



Third Base

Vol 90, Issue 9 · September 2026

From the Pastor



August of 2015 Carson, Colton and I visited St. Louis Museum of Art.

I saw two boys pondering effects of light, color and atmosphere of landscapes (in reality, Carson, with hand on chin and Colton's intensity are considering; "when will Dad get us out of here and go to Ted Drews?")

Eleven summers upon arrival at Third are written into our family's story—July 3rd Carson proposed to Izzie by a waterfall in California and 10 days later Colton departed for Marines in Camp Pendleton while Caren and I celebrated 20th wedding anniversary—and final day of pastoring Third is September 27 as I stumble into retirement at age 67.

The common thread:

Done Too Soon—life, career, loved ones by our side—it's a slow train coming for all of us—and though it may run late—arrival time is one-hundred percent.

The departure from Third is a melancholy good-bye—I am not passionate about retirement but realize the tick of the clock and arrival of train is around the bend—and it's best to depart while I can still hit a fastball and clear path for another's vision—guiding Third into 2030's.

And now, my pastoral portrait will hang in Pillsbury Threshold, tied for 4th as longest serving pastor of Third since 1850—too old to overtake Oscar and dreams of statue in Pillsbury Threshold shattered. I suspect decades from now, this period will be known as the Covid years—I may consider wearing mask for pastoral photo.

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*Beloved, consider present landscape as you travel into September 2026:*

From top to bottom, a loving, mature staff, most I've worked alongside 7 to 11 years.

Relational health, blessed with financial stability.

Northside Community School has extended contract.

*continued on next page*

The slate of names, from Executive Committee, Deacons, to selections by Nominating Committee is strong—superb volunteers leading discipleship, missions and education. I cannot recall one mean spirited, unhealthy meeting in my tenure at Third—admittedly, Third was wound a bit tight upon arrival—but bridge of trust was soon built.

The wisdom and management of Third Foundation have increased.

However, do not let past guide you with its invisible hand. The past was real—accomplishment and challenges written into Third's history...and now the book is closed.

October 2026 is first chapter of *new life* together with your new pastor (I am writing this article August 5)... here's conversation with Harrison Gordon after worship, "Harrison, as I live and breathe, I understand you are on Third's search committee, here's my resume." Without missing a beat and maintaining "serious face" he replied, "No need, you're too old."

Beloved, embrace your new Shepherd and family. Celebrate life together and cultivate fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness, built on foundation of Benediction shared often during our time together:

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything through prayer, supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests unto God, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

Farewell, my dear church family,  
Tommy

### Sending Notes of Care:

Colton Simons can receive letters while at bootcamp, to this address:

Colton Simons  
2<sup>nd</sup> RTBN Fox Co PLT 2135  
36001 Midway Ave  
San Diego, CA 92140-5530



Third's once-a-month Saturday Food Pantry serves a great – and growing - need in our community.

Contribute food, cash, or your time in volunteer hours, for the worthy cause! (Teens can count this towards community service...)

Item donations are great and will be gratefully received and distributed, including packaged food, fresh produce, drinks, or hygiene items. Of particular assistance: hearty soups, and sauce with meat (such as Chef Boyardee) - cans or factory-sealed packets.

Please connect with Pastor Drew or Monica McDaniel-Collins about where to drop off donations.



# Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families



I love this picture. I look at it often. It was taken in mid-May as some of our youth families celebrated the end of the school year in Tower Grove Park. Folks in this picture have since graduated, entered boot camp, entered high school, started a senior year, even begin kindergarten next week, I think of those who were away physically from our night in the park but not ever in our hearts and minds.



I love this picture. I look at it often. It was taken during senior high camp—we're missing a camper or two. One thing I've learned at student events at Third: it is a miracle to get a picture with every participant!

These two events, one in May, one in July feel years ago now. In between some of went to Colorado for an American Baptist high school retreat, worked at theater and writing camps, worked jobs, preached first sermons.

Since then, we've gone to a Cardinals game, started school, and returned to Wednesday night activities. The thread that connects and binds is the mysteriously divine God who brings us together, who keeps us together, and who walks behind, beside, and before us. Working with Third's students is an exercise in eavesdropping on holy moments and I'm so grateful, Church, to get to be a part of this.

Peace and love,  
Drew

# *Third Baptist Church & Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund*

## Grant opportunity for service in the city

Does your organization serve in Saint Louis City and have a funding need for an initiative?

- Simple Application Process - due **October 30, 2026**
- Opportunity to tell your organization's mission/story
- Explain your specific need and hopes for the grant
- Grants that meet criteria will be awarded based on available funds during the cycle
- Applications will be reviewed by the Urban Ministries Board to assess financial need and alignment with the mission of Third Baptist Church and Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund

Find out more here:

<https://third-baptist.org/missions/community/des-peres-fund>

To request an application: e-mail Dani at  
[phillipsedanielle@gmail.com](mailto:phillipsedanielle@gmail.com)

## Mission Focus September 2026: The Christmas Child (CAC) Project



### Christmas for CAC In 2025

23 youngsters in East St. Louis had a brighter Christmas in 2025, provided by members within our congregation.

Thank you, TBC!

The Christian Activity Center (CAC) in East St. Louis, has grown from its humble beginnings. Starting with 13 teens in 1989 they have grown to serving 450+ children and youth ages 5-18 years. Over that time the mission has transitioned from “saving lives” to a mission of changing lives.

Their website provides amazing statistics showing their progress. Please visit:

<https://www.cacesl.org/about>

Providing Christmas for a child at CAC ensures that kids in East St. Louis wake up full of joy on Christmas morning! You get to play "Santa" by either shopping and providing wrapped gifts, or by donating \$175 to have a CAC representative shop for a child on your behalf.

Look for names and Christmas wish lists in the next couple months.

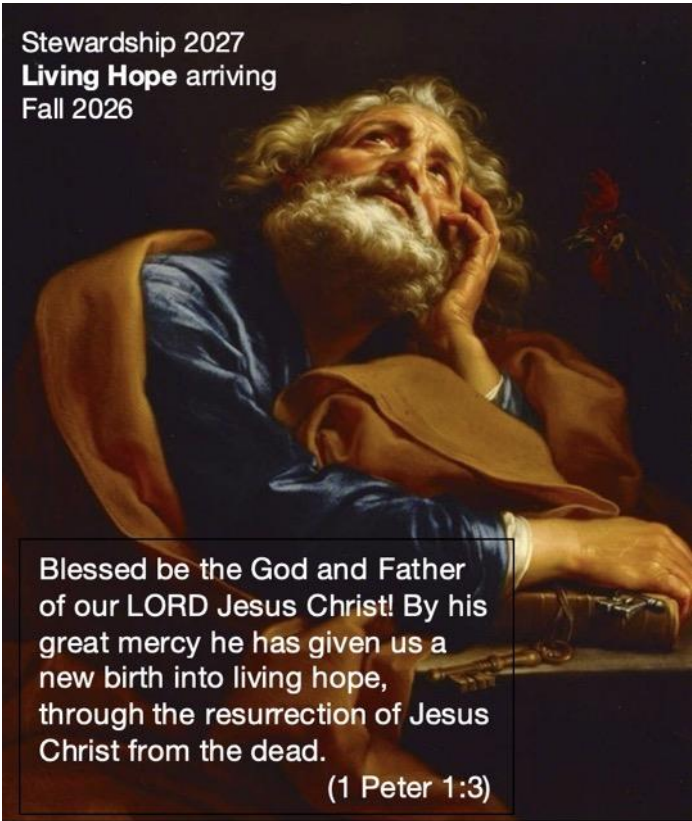
Options for giving:

- (1) **Shop** for a child. A child's wish list will be provided to individuals or groups that choose to shop for a child. CAC estimates \$175 per child.
- (2) **Donate** Any donations made to World Missions during the month of October, unless otherwise designated, will be used to purchase gifts for CAC Christmas Child participants. The Missions Team will shop.



Peggy Pittenger,  
Missions Chair

Stewardship 2027  
**Living Hope** arriving  
Fall 2026



Blessed be the God and Father  
of our LORD Jesus Christ! By his  
great mercy he has given us a  
new birth into living hope,  
through the resurrection of Jesus  
Christ from the dead.

(1 Peter 1:3)



## MORE THAN BIBLE STUDY

When Wayfarers began almost two and a half years ago, we assumed it would be a time of Bible study and reflection. And it has been.

As we like to think, we have been "swimming" in the Scriptures, considering various applications of the Bible in

The result has been rich and passionate conversations. But there has been more.

Along the way we have become community. We have learned to hold hands together not just over the Bible passages, but also over our common and personal concerns. We have learned about each other. We have shared with each other. We have prayed for each other.

Your life cannot help but grow deeper when that happens.

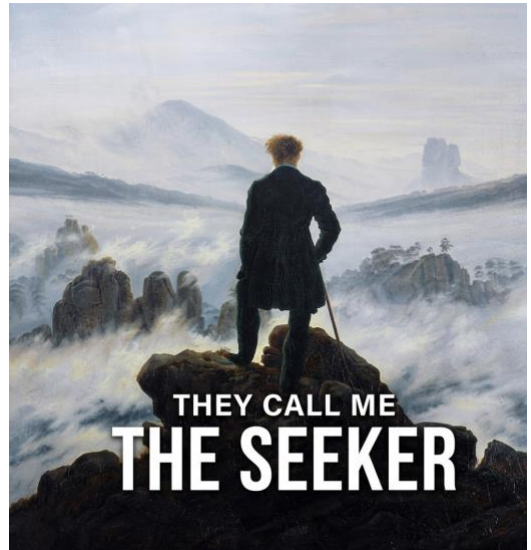
Which is why we would like to invite you to be a part. If you are not in Bible study or community on Sunday mornings, you are welcome to join us at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Email us at <drstevedawn50@att.net> and we'll send you a zoom invite.

As they said about school children, no one should be left behind. Same goes here.

Steve and Dawn Phillips

## Welcome New Member

You probably recognize her face, but officially, please offer a warm welcome to Pamela Calvert!



Third Baptist Podcast featuring conversations with similar and competing world views, episodes available now at [this link](#).

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to...*

- 01 🎁 Demetria Bryant Austin
- 04 🎁 Danté Clay
- 08 🎁 Danny Lawrence
- 11 🎁 André McDaniel
- 14 🎁 Lera Bryant
- 17 🎁 Willard Swyers &  
Dani Phillips &  
Harrison Gordon
- 22 🎁 Demetrius Bryant
- 27 🎁 Portia Nartey
- 30 🎁 Mary Wainwright



Listen in to Third's  
other Podcasts  
[here](#):

at The Lively Table:

- *Justice and Mercy* - with Jerry Bryan, weekly on Sundays
- *At the Movies* – with Ashleigh and Aaron



# Third Baptist Church

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**St. Louis, MO 63103**

**Office: 314-533-7340**

**Third-baptist.org**

We'd love to connect with you!



[third-baptist.org/guest](http://third-baptist.org/guest)

## Third Baptist Church Staff

**Dr. Philip Barnes**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Lansin Lim Kimler**  
PIANIST

**Kevin Chunko**  
ORGANIST & MEDIA DIRECTOR

**Dr. Tommy Simons**  
PASTOR

**Rev. Drew Phillips**  
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE

**Ella Banks**  
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASST.

**Tom Kurtz**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**Isabel Moreno**  
FINANCE MANAGER

**Tim Ahern**  
FACILITIES MANAGER