



From the Pastor

Who is the only artist to have one song simultaneously in both the top 10 of Country and Rock Charts?

Answer: Jason Bradley DeFord of Antioch, TN.

An opinion piece in The New York Times was entitled *Can Jelly Roll Heal the Broken Soul of America?* (Jason's mom nicknamed her son Jelly Roll.)

My curiosity was piqued and I decided to spend an evening with Jelly Roll at Saint Louis' Hollywood Amphitheater. The Amphitheater was *packed*.

The crowd was diverse, I may have been the only living soul without a tattoo. I inhaled enough secondhand marijuana, to flunk a drug test for the next three months.

The lights went out, and the crowd roared with expectation.

A video screen descended from the rafters onstage. A tatted up middle-aged man was sitting in a pickup truck and offered an introduction:

My life was at an end. And while incarcerated I began listening to Jelly Roll, and his music guided me to faith in Jesus. Now, I am sober, out of jail, employed and reconnected with my daughter, and she is present at this concert tonight, and graduating college with honors. Jelly, if you receive this video, it would be my honor to introduce you when you arrive in my hometown of Saint Louis. All I can say is thank you.

The crowd responded with Joy, Amen, and a few more puffs on the pipe. Jelly walked on stage.

And from my cheap seats on the lawn, he was easy to recognize. He seemed to have a “I can’t believe this is happening” look on his face. Jelly spread his arms wide to embrace the crowd and then pointed one finger to his heart, “thank you, thank you, thank you.”

Jelly’s introduction reminded me of our Welcome at Third: “we are gathered for community, we need one another, we are going to love one another. We are family!”

I hope young ones in families had their ears covered during the concert that night. The profanity of Jelly Roll reminded me of Ralphie’s description of his father in *A Christmas Story*.

My father worked in profanity the way other artists might work on oils or clay. It was his true medium. A master.

The profanity was never spoken in anger, but was inserted as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. Jelly’s music and message is derived from brokenness; he was incarcerated several times, a drug dealer, and alcoholic.

Son of A Sinner was inspired by his frequent visits to strip clubs in East Saint Louis.

*I’m just a long-haired son of a sinner
Searching for new ways I can get gone
I’m a pedal to the highway
If you ever wonder why we write these songs
‘Cause I’m only one drink away from the devil
I’m only one call away from home.*

He talked comfortably of his faith and turning his life over to God, but at times also drinks too much, and is a proponent for legalized marijuana.

From *The Lost*:

*I’ve been known to find my kind of people
That ain’t at home underneath church
steeple
You’d be surprised the places I find Jesus
That ain’t the regular crowd.
I’ve been down and out. I’m better with the
lost than the found.*

Jelly tells a story about his daughter inviting him to attend a small country church, she had discovered community in a youth group. He went along to support his daughter and prejudices about church began to fade, he was thankful for a place his daughter could discover family, faith, and community.

The concert was full of paradox and wild swings from the sacred to profane.

But those gathered *loved* this artist, and listened respectfully, while a bit stoned, on his message of God, community, and brokenness.

One obvious connection was with the incarcerated and those suffering from addictions.

I took a break and navigated through bodies and smoke to courtyard for a drink. An elderly man with a weathered face and kind smile was standing in line (of course, muscled and tattooed).

How May I Pray For You? written in white was clearly seen on his black t shirt.

Friend, where did you get your shirt?

I made it myself. My life was a mess. God saved me. And I feel called to pray with those who need encouragement and hope.

And they come up to you?

Oh yes, about 30 tonight. I’m not pushy, I’m just a servant, here if needed.

And he said “have a blessed night,” and walked back to the amphitheater.

I left before the encore. There was no way I’m getting stuck in this traffic and my lungs are full of marijuana smoke - and I have to preach tomorrow.

But one stanza from *Save Me*, has stayed with me:

*Somebody save me, me from myself
I’ve spent so long living in Hell
They say my lifestyle is bad for my health
It’s the only thing that seems to help.*

*All of this drinkin’ and smokin’ is hopeless
But feel like it’s all that I need.*

*Somethin’ inside of me’s broken
I hold on to anything that sets me free.*

*I’m a lost cause
Baby, don’t waste your time on me.
I’m so damaged beyond repair.*

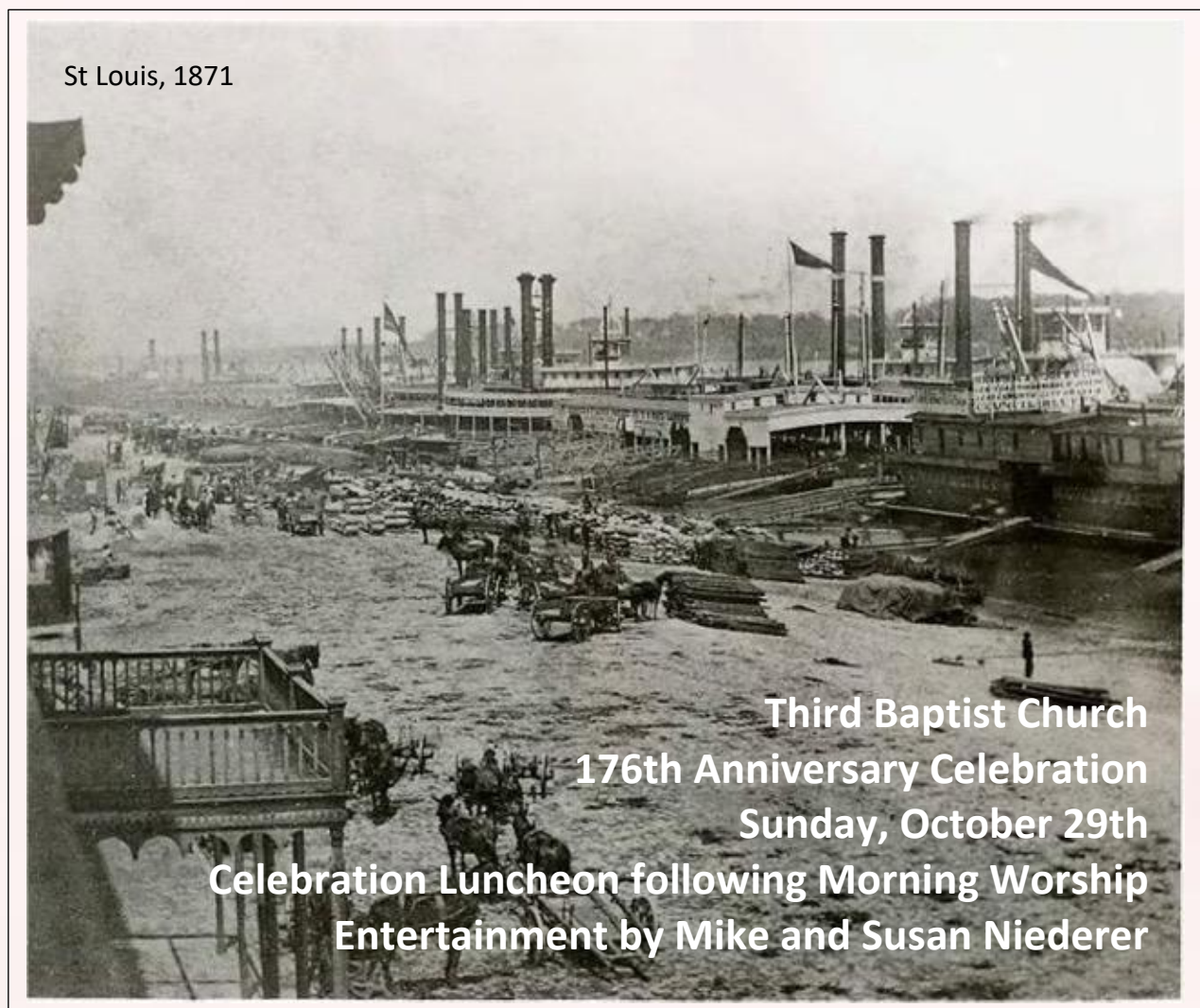
~

Paul wrote,

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost...

I was glad I went, but I may play it a bit safe and see *Chicago* next time they come to town.

Blessings all,
Tommy



Family Ministries

Rev. Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

As you are eating your cookies from the post-worship Anniversary fellowship on **Sunday, October 15th**, wander down the hall to help pack missions boxes. We have been collecting hygiene items all year in preparation to send to Kentucky and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionary, Scarlette Jasper. **This means if there is anything you meant to bring but have not done so yet - you have until October 15th!**

College students, join us after worship in Johnson Hall for a fellowship meal on **October 22nd**. Please let Drew know if you plan on attending!

In addition to Third's Anniversary celebration on **Sunday, October 29th**, we will also be hosting a Trunk or Treat in our south parking lot (across the street near the KDHX building), **from 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

If this phenomenon is something you are not familiar with: volunteers are asked to decorate their vehicle's trunk in the spirit of Halloween, generally all together in a parking lot (no need to dodge traffic in your own neighborhood!) and provide candy to hand out for guests that come by – probably in costumes!

I'm hoping to provide a generous and safe space for our community to have this opportunity. Third will provide each vehicle that volunteers a generous bag of candy, too.

My hope is to have the cars parked around the fence of the parking lot and if we have enough participating vehicles, park in the middle spaces, as well, so that “trick or treaters” can follow a U pattern to visit everyone.

See the below flyer, being used to advertise near and far. Please share it and spread the word.

If you'd like to participate, have questions, or can think of others who would like to join us, please let me know or send them my way!

Third Baptist
Church



Trunk or Treat

October 29th

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Everyone is invited!

Volunteers needed:

to participate with your vehicle,



contact~ Drew Phillips

dphillips@third-baptist.org





The Giving Tree

Rooted in Love

Please return an annual Stewardship Card in Morning Worship on October 8, 15 or 22.

Two other options are also available:

- Pledge through Third's home page at www.third-baptist.org
Go to *Give* at the top right tab of home page
- or
- Mail your card to Third Baptist Church c/o Chris McCarthy
620 North Grand, St. Louis, MO 63103

Thank you in advance for gifts of your time, talent, and treasure!

Blessings,

Ric Hunsaker

“Christmas Baskets” Event 2023

Toy & Warm Outerwear Drive



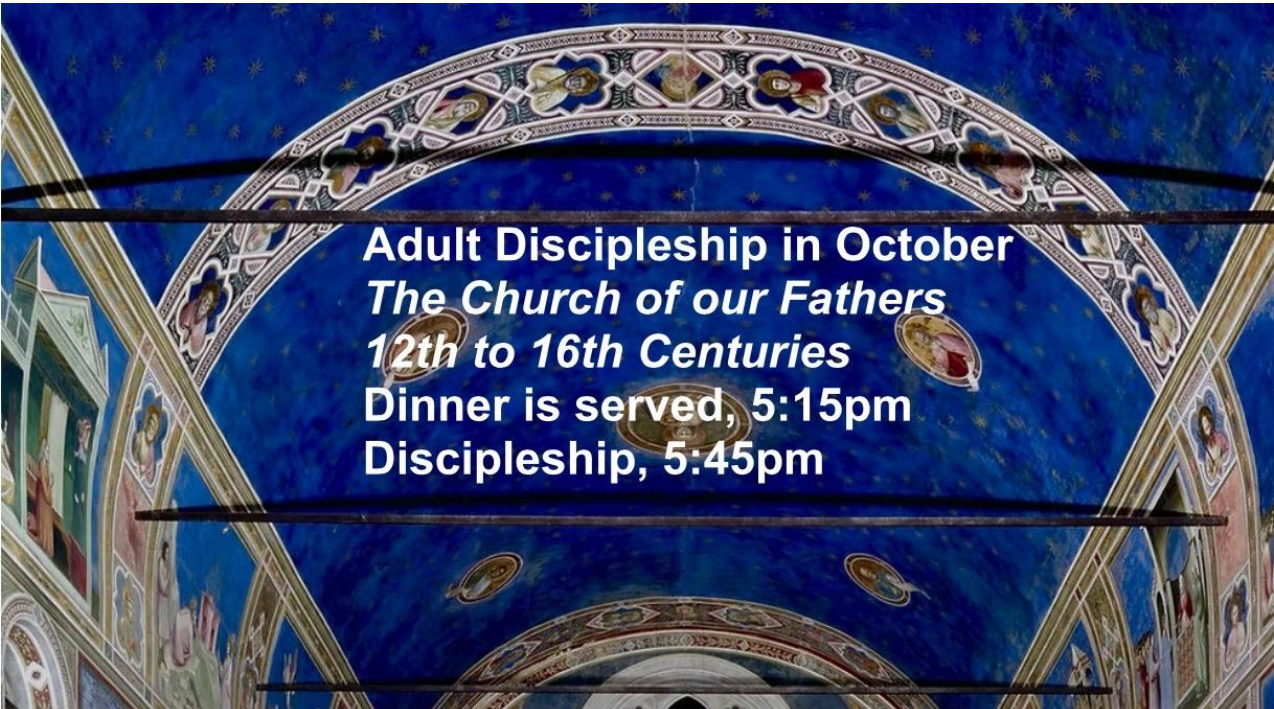
Along with a full Christmas meal, the Food Pantry team plans to continue our tradition of offering guests toys or games for the children and teens in their family groups when they arrive for this year's December Food Pantry event.

We'll also be offering hats, gloves, and scarves in children and teen (or adult) sizes.

We're taking donations for the cause! Now through Sunday, December 3rd.

Look for a large bin with signage in the hallways of TBC to be available soon for leaving your donations of toys/games (from baby to age 18), or warm outerwear. Thank you.

Wednesdays in October



*Third welcomes back pianist
 Lansin Lim Kimler*

*A reception is planned in Pillsbury
 Threshold following morning Worship, on
 Sunday, October 3rd*

Welcome home, Lansin and Elijah!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 01 🎁 Bonnie McDaniel
- 02 🎁 Tammy Lamb
- 03 🎁 Luther Jackson
- 09 🎁 Mona Harrison
- 12 🎁 Eliot Barnes
- 17 🎁 Jerry Bryan
- 19 🎁 Sondra Novell-Lay
- 22 🎁 Alexandria Hamilton &
 Judy Parham
- 25 🎁 Mary Lynom &
 Julius Phillips
- 27 🎁 Ruby Whiteside
- 31 🎁 Jacqueline Madey



In the city for good!

620 North Grand Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63103

Office 314.533.7340

third-baptist.org

Third Baptist Church Staff

Dr. Tommy Simons

PASTOR

Rev. Drew Phillips

MINISTER TO FAMILIES

Dr. Philip Barnes

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Ella Banks

RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE

ASSISTANT

Brent Johnson

ORGANIST

Thomas Finger

Lansin Lim Kimler

PIANISTS

Sally Stevenson

PARISH NURSE

Tom Kurtz

BUSINESS MANAGER

Christine McCarthy

FINANCE

Robert Hubbard

FACILITIES MANAGER

Timothy Harrison

CUSTODIAN