



Third Base

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From the Pastor

Balthassar Hubmaier's *Concerning Heretics and Those Who Burn Them*, written in 1524, was one of the earliest documents calling for religious liberty—a plea to Catholics and Protestants: “burning heretics at the stake is not a Christian principle.”

The Catholic Church and Magisterial Reformers (Luther, Calvin and Zwingli) agreed on necessity of infant baptism—a practice uniting church and state—preserving cultural identity.

The first quarter of 16th century produced a “liberal wing” of Protestant Reformation.

The liberal wing consisted of Anabaptists and Spiritualists, and as with any movement, there was profound heresy and abuse (Google the Munster Rebellion).

However, among this group arose educated theologians, gifted with charisma and the art of preaching. The best early apologist for this liberal wing was Balthassar Hubmaier.

Hubmaier was educated under tutelage of Dr. John Eck—best known for debating Martin Luther at Leipzig. And Hubmaier rose in prominence—endorsed by one of the finest Catholic theologians of the 16th century.

He became known as an effective preacher and was called to serve The Cathedral at Regensburg. Upon his arrival the city was in process of excommunicating Jews from the city. Hubmaier supported their expulsion and his popularity rose and attendance grew. However, the local Dominican Monastery became jealous of his popularity— and Hubmaier resigned and accepted call as chief preacher at a small church on the Rhine River—Waldshut.

The course of his life changed when he began an intense study of Paul's letters—along with meeting Erasmus and respected Anabaptist leaders. From this experience, Hubmaier's preaching focused on the New Testament and the church in Waldshut flourished to the point that Regensburg asked him to return, and he accepted.

However, the Cathedral noticed a difference in Hubmaier's style of preaching—evangelical in nature. “I am captured by the Word of God.”

The congregation was uneasy— Hubmaier was mirroring the style and teachings of *liberal wing of Protestant Reformation*. Therefore, he was asked to return to his former position at Waldshut.

In May of 1524, Hubmaier hosted a disputation for local ministers, where the following was up for discussion:

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- Sermons should be preached in the language of people you serve.
- The Mass is a remembrance—the body and wine is not transferred to Jesus' actual body and blood.
- Priority of love over religious tradition
- Hubmaier was also leaning into treacherous waters, replacing infant baptism with the believers baptism (one receives baptism after confessing faith in Christ). And a repudiation of infant baptism was a traitorous offense to the State.

Ferdinand I insisted the Waldshut city council fire Hubmaier and they refused. But Hubmaier decided to leave his beloved Waldshut out of love for the people—fearing they would suffer under the invasion of Austrian troops.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, traveled to Switzerland and, while in exile, he wrote *Concerning Heretics and Those Who Burn Them*.

Hubmaier eventually returned to Waldshut and received a hero's welcome. Easter 1525 (500 years ago)—Hubmaier facilitated believers baptism, pouring water over 300 candidates from a milk pail.

1525 was a firestorm in western Europe with the Reformation and horrific Peasant's War. Ferdinand I was in no mood for any rebellion, and Hubmaier and Elizabeth left Waldshut again in December 1525.

He traveled to Zurich—both he and his wife were arrested and to save his life—agreed to recant in local church with Zwingli and city council present.

Hubmaier stood behind the pulpit and said, *Oh, what anguish and travail I have suffered this night over the statements which I myself have made...So I say here and I say now, I can and I will not recant.* And he preached a sermon on the believers baptism. He was accused of demon possession.

Both he and Elizabeth were arrested and placed in prison at Wallenberg.

Hubmaier, while in prison, wrote 12 *Articles of Christian Belief*—Salvation by faith, not through sacraments, baptism after confession of faith, and Lord's Supper as memorial.

Hubmaier was tortured and placed on a rack. He recanted and slipped out of the city and headed for Nikolsburg, under the jurisdiction of Moravians.

Hubmaier flourished, publishing and preaching the Gospel. He wrote *On the Christian Ban* condemning persecution of Jews.

But Moravia was placed under the jurisdiction of Ferdinand I in 1527. Both he and Elizabeth were arrested and moved to prison in lower Austria.

After one year, Balthasar and Elizabeth were transferred to Vienna. He was tortured on the rack but did not recant—and the one who introduced religious liberty—condemning burning heretics—was burned at the stake as Elizabeth watched—a few days later Elizabeth was sentenced to death by drowning.

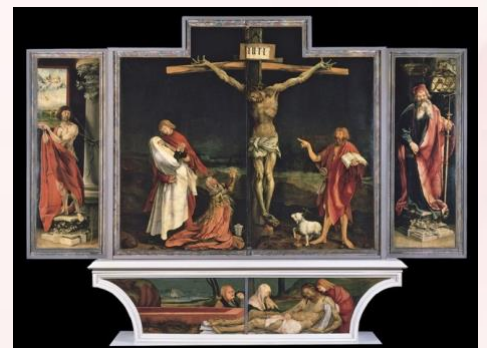
Hubmaier's writings were placed on a list of prohibited books and given to the Spanish Inquisition. How could Hubmaier have known? His theological acumen and apologetics are resources for a small sect of Christians in the next century, *birthed from liberal wing of English Reformation*—Baptists.

Balthassar Hubmaier and Elizabeth Hubmaier – names worth our remembrance and honor.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

**Worship Theme
through June 1st:**

***The Redemption
of the World***



Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

SAVE THE DATES! Lake Springfield Baptist Summer Camps – signup links here:

May 14-17: College Student Camp

<https://www.jotform.com/250405952389160>

June 18-21: Everyone Grades 6-12: Summer Surge (a mini-camp directed by Natalie Thiems)

<https://form.jotform.com/250406489356160>

July 6-12: Junior High Summer Camp Grades 6-8

<https://form.jotform.com/242066892795168>

July 13-19: Senior High Camp Grades 9-12

<https://form.jotform.com/250374907188162>

LSBC Work Day: May 27th!
See Drew for more details.

The Youth had a great Easter weekend lock-in, then spent the following Saturday morning serving breakfast to food pantry guests:



Intergenerational Wednesday night meal photos and communion during Holy Week:



Easter
Children's time
and
Worship service



Carol Fleming Pillsbury Memorial Tea – April 5, 2025



Mission Focus: Meet Jana Lee

With the retirement of our missionaries, Mary Van Rheen and Keith Holmes, the Missions Team plans to adopt Jana as one of “our” missionaries. Having been recently commissioned, she is still building support for her ministry.

In 2023, Jana Lee was commissioned as a long-term Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) field personnel appointed to serve in Larnaca, Cyprus, where she will work closely with All4Aid, a CBF Global Missions collaborator. Jana has roots in South Dakota and Texas and was educated at the University of Texas and the University of Arizona. She had previously worked with global organizations as UNICEF and the Peace Corps.



Cyprus sits in the Mediterranean Sea, and if you do a web search the travel industry will entice you to visit as it is a beautiful sunny island with a rich history and many beautiful beaches and historical sites. As with so many locations there are also many challenges. In recent history, it realized independence from the United Kingdom in 1960, then differences arose between those of Greek origin and others of Turkish origin. The result has been a division of Turkish in the north and Greeks in the south with a “Green Line” patrolled by the UN.

While a beautiful country in the middle of the Mediterranean, it also becomes a central location for immigrants from many nations. Wars in the middle east sparked a spike in immigration. The influx of so many seeking asylum places a heavy burden on the country. In the past year Jana has been busy working with immigrants. What follows is her account.

Health for women and girls: “On May 28th, I hosted a World Menstrual Hygiene Day Event partnering with All4AID. We had multiple ‘booths’ talking about menstrual health and hygiene all around the world. We talked about the taboos, myths and misunderstandings surrounding the topic... all who came felt safe and comfortable talking about what can be considered a ‘taboo’ topic. All the asylum seekers and refugees who attended said they loved the event and learned something they had not known.”

Unaccompanied minors: “Within my first few months I met a social worker who worked with unaccompanied minors in a condemned hotel. We found the best way to get into their lives is through an English club. The boys come once a week to learn a few English words and phrases and play UNO. I am happy to hear each week of one of them going to another country in Europe to be with their extended families.”

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Women’s Group at Refugee Camp: “One week we address mental health topics such as anxiety, stress, and general stress about life as a refugee. And the next is about public health topics about birth control methods, menstruation, and clean water... We are working on educating and empowering the women to advocate for themselves while in this uncertain time of transition. I am humbled to be even a small part of their lives.”

Christmas for the children: “This year we collaborated with the local churches in Cyprus to provide money, toys, and stockings for all the children at the refugee camp. We filled all the stockings with handmade items and brand-new toys.” 130 children participated in Christmas. **We look forward to meeting Jana in June, while the CBF assembly is in St. Louis. Please put the assembly dates on your calendar for June 24-26. Look for more information in our Missions email later this month.**



Images of Cyprus
and Jana’s ministry





Seasons of Life

We all experience various seasons of life--good, bad, memorable, forgettable. Recently we have been through such a season. It is one with which some of you will be quite familiar--the season of knee replacement surgery.

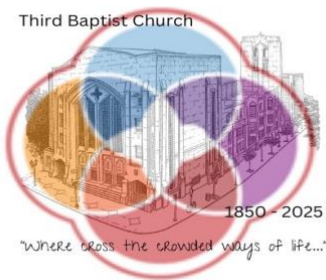
Dawn had her surgery on March 19, spent the following week flat on her back, using a continuous motion machine, escaping that posture only very briefly to use the bathroom and eat meals. It was excruciating.

This was followed by a quite unexpected trip to the emergency room on March 29. Suffice it to say that the medical staff believes her knee is doing well and the ER trip is well and successfully behind her.

But in the midst of all this we missed three Sundays with Wayfarers. Which has caused us to reflect on the times in our lives--seasons, if you will--when we have not been afforded the chance to fellowship and worship and study with fellow believers. It makes us realize how important being together is. Common worship is invaluable. Being with God's people matters immensely.

We are glad to return to the Wayfarers fold. What we hope is that you will take every advantage of being with God's people. It matters.

Steve and Dawn



2025 Anniversary Celebration Calendar

See Tommy for the chance at a \$10 last minute ticket



CHURCH OUTING!
Sunday, May 4th
Cardinals-Mets Baseball
Game, 1:15 p.m.

Sunday, May 4th: 1900-1950

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest Speaker: Rev Adam Banks, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, Ohio, and son of Ira and Ella Banks, members of TBC since 1991.

Sunday, August 17th

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Special guest, Mark Gifford, former TBC church organist (currently Director of Music and Organist for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois).

CONCERT 1 P.M.

Sunday, September 7th: 1950-2000

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. John F. Anderson, Senior Pastor from 1990-2000

All church picnic in Johnson Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Sunday, November 9th

Speaker: Dr. Richard Hipps, pastor, author and missionary to Brazil—celebrating Third's mission culture since its foundation.

Missions Fair for All - 10 a.m. in the Children's Department

Saturday, December 6th

Special 175th Anniversary Celebration Gala Luncheon, more details to come.

Sunday, December 7th: 2000-2025

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. Warren J. Hoffman, TBC Senior Pastor from 2005- 2013

Adult Discipleship

Ancient Stones and Brush Strokes

Spiritual formation is discovered through Scripture, enhanced by archeology and art

5:15 p.m. Dinner

5:45 p.m. Discussion and Spiritual Application

sign up for dinner reservations with Tommy at
tsimons@third-baptist.org



The Lively Table is Third's Podcast found at:

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

You are invited to journey three paths:

- *At the Movies with Ashley and Aaron*
- *Justice and Mercy with Jerry Bryan*
- *The Baptists Story continued*

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 02 🎁 Lakisha Johnson
- 03 🎁 Jonathan Watson
- 05 🎁 Tammy Harrison
- 06 🎁 Gary Thompson
- 15 🎁 Stephen Gray &
Craig Robinson &
Mawufemor Amuzu
- 18 🎁 Sally Stevenson
- 19 🎁 Gloria Gordon
- 27 🎁 Julie Bruenger
- 28 🎁 Alisha Alberts

Third's Food Pantry needs you!

Donations of food, toiletries, funds, and your time are always welcome.

Contact Rev. Drew Phillips or Monica McDaniel-Collins for more information, or to donate any of the above.

Find volunteers serving our community on the third Saturday of every month, starting at 8 a.m.

Below: Youth serving breakfast to Food Pantry guests on Easter weekend:



*You are cordially
invited to the
wedding of
Tukhuza & Chidi
on May 24th
at 2 p.m.*





Third Baptist Church

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Third-baptist.org

We'd love to connect with you!



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
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Tom Kurtz
BUSINESS MANAGER

Christine McCarthy
FINANCE

Ronnie Winthrop
FACILITIES MANAGER