



Third Base

Vol 90, Issue 6 · June 2026

From the Pastor



Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the Furnace, by Gustave Doré

I was Licensed to the ministry July 10, 1977, at Braeburn Valley Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

Licensing is preliminary recognition that church body, pastor or candidate senses call to Gospel Ministry through professional role in the local church—a step before full ordination.

I chose to preach on Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego 49 years ago this summer. I used different colors on “manuscript” for various emphasis, and asterisks (this is important!).

I butchered the sermon with a few idiotic, but well-intentioned illustrations, along with a nugget of truth here and there. As a nod to my grandfather (mastery and love of Greek, student under A.T. Robertson at Southern Seminary),

I unpacked Greek term in the text, “and in the original Greek it says...” After service a kind soul mentioned my text was in Old Testament; therefore, written in Hebrew not Greek. Well, good to know...!

But my forever memory is looking from pulpit to faces of a caring community cheering me on, engaging with “sermon” with attention and participation as I rumbled and stumbled to conclusion.

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Gabe Thiems is licensed to the ministry Sunday, June 28 during worship service at Third Baptist Church and as part of licensing process will preach sermon—and receive affirmation and blessing from his beloved community.

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Gabe will also serve as summer pastoral intern from June to early August—assisting with outreach and in reach, podcast, sermon assistance, communion, worship leadership, staff meetings and pastoral care.

Please circle on your calendar Sunday, June 28, Morning Worship at 11am. This young man, as an offering to our congregation and God, will preach his first sermon, and you are participants of a “forever memory” in Gabe’s journey.

To that end, please uplift in prayer Rev. Drew Phillips, Natalie Thiems, and other enlisted sponsors—who are planning three major camps in Colorado and Lake Springfield.

God has touched lives of teenagers during special moments of retreat and focusing on the Gospel Story.

And my prayer is for God to write several “Gabes” into story of Third Baptist Church. I believe toward conclusion of summer 2026 Third will rejoice from stories of hope and redemption from our student ministry.

And Gabe...some free advice...if you want to unpack Greek: New Testament... Hebrew: Old Testament. You’re welcome.

Let us continue to care, love and support one another and never take for granted God’s blessing of relational health at this special part of the world at Grand and Washington.

Blessings all,  
Tommy

**Sunday morning Extended Session  
(childcare during worship hour)  
Volunteers Needed**

Come play with the kids a few times a year!  
Contact Drew Phillips or Ella Banks for more information.



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

**CELEBRATING OUR 2026 GRADUATES! Wishing them a BIG Congratulations and good luck in their goals.**

In order of photos:

**Colton Simons**, Lutheran South: enlisted for US Marine Corps (boot camp in July)

**Dante Clay**, Gateway High School: going on to St. Louis Community College-Welding

**Alex Brooks**, John Burroughs: going on to Swarthmore-Architecture

**Manassa Tallapaka**-(not pictured): received Graduate Degree AI from SLU

**Shalem Kodali** (pictured): received Masters in Computer Information and Systems from SLU



Some of our children enjoyed a Sunday afternoon at the Zoo

Thank you, Ella Banks, Vaness Gibson, Lakisha Johnson, and Dani Phillips for chaperoning!



## SUMMER CAMP SIGN-UPS!

- **JUNIOR HIGH**, for those entering 6th - 9th grades  
July 5-11: <https://pci.jotform.com/form/260255379463160>
- **SENIOR HIGH**, for those entering 10th - 12th grades  
July 12-18: <https://pci.jotform.com/form/260045037589157>

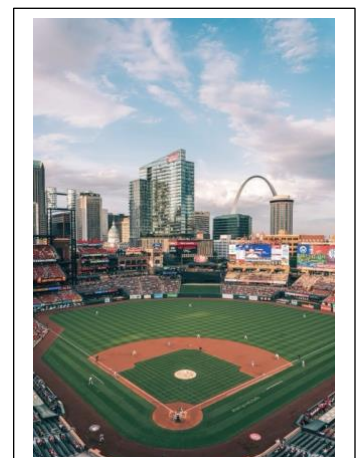
## CARDINALS GAME FOR FAMILIES

Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:45 p.m.

Please RSVP with Drew:

[dphillips@third-baptist.org](mailto:dphillips@third-baptist.org)

Tickets will be sent electronically through the MLB BALLPARK app.



# Highlights from the Carol Fleming Pillsbury Memorial Annual Tea ~ April 11th

Hat contest winner (second from left) and entourage!



A well-decorated space thanks to Tea volunteers and Take Two productions stage setting:



## Mission Focus June 2026: Melanie Baggao



Melanie Baggao serves as the Director of INSAAF - Insaaf is a middle eastern term meaning justice or equity. The organization is described as: Justice and Compassion, a ministry serving migrant domestic workers (MDWs). Sarah Chetti founded INSAAF after visiting domestic workers who were in jail. Domestic workers which typically come from Africa or South/Southeastern Asia travel at great expense to Lebanon in hopes of finding work. Once there, they find they are marginalized by the employers, local communities and Lebanese government. Typically, their papers - any form of identification as passports - are taken by their employer and returned only at great cost. Without work and left with no papers and no income, the women are often jailed without hope of repatriation.

Following Sarah's retirement, Melanie became the Director. Over the years, INSAAF has expanded their ministry to care for migrant workers in the wider community as well as local jails. Melanie connects with local partners to manage an integrated care center that provides for the physical, professional and spiritual needs of the MDWs. Services at the center include:

- a safe space
- spiritual support
- Bible studies
- medical care
- help with food insecurity
- computer classes
- entrepreneurial skills classes
- language courses
- repatriation
- holiday Parties (Christmas for Children)
- and much more

Melanie also teaches English at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. With the Chetti's retirement, your Mission Team is shifting our support to Melanie to continue our strong connections with the middle east that began in 1893 with Said Jureidini.

To learn more visit: <https://www.insaafb.org/news>. Scroll through images and the "Read More" options to discover stories of the women being helped.

**AND LATE BREAKING NEWS!** Melanie will be in the US later this year and a September visit is being scheduled. Stay tuned for more details.

Peggy Pittenger  
Missions Chair



**Join us for a special concert on Sunday, May 31st**

**6 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

**with Ice Cream Fellowship to follow**



### We Didn't Expect It

Before the pandemic and the accompanying lock-down become distant memories, please hear this thought.

In that arid and frustrating time new relationships still managed to find their way into our lives.

Previously had you told us we would find community with people we seldom or, even never, actually see in person by way of zoom calls, we would have dismissed the idea. In all likelihood, we would not have even known what Zoom calls were.

Yet our Sunday morning Wayfarers gathering is proof that community can happen even when those gathering do so in front of computer screens. Which is just another reason we want to invite you who may not be able to make it to the TBC building or your friends to join us.

We're about Bible study. We're about relationships, and we're about community. We'd be delighted to spend time with you. Just e-mail us at <drstevédawn50@att.net> for an invitation.

Steve and Dawn

# Adult Discipleship

Adult and Youth Discipleship is on hiatus for the summer, starting June 10th - returning August 12th

Special Sunday Morning Event:

Sunday, June 28th:

Gabe Thiems ~ *License to Gospel Ministry*  
as part of Morning Worship at 11 a.m.



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to...*

- 03 🎁 Susan Seewoster
- 06 🎁 Mireille Bradford
- 08 🎁 Christopher Lee
- 09 🎁 Addison Hulett
- 18 🎁 Eunsil Stevenson
- 19 🎁 Drew Phillips
- 23 🎁 Joseph Agor
- 24 🎁 Lydia Thiems
- 25 🎁 Fran Blake
- 27 🎁 Monica O'Dell
- 28 🎁 Pat Stevens
- 29 🎁 Deanna Davis



Listen in to Third's Podcasts:

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

You are invited to journey three paths:

- *Justice and Mercy - with Jerry Bryan*  
– weekly on Sundays
- *Finishing Well – Pastor Tommy*
- *At the Movies – with Ashleigh and Aaron*



# Third Baptist Church

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**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

**Brent Johnson**  
ORGANIST

**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

**Ronnie Winthrop**  
FACILITIES MANAGER