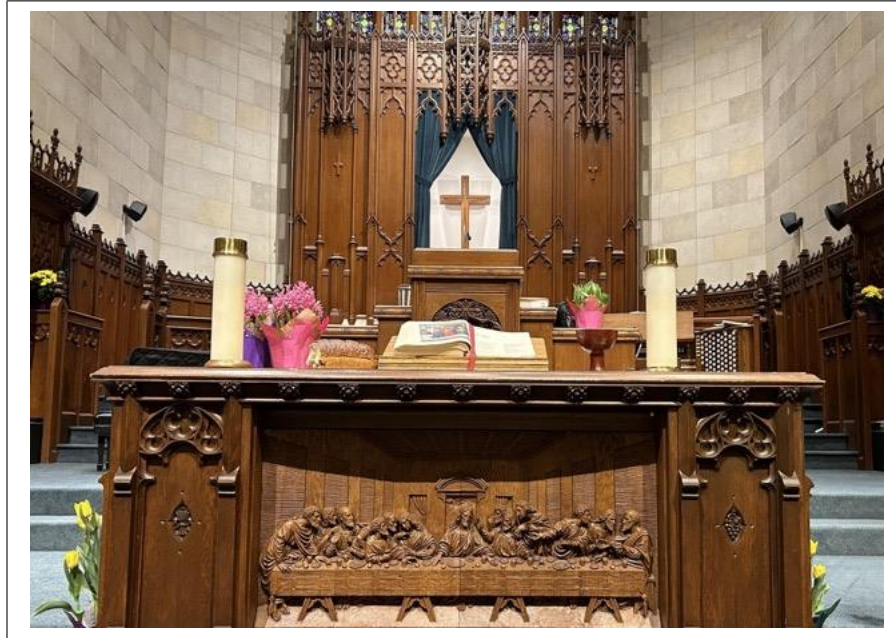




# Third Base

Vol 90, Issue 5 • May 2026



## From the Pastor

*How I leave you is more important than how I found you.*

I am charged to leave well, offering wise road maps as Third continues pilgrimage. Anxiety decreases with clear communication. To that end: Church Council met Sunday, April 19 and here's what you need to know:

The Council, by the time of reading article, has selected pastor search committee. The candidates will be presented at Quarterly Business Meeting following Morning Worship, Sunday May 3rd.

The Search Committee is tasked to select candidate for Pastor and present at called Business Meeting. The vote is secret ballot and prospective pastor must receive 75% of vote.

*I have recommended to Council and with unanimous agreement: **No personnel changes in present staff.** Third is blessed with outstanding pastoral, music, administrative and facility staff—I am blessed to work alongside most from 7 to 11 years and all receive my 100 percent endorsement and recommendation.*

However, when communicating with Tom Kurtz about my retirement, he asked, “Can I retire?”—Tom, according to by-laws— you cannot.

*I am committed to:*

- Regular pace of preaching, teaching, pastoral care and all duties related to Senior Pastor—I will preach most, if not all, Sundays until departure.

*continued on next page*

- Partnering with Third's music team and enlist new organist.
- Assisting Tom in re-organization of Facility Staff with Caren's departure.
- Facilitating 2027 Stewardship Theme and all organizational planning related to pledging 2027 Unified Budget. My final Third Base article (written in August for September issue) will communicate theme and various deadlines.
- Meeting with Deacons, Leading Staff, Council, Exec Committee, Stewardship and Communications throughout summer season.
- Continuing liaison with Northside Community School and ensure extension of lease to July 1, 2028.
- Partnering with Council and replacing members scheduled to roll off Nominating Committee May 1.

*If new pastor is not selected before departure I will:*

- Work with Church Council—enlisting and scheduling preachers until Sunday, October 25.
- Partner with Rob and Tammy Lamb—enlisting Wednesday Night substitute teachers in Rob's absence through Wednesday, October 28.

*Personal Updates:*

My final Sunday is scheduled for August 23 or August 30, to be finalized before summer. Caren and I are moving to Lake Tahoe, California, residing in home Caren purchased 25 years ago and rented for 20 years, since decision to move from Lake Tahoe to Houston and marry me (yeah, I know).

Colton departs for Camp Pendleton, for first phase of Marine Boot Camp, Monday, July 13. I understand parents do not accompany to airport but say a quick good-bye before your child gets on bus and there off and that's that.

Carson is an electrician in serious relationship with Izzie, in medical profession, both living near Reno, Nevada. Caren, Colton and I adore her—I am emailing Beyonce's song to Carson—title begins with *Put* and ends with *It*.

I've received several kind comments—"you look relaxed and happy since retirement." Well, I have inherited my Grandfather's stoicism and uncomfortable revealing deep emotion in public. And I can put on a good act when I need to.

But I am grieving in my own fashion. And it is grief tinged with blessing. To end a professional career after 41 years with 11 years with you beautiful people is a gift beyond measure. Third, believe you are traveling into a new and exciting season of Third's story. And dear ones, each of you play a crucial part in this story:

*Pray* for pastor search committee, staff and open doors for your next shepherd.

*Participate* in worship, discipleship and service opportunities, as staff and church family invite and cultivate new members seeking church home or faith in Christ.

*Prepare* through commitment to spiritual formation, aligning your lifestyle mirroring Christ and cultivating fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness.

Beloved, rest in the LORD. Continue Third's culture of joy and invitations to an open seat at the Lord's Table.

Everything changes. All we know and all we love is but for a season, until all are re-united and Kingdom of God reigns on Earth.

Blessings and Love to All,  
Tommy

# Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! For May and beyond...



## YOUTH GROUP: May 20th

Families are invited to  
Tower Grove Park  
From 5-7 p.m., meals  
provided, come hang out!  
RSVP with Drew!



## CHILDREN AGES NURSERY to FIFTH GRADE:

ZOO TRIP, May 17th after worship

Lunch will be provided

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

## YOUTH CAMP WORK DAY

Thursday May 28TH  
at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp



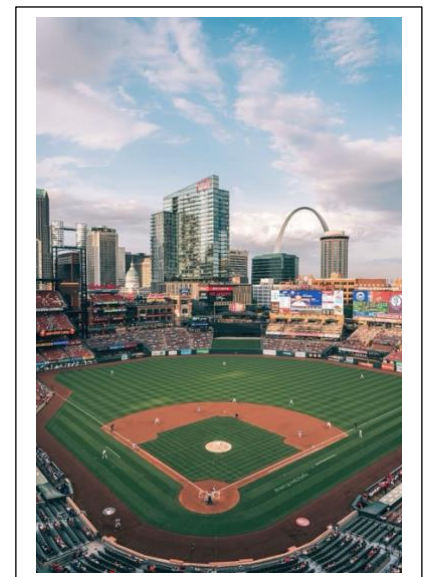
## SUMMER CAMP SIGN-UPS!

- 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>



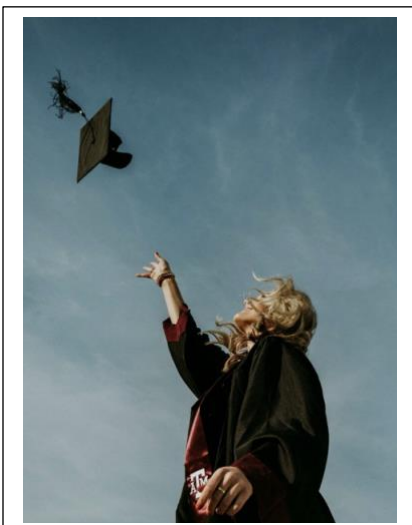
## CARDINALS GAME FOR FAMILIES

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.



## CELEBRATION OF COLLEGE KIDS AND STUDENTS!

SUNDAY, MAY 10TH, in Morning  
Worship

Sunday morning Extended Session  
Volunteers Needed!

Please contact Drew Philips or  
Ella Banks



## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS WELCOME Help Third stock the pantry!

Any and all donations are great and will be gratefully received and distributed!  
Including food, drinks, and 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 leave  
donations.

*A Living Hope Poem series*  
by Candace Thomas

### Rejoice in Suffering

Suffering is all around us—  
In every aspect of our lives—  
Our world suffers,  
Our country suffers,  
Our city suffers,  
Our friends suffer,  
Our enemies suffer,  
We all suffer.  
Through it all,  
God reminds us—  
Rejoice—  
Patiently endure—  
Because of the Living Hope—  
We have in Jesus Christ.

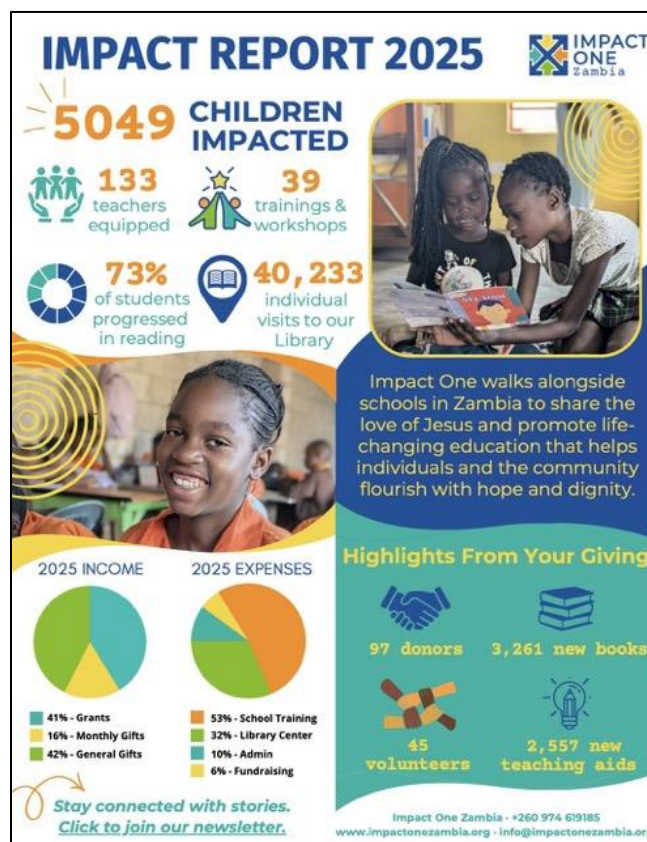
## Mission Focus: May 2026

Last Summer we had the pleasure of a Missionary visit. Whitney Zulu traveled to Zambia as a 19-year-old and was impressed with a serious need. Over the years and with many trips back to Zambia she has created a non-profit to meet those needs. A few facts:

In Zambia today...

- 54.5% of the population lives below the national poverty line.
- The average life expectancy is 64 years.
- 1.2 million people are living with HIV.
- 36% of the country drinks unclean water, causing life-threatening waterborne diseases.
- 35% of children in Zambia experience stunted growth.
- Of 17 million people, nearly 1 million are orphans.

Serving in Lusaka, Zambia, and recognizing the lack of quality education in the country, as a root cause, she has dedicated her life to equipping schools and teachers to meet the needs of the students. As an outgrowth of helping schools a well-run, quality library has been started and serving children as well as adults in the area. Most importantly, she is dedicated to serving Christ and surrounding everything she does, modeling and teaching His love. Time here does not allow discussion of the depth or impact this organization is having. Statistics from 2025:



Please take a few moments to see much more about this ministry:

<https://www.impactonezambia.org/>.

Take a look at the TV monitor in Pillsbury Threshold, featuring more information about Impact One during the month of May.



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*

Welcome New Member to Third's Beloved Community!

Mary Furgerson



#### YES, AND WHAT'S NEXT?

Professor and theological analyst Leonard Sweet says his books, in which he writes liberally, are littered with these three letters, "YBH." He maintains that many authors have very good ideas, but seldom help readers to implement them. Thus, "YBH," or "Yes, but how?"

I wonder if the same could be said of the Christian faith, particularly in light of our recent Easter celebration. Easter has come and Jesus is risen and we have worshiped victoriously, but what have we done next, or as a result? The question might be, "YBWN?" Yes, but what's next?

In light of the cross and resurrection; having professed faith in Jesus; believing in the Savior for all time and eternity--what DO we do next? In Wayfarers we are talking about the mission of the people of God, that is, how we implement what we have come to believe, trusting in Jesus. We hope our conversations are practical.

Here are the texts: Exodus 19:1-6; Isaiah 52:6-12; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:6-11; Acts 10:1-33; Acts 16:6-12; Acts 17:22-34; and I Peter 2:9-12.

That's what we are wrestling with and, as always, you are invited to join us on Sunday at 9:00.

Steve & Dawn

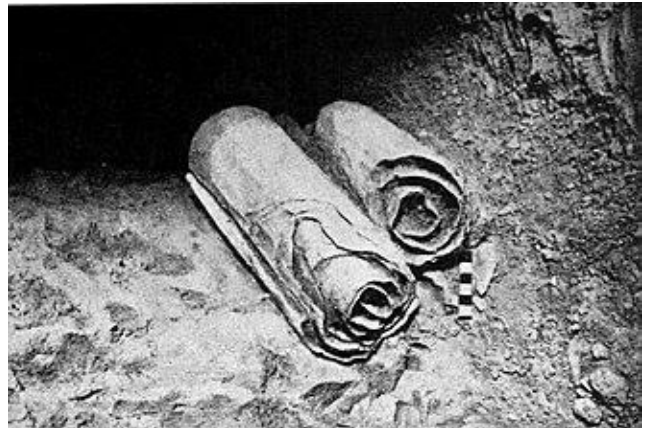
# Adult Discipleship

Adult and Youth Discipleship  
May 6th and 13th  
(Summer break from May 20 to July 1)

*Letters from Babylon*  
Living Hope Discovered from Peter's  
Epistles

5:15 p.m. Dinner  
5:45 p.m. Discipleship discussions

Sign up for dinner reservations with Pastor  
Tommy:  
[tsimons@third-baptist.org](mailto:tsimons@third-baptist.org)



Abraham Meir Habermann, 1901–1980, Public domain,  
via Wikimedia Commons

## 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

## Mark your Calendar



Sunday, June 28th:  
Gabe Thiems ~  
*License to Gospel Ministry*  
as part of Morning Worship  
at 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 31st:  
Concert with Isobel Ramsey ~  
6 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
with ice cream fellowship to follow,  
in Pillsbury Threshold





# Third Baptist Church

**620 North Grand Blvd**

**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

**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