's big story. And in Travis Adams story, we are losing this servant to Megan and Scotland. Travis will always be connected to Third and our journey. I join all our congregation thanking God Travis was written into our story and look forward with expectation to how God is preparing new avenues of ministry in Scotland.

Travis' final day is Sunday, July 15. Brunch (no Sunday School) will be served in his honor (July 15). Our good friend will be showered with blessings, so richly deserved.

A few other notes of interest:

- ◆ We've enjoyed fruits of our labor and visioning: children's department has proved to be an exceptional space for various ministries.
- ◆ The implementation of screen and renovation of Memorial Chapel has enhanced our worship and discipleship.
- ◆ Third will say good-bye to Preclarus at the end of June.
- ◆ Please pray God will open doors for another tenant, which will assist our financial health.
- ◆ Third has developed an excellent combination of mentoring and offering avenues of recreation and discipleship—concerning our Wednesday night ministries.
- ◆ Philip, Brent, Lansin, Nancy and Sanctuary Choir continue to bless our church family and community with quality worship.
- ◆ God continues to bless our family with financial health. The Stewardship focus was well received and financial pledges met our goal.

Friends, may we continue to "welcome home" any person who graces us with their presence. The relational vitality at Third continuous to be a precious asset and witness to all those who enter our space.

Caren and I are thankful to serve Third—with its beautiful tapestry of diversity.

Blessings,
Tommy



Church Council and Executive Committee

Third Baptist Church continued to thrive in 2017 as we worshipped, celebrated and welcomed new members together. Dr. Tommy Simons, Reverend Maria Stinnett and Reverend Travis Adams, along with many dedicated lay leaders, worked throughout the year to provide us with many opportunities to come together as a community. Philip Barnes, along with our pianist, Lansin Lim Kimler, organist, Brent Johnson, and our ever-dedicated sanctuary choir continued to move us with their music and commitment. Community outreach ministries such as the Food Pantry, under the leadership of Alexandria Hamilton, Monica McDaniel-Collins and Bonnie McDaniel, along with a strong team of regular volunteers, have continued to share love and resources with our community through their monthly service. Crossover Basketball, WMS, Friday Pipe Concerts, partner events like the Martin Luther King, Jr. service with other local churches, and other ministries all demonstrate our commitment to serve in our community for good. All of these and more are testaments to our faith that this is where God calls us to gather.

The Church Council and Trustees, in conjunction with the pastoral team and church staff, have continued to work together to make decisions that support the vitality of our building and ensure it is a welcoming and functional space for years to come. We've seen the creative use of our new screen incorporated into worship and other special events. The Children's Department has enjoyed their new space and made it home. Projects to keep our spaces clean and updated are constantly in progress. The hard work behind the scenes accomplished by our team of dedicated maintenance staff, led by Byron Greer, cannot be over-estimated.

We have much to be grateful for in the many lay leaders that served in 2017:

Office of Secretary – Mike Thiems
Office of Treasurer – Ken Blanton
Deacon Chair – Clara Jackson
Business Manager – Tom Kurtz
Health & Wellness Ministry Team – Sally Stevenson
Community Ministry – Monica McDaniel-Collins
Children's & Youth Ministry Team – Natalie Thiems
Adult Ministry Team – Nancy Furgerson
Hospitality Team – Connie Vohsen
Environmental Team – John Wilkerson

Administrative Committees:
Communication - Deanna Davis
Nominating – Evelyn Kurtz
Stewardship Gene – Beverly Odell
Personnel – Jerry Bryan
Trustees – Ken Blanton
Sound and Lighting – Howard Roos & Mike Thiems
DPBC- Urban Ministries Board – Deborah Watson
Foundation Board – Linda Roos

2018 will bring changes and challenges, some we know and others that we cannot anticipate. Together as a congregation and with the strong leadership of our pastoral team, church staff and lay leaders, we will meet those challenges and listen for the ways in which God continues to call us to be a force for peace and love in our community.

I want to again express deep gratitude for the support, encouragement, love and kindness that you all shared with me during my time as Moderator. It's difficult to find the words to express how meaningful that experience was for me. My thanks to - and prayers for - all of you as we move into 2018 and see what more God has in store for us.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Davis
Outgoing Moderator



Children's and Youth Ministry Team

Dear Third Baptist Church,

As you are undoubtedly aware, 2017 was yet another active year in the lives of the children and youth of our church. I will attempt to give an adequate list of some of the highlights!

Camps:

- ◆ The end of June the children participated in another wonderful Music and Arts Camp.
- ◆ The older children as well as the youth traveled across Missouri to attend summer camp at Youth Front in Kansas. They were accompanied by Pastor Maria, Pastor Travis, and Natalie. While there the kids enjoyed the Snack Shack, The BLOB and other lake activities, rock wall, swimming pool, game room and countless other fun activities. The kids also had the opportunity to grow in their faith through small groups, chapel sessions, as well as prayer time. A good time was had by all!

Church Group Fun:

- ◆ The youth continued to build their sense of community through their participation in Social Saturdays. On the third Saturday of the month the youth meet to help with the Food Pantry, afterwards they head out to participate in different fun activities around St. Louis. Here is a listing of some of the activities/places they went this year: Ice skating, St. Louis Science Center, Rock Climbing at Upper Limits, Laser Tag, Picnic and games in Francis Park, Cookout and Games at Pastor Tommy's House, Bowling, Team Puzzle Solving at the Escape Room St. Louis.
- ◆ The youth also participate in a guys' night and girls' night sleepover (held separately).
- ◆ The children also reveled in a lock-in held at the church.

Community Activities:

- ◆ We sponsored a Community Easter Egg Hunt for our children and for the children in the community. This was held in Strauss Park.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School was held the end of July and reached out to children at church and those who do not attend Third.
- ◆ In October, we participated in the Grand Center Boo Bash.
- ◆ In November, the youth attended the American Baptist Youth Gathering in Springfield, IL.

The children have greatly enjoyed the new Children's Space. This was dedicated in February of 2017. On any given Sunday or Wednesday you will find all areas of the room being used for ministry to children.

In between all of the activities listed above, Pastor Maria also squeezed in a mission trip to Cuba as part of her doctoral studies. We very excited for her as she pursues this course of study.

We continue to be so thankful to the people of Third Baptist for their continued investment in the children and youth of Third. Thank you to all who donate time, money, energy, and lift up prayers for the lives being changed through these ministries.

Please continue to look for ways to participate in 2018. As was announced at the start of the year, Pastor Travis will be leaving in July to start the next chapter of his life. We will send him off with tears and laughter, thankful for the joy, leadership, and friendship he has brought to Third. With his impending departure we will need volunteers all the more to help with that transition. Please be in prayer for how you can be part of this time.

I continue to be so thankful that I get to know and work with Pastor Maria and Pastor Travis. The work that they do for the children and youth of our church is immeasurable. They have had a lasting impact on the lives of the kids and on my life as well. Thanks be to God!



Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Thiems
Chair of Children and Youth

Board of Deacons

God has blessed Third Baptist Church with men and women who love the Lord and use their Fruits of the Spirit to minister and serve others. The Deacons are just a small collection of these men and women.

As a collective group and as individuals the Deacons are here to assist you, Third Baptist Church – we are here to pray for you and with you, rejoice and grieve with you, as well as be a companion in your daily walk with Christ.

Thank you, Diaconate, for serving the congregation of Third Baptist Church throughout the past year. I know God will continue to bless you and to minister through you. I am honored and proud to serve among you.

2017 Board of Deacons: Ella Banks, Demetrius Bryant, Jerry Campbell, LaVerne Graham, Allie Hamilton, Johnny Jay, Rachelle Jay, Chris Lee, Gene Stewart and David Walser

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Clara Jackson, Chair

Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund For Inner-City Ministries

Traditionally, this team meets twice each year to review applications made for Des Peres Funds and then to award those funds. We met in November, 2017 and will meet again in April 2018.

Des Peres Funds are being used to support the children's and youth ministries, Christmas baskets, hats and gloves for community children, Crossover Basketball, among other projects.

Deborah Aldrich-Watson, Chair



Environmental Ministry Team

Team Members: Deanna Davis, John R. Wilkerson

2017 was our eighth full year of operation. Our goal is to help TBC members recognize and fulfill their responsibility for the stewardship of God's good creation. We believe this is one way we can love God and our neighbors. We invite you to join our team. Our budget of \$450 per year is spent on recycling.

Promoting Sustainability

In December we published the essay "Spiritual Ecology - A Long-Term Response to the Recent Hurricanes". This was included in the December business meeting reports. We will be teaching a lesson based on this essay to different Sunday School classes in 2018 beginning with the New Horizons class on Feb. 25. Who will be next?

For the Global Missions Team's fall fundraiser for the Murrow Indian Children's Home we contributed sweet potatoes, Metro tickets, and a gift certificate to the Ferguson Farmers' Market.

Informational articles about environmental events and ideas appear in our church publications. In July we published "Water Conservation in the Yard and Garden - 10 Tips" and "Saving Energy During the Heat of Summer". Some of these are aimed at helping members save money in order to give more for God's purposes. Others are aimed to help you become a better steward of His creation. We welcome your ideas.

During several Sundays in April and May we had a table outside the church office to inform people about our work. We answered a number of questions and handed out helpful literature.

Recycling

Earth Circle Recycling continues to provide recycling services. They furnish three large rolling carts for the collection of items. These are located on the east wall of Johnson Hall. Clean paper (without glitter, glue, etc.), plastic, glass, and aluminum can be recycled. All containers must be thoroughly rinsed before recycling. This helps reduce the risk of pests. There are small recycling bins around the building for your convenience. Thanks to Demetrius Bryant for recycling plastic bottles and cups and aluminum cans during Crossover Basketball activities. and other events. There is a recycling bin in the Pillsbury Threshold for the collection of plastic cups.

We owe special thanks to Byron Greer for his expertise in shepherding our recycling efforts.

Energy

We are grateful to Tom Kurtz for reducing our energy usage and for the use of solar energy. Solar panels were installed in 2014 and continue to save on our cost for electricity. These are on our main building and on our garage/ apartment complex. You can view the amount of solar energy generated on our main building by visiting <http://thirdbaptist.egaug.es/stats.html>. 29,815 kWh of energy were generated in 2017.

ENERGY STAR is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) voluntary program that helps organizations and individuals save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency. It has a rating system that allows the measurement of a building's energy efficiency. The minimum standard to be considered an Energy Star building is a rating of 75 or better. We believe that we have met this standard. A certification walkthrough on June 11th was held by volunteers from members of the U.S. Green Building Council. We had several interactions with the certification team after that but did not complete the process. Like the Brooklyn Dodgers we will try again next year. If we are certified, we will be recognized as one of the first congregations in St. Louis to be designated an Energy Star congregation. This is one of the benefits of our affiliation with Missouri Interfaith Power and Light (MOIPL).



Partnership for Sustainability in our Region

We continued our affiliation with Missouri Interfaith Power and Light (MOIPL). MOIPL is the local chapter of Interfaith Power and Light which is a national organization. This organization helps faith communities respond to climate change. It works with the Jewish Environmental Initiative and the Missouri Gateway Chapter of the U.S. Green Buildings Council. This allows our church to share information about sustainability with other congregations.

Bringing 'Nature' to the City

We mulched the trees along Washington Avenue to conserve moisture, moderate temperature, and improve the soil. Weeds and grass were removed from around the trees. Wildflowers were planted in the pots at the entrance next to the office. We moved one of the pots to the ramp entrance to reduce the risk of vandalism. Pansies were planted in the fall but they did not survive the winter. Litter was also picked up along the sidewalk.

Several people have reported that the milkweed plants they received in past years are continuing to grow and some have multiplied. Two people reported seeing Monarch caterpillars on their plants. This is part of the City of St. Louis Milkweeds for Monarchs initiative to help save the Monarch butterflies.

John continued helping with a vegetable garden at the Flance Early Learning Center in downtown St. Louis. The garden provides healthy food for the children at the Center.

Healthy food is brought regularly to the Visitors' Desk to remind people to eat healthy. Occasionally we provide food for the fellowship after worship in the Pillsbury Threshold. Some of this food came from the Flance Early Learning Center garden and some from local farms.

Transportation

If an individual needs a ride to church, call the church office and they will contact someone who drives the church van, a deacon, or someone on our ministry team. We will be glad to 'share the ride' and conserve resources together. Consider taking the MetroLink to church. The Grand MetroLink station is only about a 15-minute walk from church. The Grand MetroBus has the most frequent schedule of any route. The Delmar and Gravois-Lindell MetroBuses also provide service to us. Some of these buses are all-electric vehicles. This will allow you to meet people you would not otherwise meet and to see things you would not see if you drive. John will be glad to help you plan your trip. Herman Leroy regularly uses the Metro to travel from Belleville, IL to our services.

John Wilkerson



Music and Worship

The Sanctuary choir continues to grow and develop under the leadership of Philip Barnes. Each Sunday our choir is well-prepared and is a vital part of Third's worship.

2017 offered a wide variety of musical offerings:

- ◆ Perseid String Quartet for Good Friday
- ◆ University of Illinois Choir for service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr
- ◆ Concerts for community in Strauss Park
- ◆ Adam Kolberg's Brass Band
- ◆ Christmas Presentations
- ◆ Musical presentations for Maundy Thursday
- ◆ Friday night pipes facilitated and coordinated by Brent Johnson
- ◆ Blues from Gene Dobbs Bradford

The musical offerings are only as strong as leadership. Third is blessed to have a leadership team consisting of:

- ◆ Philip Barnes
- ◆ Brent Johnson
- ◆ Lansin Lim Kimler
- ◆ Nancy Ferguson

If you are interested in joining this musical community—Sanctuary Choir meets each Wednesday at 7pm.

Thank you for continuing your joyful noise!

Blessings,

Tommy



Global Missions

This year has been an especially generous year!

- ◆ \$9,920 to ABC Missionaries
- ◆ \$4,960 to CBF Missionaries
- ◆ \$1,240 to Non-Denominational Missionaries
- ◆ Easter Offering for Bethel Neighborhood Center and Rainbow Acres – \$1,740.00
- ◆ WMS Fall Fundraiser for Morrow Children’s Home - \$1,724.75
- ◆ Christmas Offering for Hurricane Relief in Costa Rica and Puerto Rico - \$14,200

That’s a total of \$33,784.75 given to missions this year! And that doesn’t even include all the money and time invested by the wonderful ladies of the WMS! I just want to emphasize how much of an amazing act of giving that is for a church of our size! Thank you all once again for your giving hearts. The world is being made a better place because of your generosity!

We were also blessed to have several missionaries speak to us this year.

- ◆ Keith and Mary Holmes for the Netherlands visit us to share their work in Bible translation.
- ◆ Kit Ripley spoke at length during Sunday School about her work with abused women in Thailand
- ◆ Maria Stinnett shared about her wonderful journey working with impoverished people in Cuba.

Overall it has been an amazing year to see and hear God working around the globe. Thank you again for being a great partner in missions. Looking forward to seeing how God will change lives in 2018!

Travis Adams



Women's Missionary Society

Women's Missionary Society continued to meet monthly

- (1) Gateway 180 received sandwiches/lunch bags
- (2) Maria Stinnett led Bible Study

Work projects included making and delivering 180 pillows to Missouri Baptist Hospital.

Ladies also attended pillow stuffing meetings held at the hospital.

Each year churches are asked to bring breakfast items for Friendship International that meets weekly at Third. Third participated in April.

Made 200 roller bandages and shipped to New Windsor, Md. where items await to be loaded on container ship bound for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the fall found ladies wrapping Christmas presents for 13 children that are a part of programming offered by the Christian Activity Center in East St Louis. TBC van was packed and 6 members delivered bags to facility. While there got a tour and update of what happens within and outside those walls - amazing to see what is being accomplished.

During fall the ladies gathered items that Edna Martin Christian Center in Indianapolis, Ind. had asked for to further the work at the Center. Judy Parham made the delivery.

Any one interested in joining this group that meets Tuesday mornings - just come to Room 2 and you will receive a warm welcome.

Donna McDill



Stewardship Committee: Come Aboard the TBC Steward-Ship

This year, as in the past few years, the Stewardship Committee committed to leading the congregation in making prayerful decisions regarding their financial commitment to God through the ministries of Third Baptist Church, but having a little fun along the way.

Each week of the Stewardship emphasis in Fall 2017, this year's stewardship theme was presented in any number of ways, all with the goal of helping each person make his/her own decision in concert with God regarding their personal financial gifts and offerings for the upcoming year 2018.

You may recall some of the highlights:

- ◆ rolls of candy "Lifesavers" distributed on the first Sunday as congregants entered the sanctuary,
- ◆ hearing *The Love Boat* theme while gazing at the 2017's stewardship logo of a TBC Cruise ship adorned with a cross projected onto the screen,
- ◆ weekly "Stewardship Moments" during worship to encourage everyone's participation in the campaign and reminders of why giving our financial resources is so critical,
- ◆ opportunities each Sunday to come forward and present your personal giving plan card by inserting in the Third Baptist Church model adorning the Communion Table,
- ◆ being gifted with an anchor-shaped ornament with a JESUS emblem by committee member Jerry Campbell as a thank-you for your financial commitment as well as a visual reminder in your home of your decision to give back to God of your bounty through Third Baptist Church.
- ◆ bulletin inserts for parents to use when talking with their children and youth about the importance of worshipping God through the giving of financial resources (thank you, Maria, for preparing this)

And then who could possibly forget Captain Stubbing (Travis) and Cruise Director Extraordinaire Maria as they presented pertinent, albeit hilarious, "dramatic" vignettes to inspire each of us toward being a shareholder in our church's ministries. Truly I never ever EVER thought that I'd witness a Stewardship Campaign where the *Love Boat* theme, a pirate and a cruise director would all converge to honor God!

And last, but never least, and always leaving us wanting more, is our very own TBC Stewardship Band, who once again regaled us with fun and funny songs to invigorate our souls, and cause us to laugh while making serious and ever-so-important decisions.

Our committee's goal was for each person to complete and turn in a planned gift card. While we didn't quite make that goal, what did happen was an overall increase of \$32,770 (pledged and anticipated giving from unpledged sources) for 2018 over figures from 2017. Now that's something to rejoice!

I'd like to finish by thanking the committee members for their amazing, creative ideas and hard work that made this year's campaign so much fun and compelling. Many thanks to Travis Adams, Jerry Campbell, Howard Roos, Linda Roos, Tommy Simons and Maria Stinnett. And a hearty yee-haw to our Stewardship Band members: Fran Blake, Gene Dobbs Bradford, Cynthia Dickinson, Virgil Dickinson, Howard Roos and Linda Roos.

Beverly Odell, Chair



Trustees

Here are some of the highlights from 2017:

- ◆ Bank financials have been moved to Cass Commercial Bank founded in 1905 and specializing in religious and non-profit organizations. Cass Bank's monthly fees are lower, they pay a higher interest rate and offer digital check deposit.
- ◆ Physical changes to Sunday School rooms located in the previous library and reading room. Bookshelves have been removed, walls painted and new carpeting will soon be installed.
- ◆ Adult Wednesday night meal prices set @ \$6.00 per person. Children and youth are offered a more "kid-friendly" meal.
- ◆ Preclarus Mastery Academy charter school continues to rent education space through June 2018.
- ◆ An energy audit was conducted and TBC scored a 94%.
- ◆ Gene Dobbs Bradford will serve on the TBC Foundation.
- ◆ Richard Stevenson will serve on the Des Peres Fund Board.
- ◆ The Des Peres Fund investments were moved from the Missouri Baptist Foundation to CBF Foundation's Higher Ground Investments Fund. Better returns are anticipated from this move and they are aligned with us philosophically.
- ◆ The sale of the East Parking Lot and Garage/Apartments was finalized.
- ◆ Additional ceiling lights have been added to the choir loft.
- ◆ New signage added to the South Parking Lot.
- ◆ Awnings will soon be replacing those currently on Washington Avenue.

Thanks to Kia Moore and Elizabeth Hoffman for serving their terms on the Trustees and welcome to Carla Jackson and Maria Bradford who are joining this year. Also, thanks to Gene Dobbs Bradford, Deanna Davis, Steve Gray and Richard Stevenson who continue to serve.

We are truly blessed. Ken Blanton, Chair



Third Baptist Church Foundation

The Third Baptist Church Foundation (TBCF) ended 2017 with assets of approximately \$5.075 million, which was an increase of approximately \$429,833 from December 2016. The Foundation provided more than \$190,000 in financial support to the church during 2017. A contribution was received from the Missouri Baptist Foundation in October for \$794.80.

The Foundation pledge for 2018 to TBC is \$200,000, which is approximately 4% of Foundation assets. TBCF continues to play a major role in the support of the ministries and capital needs of the Church. The Foundation has provided more than \$1.2 million to the Church over the last five years.

The Foundation has maintained a slight overweight to stocks (60%) that reflects our long-term commitment to growing the portfolio. In 2017, stock market returns were significantly above historical averages. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index increased 21% during 2017. Additionally, stocks from countries outside the United States increased more than 30% on average in 2017. Combined, the equity returns for the Foundation during 2017 were approximately 23%. The returns for bonds and other fixed income securities was approximately 2.1% for 2017 due to persistent low levels of interest rates and the conservative nature of the investments in the Foundation. Overall, the Foundation had a total return of 13.83% for 2017 compared to a 5-year average return of approximately 8.3%.

The Foundation welcomes all gifts to help offset expenditures. Keep in mind that the larger the Foundation assets, the larger the pledge it can make to the Church annual budget. Please consider a gift to the Foundation when developing giving and estate plans.

I'd like to thank the board members for taking time and effort to serve the Foundation and the Church.

Linda Roos, Chair

Foundation Members: Evelyn Kurtz – Vice Chair; Harold Jackson – Treasurer; Jerry Campbell – Secretary; Judy Parham; Beverly O'Dell, Jerry Bryan; Carla Jackson and Gene Bradford

