



Third Base

Vol 88, Issue 9 · September 2024

From the Pastor

This morning is the first day in 17 years one of our boys are not riding bus or driven to school. Carson continues education in Lake Tahoe and Colton received driver's license.

And 1,000 children in Saint Louis began first day of school with a bit of a problem: Saint Louis Public School Administrators have not solved transportation issues.

The previous contract with bus company was terminated and other companies "pulled out" at the last moment.

Saint Louis, as a resident of the city, are we so devoid of brain power, we could not arrive at a solution?

World renowned universities, Forbes 500 companies and captains of industry—and Saint Louis cannot solve a bus transportation issue—which involves our *children*?

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Are we unable to find someone to lead Saint Louis Public Schools, within our community—was there not one person with ties to Saint Louis, with deep understanding of social and political dynamics to lead the way?

Day one, when issue with bus contract was at an impasse should have been a five alarm, all hands-on deck crisis.

What was the solution?

Imagine you receive following information as a single parent with three children. Your child will not receive transportation on traditional yellow school bus...



However, your 13 year-old child can be picked up by an uber, taxi, or you'll receive bus pass.

How could adults, sitting in a board room, leave that meeting, believing this was any sort of solution.

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Imagine you're considering moving to Saint Louis City and transferring business, and you're reading Saint Louis Dispatch online—above the fold for several days—headlines read, "We can't figure out a way to pick up children; transport to school; and return home."

Here's some headlines you'll never read:

O'Fallon School District Unable to Transport Students for New School Year

Cardinals Game Cancelled Due to Lack of Public Transportation

High School Football Playoff Game Cancelled Due to Contract Dispute with Bus Company

or:

*Saint Louis Private Schools in Crisis:
Contract Disputes At Continued Impasse
with Bus Company*

This is unconscionable.

Imagine you're 13 years old and dealing with enough angst, your mom and dad are working, and you're sitting on a street corner waiting for a bus that will never arrive or maybe an alternative of a taxi, uber or navigating public transportation.

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Saint Louis Public Schools had no other item, more important on their agenda, than finding solution to this problem—instead of hiring consultants and cronies from Seattle and other areas of the country.

I arrived in Saint Louis 9 years ago this week. And Saint Louis is blessed with passionate speakers and slogans directed toward communicating hope to our children.

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Let's pause there a moment.

Do we really care, or are children being used by those in power as political pawns and props? I'm just asking for a friend.

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And yes, I'll go there: Saint Louis Public Schools are 90 percent black.

If Saint Louis Public Schools were 90 percent white, would this issue ever get to the point, that 1,000 white children could not find a way to school.

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"Yes, but..."

I don't want to hear any excuse after "but."

For the amount of taxes residents pay in Saint Louis, citizens should expect and deserve basic services, including solving issues of *transporting children to school*.

This is a red line. Get it done. If administrators can't figure it out, call creative businessman and community leaders to assist.

Proverbs says:

*Speak up for those who cannot speak
for themselves, for the rights of all who
are destitute.*

*Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and the
needy.*

My hope and prayer is that around time you read this article, it is out of date and problem is solved and you can cast aside - and mutter "what a blowhard, lighten up."

I got it.

But before dismissing...take a moment...pause...

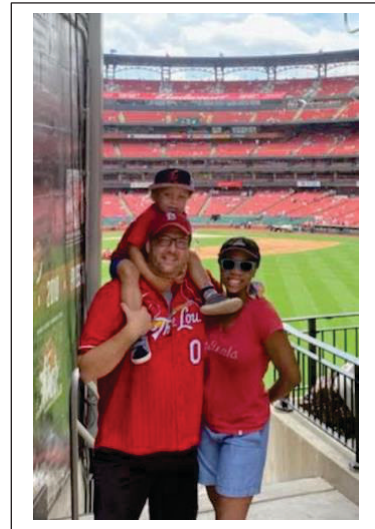
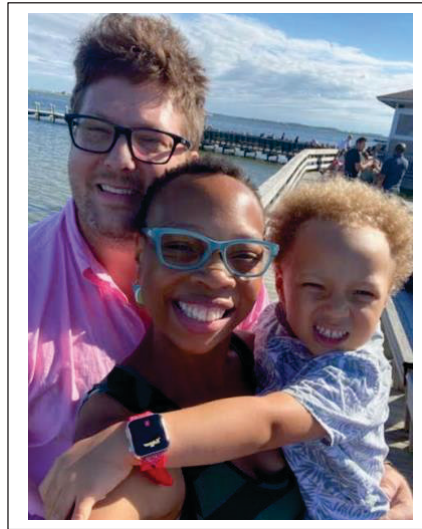
What if this were my child?

Beloved, you need to choose carefully, but there are times to turn a few tables over in the temple.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

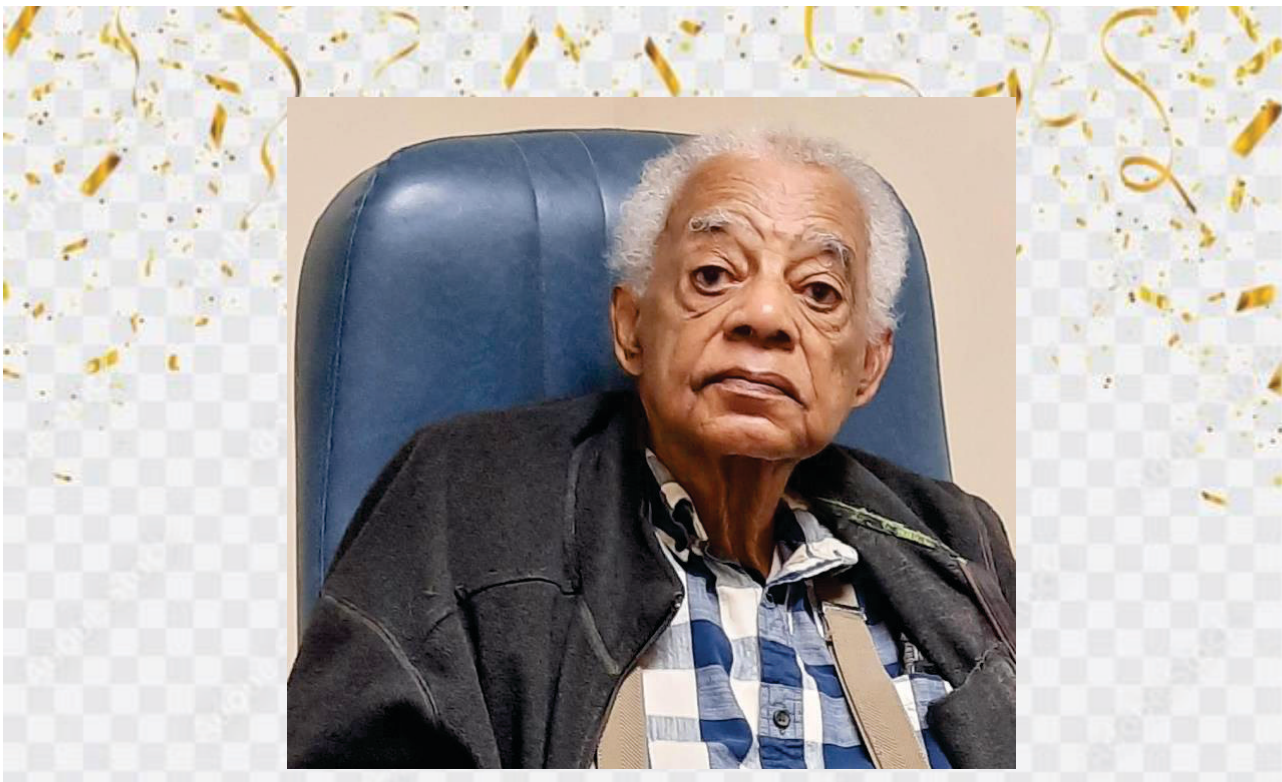
**Third Celebrates
Drew, Dani, and
Julius'
Fifth Anniversary**

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Presentation in
Morning Worship on
September 8th ~
Fellowship to follow
in Pillsbury Threshold**



*Drew, Dani, and Julius have moved into new home!
To participate in 5th anniversary, please bring gift cards or housewarming gifts
and place in basket located in Pillsbury Threshold
on Sunday, September 8*

**Third will celebrate Luther Jackson's 90th Birthday on
Sunday, September 29th!
Presentation and Blessing in morning worship ~
Fellowship in Luther's honor to follow in Pillsbury Threshold**



Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Friends, you will want to make sure you are present for worship Sunday, September 8th, as our youth will lead the service. They have been working hard on readings, prayers, and sharing from summer camp experiences. I know you will be blessed by their efforts and worship leadership.

On August 20th, Sharon Erdani and Drew Phillips were at SLU's Campus Ministry fair to welcome incoming students with snacks and TBC merch. Friends, as college students return to and enter our space, some for the first time, remember them in your prayers and by your acts of kindness and hospitality.

On August 25th we promoted Jordan Huddelin who has started the first grade!

Below are photos from August 28th Wednesday night fellowship: prayer time after games and a special meal provided by friends of the Hunsakers.

Upcoming:

September 18th the youth will meet for dinner and youth group at the usual time but at Dani, Drew, and Julius's new house.



Missions Moment: Dan and Sarah Chetti

Our September Missions Focus lands us in the Middle East. Dan and Sarah Chetti have ministered in Lebanon for many years. Dan teaches at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary which is part of the greater Baptist movement in the Arab world called THIMAR – LESED (THIMAR means “fruit” in Arabic; LESED: Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development).



Please enjoy this article by Nabil Costa, CEO:

The Lebanese and Middle Eastern context is a highly religious one where religion is closely knit with identity. The challenge, however, is when religious affiliation becomes the only form of identity and unites people of the same faith against others of a different faith. This is when religion, which is meant to bring out the best in people, becomes divisive and a source of much pain and suffering, which is the case in many countries and communities today. Yet is it not amidst such darkness that our light should shine brighter?

As THIMAR-LESED, our faith-inspired values exhort us to stand by our brothers and sisters in humanity, regardless of who they are, and to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” and to “defend the rights” of the vulnerable (Proverbs 31:8-9). We communicate our faith and values by addressing the basic needs of vulnerable families in a manner that preserves their dignity; by reducing the future vulnerability of students with learning difficulties; in our commitment to growing a culture of acceptance and respect for differences; and in raising socially responsible leaders who take an active role towards the common good.

Today, it is estimated that one in three people is a refugee – Syrian, Iraqi, Palestinian or other. While THIMAR-LESED’s community development and relief arm, MERATH (Middle East Revive And Thrive), takes the lead on our humanitarian response to the Syria crisis, the complexity of the needs have led THIMAR-LESED’s other ministries to get involved too, each within its own area of focus such as trauma support; assessments and personalized interventions for children at social, emotional, and/or academic risks; activities for children; producing accessible resources that carry a message of hope and encouragement... In parallel, we have new programs that further expand our impact in the community ranging from e-learning, online training, and working with public schools, to education for former street children.

We count on your prayers and support. [You can partner with us](#) on a variety of projects that are centered around three main areas of focus: equipping the local church and community-based organizations, education for all, and community development and relief as an expression of the practical love of Christ to the vulnerable and the marginalized in our midst. Contact us for more information. Thank you! (From: <https://www.thimar.org/our-story/>)

For more information and resources about these ministries:

- [Video](#): Together We Are Helping Transform the Arab World
- International Ministries site [Enduring Love](#), with more information about the ministries the Chettis support
- Insaaf Migrant Workers Center Group [recent newsletter](#)

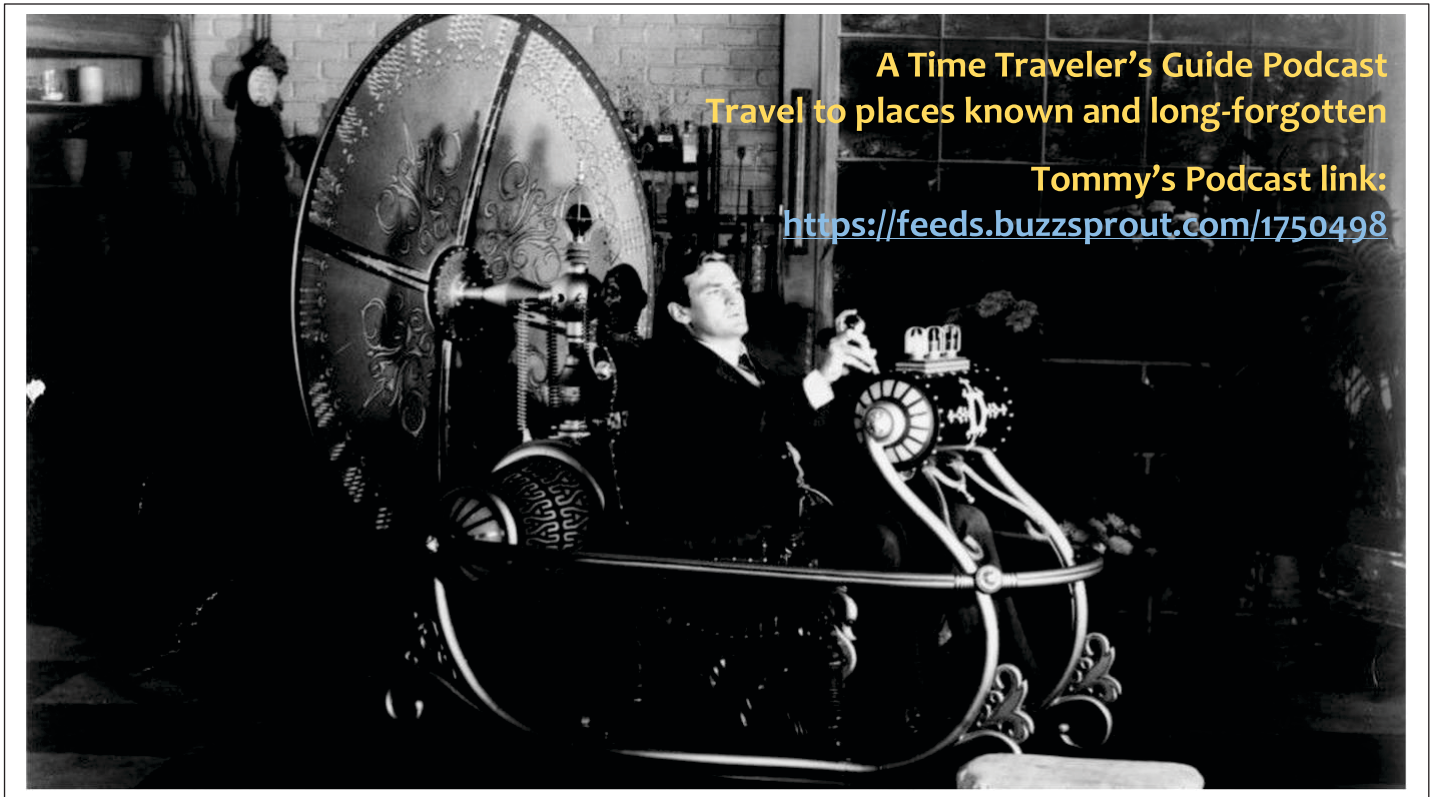




Peggy Pittenger and Drew Phillips (representing the Missions committee) took winter coats to the Christian Activity Center on August 26th



Here's Peggy with one of the staff, who Drew knew while he worked with the CAC – and she was in Elementary School!



A Time Traveler's Guide Podcast
Travel to places known and long-forgotten

Tommy's Podcast link:

<https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1750498>

Adult Discipleship



Wednesdays in September:

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

Verse by verse study, led by Dr. Tommy Simons

5:15 p.m. Dinner

(sign up for dinner reservations at tsimons@third-baptist.org)

5:45 p.m. Discipleship study

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 01 🎁 Demetria Bryant Austin
- 03 🎁 Lela Jones
- 08 🎁 Danny Lawrence
- 11 🎁 Andre McDaniel
- 12 🎁 Juan Moore
- 14 🎁 Lera Bryant
- 17 🎁 Willard Swyers &
Dani Phillips &
Harrison Gordon
- 22 🎁 Demetrius Bryant
- 24 🎁 Judy Vansickle
- 27 🎁 Portia Nartey
- 30 🎁 Mary Wainright

Note Your Calendar... September 22nd:



Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga will be visiting Third Baptist

All Sunday School classes will meet in the Children's Dept at 9:45 a.m. on this Sunday, for coffee, donuts, and Fellowship time with our guests.

<https://internationalministries.org/author/kn-mabudiga/>





Third Baptist Church

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Third-baptist.org

We'd love to connect with you!



third-baptist.org/guest

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Ella Banks
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASST.

Brent Johnson
ORGANIST

Lansin Lim Kimler
PIANIST

Sally Stevenson
PARISH NURSE

Tom Kurtz
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Ronnie Winthrop
FACILITIES MANAGER

Timothy Harrison
CUSTODIAN