



Third Base

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From the Pastor

Peggy Pittenger, Third Missions Chair, is passionate about stories of Third Baptist Missions, beginning with our founding in 1850 to present day.

As part of Third's 175th Anniversary, Peggy wrote, enlisted and directed *A Great Cloud of Witnesses—175 years and Beyond*, presented November 2nd in Johnson Hall.

Peggy brilliantly wove together personalities, hardships, and adventure of those in service to Christ—written into the story of Third—throughout our 175 year history.

The visuals surrounding the play echoed our past and reminded who we are and where we're from (thank you Ken Blanton for displays created throughout our campus).

The presentation concluded with remarkable story of two different lives and cultures, with connections in Nigeria and becoming family at Third—Chidi Okafor and Delilah Canning.

Peggy, on behalf of the congregation, thank you for your gift of love to our beloved community.

Following the play, all gathered for worship and enjoyed beautiful combination of words and music, echoed by Dr. Richard Hipps sermon from John 13: *The Power of a Humble Church*.



Caspar Friedrich, *Wanderer Above the Sea Fog*, 1818

*A Great Cloud of Witnesses
175 Years of Missions
and Beyond
Third Baptist Church
2 November 2025
Johnson Hall 9:45 a.m.*

continued on next page

And as all gathered around Table of Grace for The Lord's Supper, I looked out over our community and those serving at The Table and was overjoyed at blessing of diversity and a stubborn commitment to focus on common faith in Jesus Christ.

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Dear ones, remember Richard's quote from Leslie Nebigin as Third concludes year 175 and soon into 176...

"We do not find Paul concerning himself with the size of churches or with questions about their growth. His primary concern is with their faithfulness with the integrity of their witness"

It was a good day to be in the House of the LORD.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

Welcome to Third's Pulpit Sunday, November 16 Dan and Sarah Chetti

Currently in the states and planning to return to Lebanon in October, the Chetti's will be retiring from International Ministries in January 2026. Dan will continue to lead the ministry of Enduring Love in the outreach to Arab nations.



Shirley Deep



Shalem Kodali



Manasa Tallapaka



Welcome
New
Members!

Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Youth at The Gathering — annual American Baptist Regional Fellowship
I'm looking forward to times of worship, service, and fellowship with Third teens and teens from our American Baptist region. This has been a fun break near the end of the school semester where we can reset for the spring, find some rest, and enjoy time together.

I am so thankful for this generous church that loves our students well and provides opportunities like this for them to grow together.

NOVEMBER 14th

Families of elementary and pre-k children: we have 20 seats available for a Hay Ride in Forest Park (we'll provide smores materials at the end of the ride!) The ride begins at 7:15, the church van will leave church at 6:45...RSVP with Drew!

Families, wanting to volunteer?

Have students who need volunteer hours? Third's Food Pantry is a great way to get some consistent hours each month. Volunteers arrive the Thursday of the month at 8:00AM. We are generally done by 11:30AM. People are still recovering from the tornado, the government shutdown has hurt vulnerable families, and the changing weather means more and more friends are depending on this invaluable mission of the church.

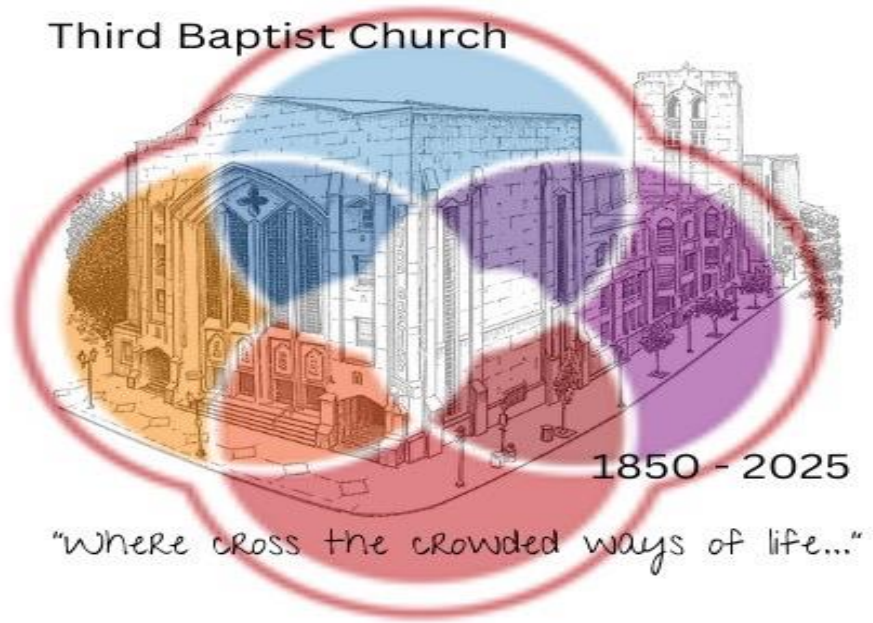
Wednesday, November 19th for Youth

We'll meet at church at 5:15 p.m. to have a meal and then shop for our adopted student from the CAC in East St. Louis. RSVP with Drew.

As we prepare ourselves for Advent, I am hopeful that you find rest, comfort, and challenge in the waiting for the coming Christ into our messy, beautiful world.

With thanks and love,
Drew

Third Baptist Church



December's Anniversary Celebrations

**Saturday, December 6th
At NOON**

Special 175th Anniversary Celebration Gala Luncheon

All are welcome!

There is no charge, but for staff to properly prepare,
please register no later than November 30th.

Call the Church office at 314-533-7340

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**Sunday, December 7th**

**WORSHIP 11 A.M.**

Guest speaker: Dr. Warren J. Hoffman

TBC Senior Pastor from 2005- 2013



## Mission Focus November: 175 Years of Missions at Third

Studying our mission history at Third Baptist has been a very interesting journey. And our story began with missionaries. The Triennial Baptist Convention in Philadelphia in 1817, blessed John Peck and James Ely Welch to travel to the Louisiana Purchase to “labor among the heathen.” And so, the story begins. Together they helped organize First Baptist, who begat Second Baptist. Second Baptist begat Third Baptist Church by sending thirty missionaries from their own congregation to establish the new church.

Many stories of missionaries are told in Dorothy Wofford’s book, “Thou Hast Given a Banner.” Three stories tie so beautifully to our mission story today.

In 1893 a young man travels to the US from his home in Lebanon. Said Jreidini (Sigh-yEEed Juryidini) heads to Chicago to the World’s Fair. There he hears evangelists D. L. Moody and Thomas Spurgeon. Being a sceptic, he rejects the message but continues going back to hear them. Soon he visits St. Louis and stays with a member of Third. Hearing the word of God by Pastor William Smith of Third Baptist Church, he accepts Christ as his Savior and is baptized.

When he heads home to Lebanon, he cannot stop declaring the word of God. Later Pastor Smith travels to the Middle East, and finally Beirut and with his companions examines Jreidini to ordain him as a Baptist Pastor. From this small beginning is launched the story of Baptists in the Middle East. Our ties to Lebanon are still strong as we support the mission work of Dan and Sarah Chetti.

In 1959, Gloria Pierce, a member of Third marries Dr. John Marshall. Together they travel to the Belgian Congo right in the middle of the uprising to throw off Belgian rule. They survived the uprising and spent the next 12 years serving the Lord by building medical facilities and schools of agriculture and theology, in Kinshasa. Today we help support Dr. Tim and Kathy Rice who serve in Congo.

Finally, in 1962, a young graduate nurse, volunteers for missions and is appointed to Nigeria in West Africa. She sails from New York to Lagos, Nigeria, then 12 miles in a canoe on the Orashi River to reach Joinkrama, Nigeria. There she ministers to hearts and souls healing body and spirit. Finally, she goes to Eku, a large mission compound, where she taught nursing for the next two years. When Delilah Jones returned to the US, she joined Third Baptist and met Robert Canning who she marries. Today this beautiful story is completed by her deep friendship with a young Nigerian man in our congregation, Chidi Okafar.

Wofford lists 90 members of Third who became missionaries, ministers or went into other Christian education work. Mission seeds planted grow in faraway places as the word of God moves across the world.

Peggy Pittenger,  
Mission Chair



## On the Reading of Scripture

In Wayfarers we continue to learn what it means to discover the truth of Scripture.

There is explicit truth, for instance, in what we read in the Ten Commandments. There is implicit truth, for instance, in what we read in the Beatitudes.

Both contain God's Word for us, but that Word comes to us in different forms.

And then there is the kind of truth that appears in Jesus' parables. The answers do not necessarily come in so many words on the page, but they are there, nonetheless. They require the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and our devotional reflection.

All of which is to say we have been studying the parables of Jesus, and we have been wrestling with them. It's been challenging. It's been invigorating. It's been fun.

I think we are coming away with very practical challenges for life.

To join us in the wrestling, let us know (drstevedawn50@att.net). You'd be more than welcome.

Steve and Dawn



## Look for a big blue donation bin on the Ground Floor!

- ◆ Food pantry donations are always welcome: a steady group of regulars and a growing number of newer visitors come to shop on the third Saturday of each month.
- ◆ Christmas Baskets toy drive! Along with the Missions' Team collections for CAC Adopt-a-Child Christmas gifts, consider dropping donations for our own Food Pantry toy collection!

Note: for CAC Adopt-a-Child donations/participation, contact Peggy Pittenger as soon as possible, if not already signed up: [peggypittenger@gmail.com](mailto:peggypittenger@gmail.com) or mobile: 314.323.1211

# Adult Discipleship

## Continued Study of The Gospel of John

Wednesdays:  
November 5, 12, and 19

**5:15 p.m.** Dinner / **5:45 p.m.** Discussion and  
Spiritual Application

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



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### *Happy Birthday to...*

- 03 🎁 Timothy Miller
- 04 🎁 Peggy Pittinger
- 06 🎁 Clayton Smithers &  
Dawn Phillips
- 10 🎁 J.B. Richman &  
Arleta Thurman
- 15 🎁 Monica McDaniel-Collins &  
Stephen Schermitzler
- 16 🎁 Greg Martin &  
Isaiah Collins
- 17 🎁 Christine McCarthy
- 18 🎁 Nancy King
- 22 🎁 Gene Stewart
- 23 🎁 Carla Jackson &  
Serenity Jarrett



Listen in to Third's Podcasts:

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

You are invited to journey three paths:

- Good Day! - *with the Pastor*
- Justice and Mercy - *with Jerry Bryan*
- 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**  
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FACILITIES MANAGER