

From the Pastor

The house is quiet around midnight July 16 and pastor's article is due.

Jax and Buck, our two bulldogs, snore at my feet.

Caren is visiting Carson in Lake Tahoe. Colton is spending his first night at High School Camp in Lake Springfield.

The volley of phone calls and texts from our beloved community run a gamut of emotions: from a positive doctors report to the heartbreaking decision to place a loved one in a long term care facility.

Another review of next Sunday's worship, along with discipleship, hospital visits, and other pastoral care matters.

My Dad texted late in the evening—"How about those Astros?!"—referring to Kyle Tucker's game-winning, diving catch.

Channel surfing, I ran across Jimmy Swaggert—he has *aged!*



Grandmother loved Jimmy. Grandfather would sit in silence and shake his head. But it brought back some nice memories and I decided to stay awhile.

The man can still deliver an old gospel song—but his face was tinged with sadness—singing about the more you age—the more you lose.

Life comes at you *fast*.

August of 2015—Simons family rolled into Saint Louis. We participated in the Lou's trinity—Zoo, City Museum and Saint Louis Art Museum.

I captured Carson and Coltons standing in front of Monet's Waterlilies (photo above). And with each following visit—walking by Monet's painting—I remember two young boys—now 21 and 16—and turn away with a bit of melancholy.

The photo does offer encouragement—a call to embrace Monet's interpretation of nature—to *embrace beauty and mystery of it all*.

As the clock ticked past 1 a.m. a severe thunderstorm arrived—which heightened the anxiety of Jax. I patted the side arm of my easy chair...

I massaged his back and behind his ears. His body began to relax—and he was fast asleep. The power of touch can become quite a superpower.

Man, I'm beat, I need to head for bed.

But I couldn't sleep and stared at the ceiling and turned on rain sounds—my thoughts turned to issues of anxiety and to-do lists for another week.

And I thought about Jax and began to acquire wise perspective. To embrace the mystery of life and know when storms arrive—

remember God's tender mercies—*it's all ok...all will be well*.

And recalled with thanksgiving—present connections and blessings beyond anything I deserve.

For all that has been...

For all that will be....

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

Beloved, may it be so with you...

Grace and Peace,

Tommy



Welcome to our new members!

Sharonda Stith

Myrna Shelton



Family Ministries

Rev. Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Dear Third Family,

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp hosted Third youth this summer:

July 9-15: four junior high one high school counselor and two adult counselors

Theme: Crossroads (based on Jeremiah 16:6)

July 16-22: six high schoolers and three adult counselors

Theme: Whatever (based on Philippians 4:8-9)

Daily chapels and quiet times, games, tournaments, swimming, boating, talent shows, camp fires, s'mores. What else could you expect from camp? Be proud of our students who exhibit leadership through kindness, hospitality, and friendship. I get the privilege of eavesdropping on holy moments when our students grow individually and collectively.

Middle School Camp Activities

Evening vespers



Kaelyn and her catfish

Swimming



Quiet time



Meal time



Worship



Allie co-directed Beginners (1st-4th Grade) Camp at ILke Springfield Baptist Camp, along with college student Isaiah Collins, and recent grads, Naomi Thiems, and Victoria carter. Thank you, Allie!



Jaden

High School Camp Activities



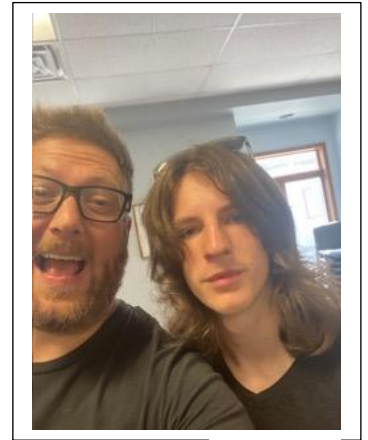
High school
camp vespers



Game time



Lip sync battle



Gabe



Pickleball



Man Man



Colton



More games!

Musical Moment



August 4th will bring another organ concert to Third Featuring Nathan Avakian

Nathan is renowned for blending twenty-first century virtual instrument technology with theatre organ music and creates performances that satisfy contemporary musical tastes and pay tribute to the historical legacy of the organ. He was commissioned to compose seven original theatre organ soundtracks for the International Youth Silent Film Festival, a program that challenges young filmmakers to create contemporary silent films to theatre organ music. Nathan helped pioneer the festival's expansion which now includes regional festivals in Oregon, Missouri, Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia.

Nathan currently works as a freelance lighting designer and design associate with organizations including Princeton University, New York Stage and Film, Purchase Opera, and the Lighting Design Group. On his YouTube channel Nathan can be seen bringing music from movies such as The Incredibles, Bohemian Rhapsody, Brittany Spears, and Uptown Funk by Mark Ronson to life using both traditional organ pipes and digital recordings.

Along with some silent movie shorts, the evening will include something unique: a collection of short films (3min each) from the International Youth Silent Film Festival. This is a filmmaking competition for students 20 and younger to create short silent films to organ soundtracks. As Director of the Festival, Nathan composes the soundtracks first, then filmmakers make movies to fit the music. You can see examples of these films on the IYSFF website: www.makesilentfilm.com.

Mark your calendar!

The event will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 4th, and will once again feature free ice cream from the Cool Times ice cream truck after the concert.

Missions Moment

Look for a box in the church sanctuary... for the month of AUGUST we will be collecting BAR SOAP. Each month this summer/early Fall the Missions team is promoting and collecting a different hygiene item.

On Sunday, October 15th, after worship, Missions will pack boxes to be sent to Corbin, KY, where CBF Field Personnel, Scarlette Jasper, serves in one of the most economically challenged areas in the U.S. In addition to this, the region suffered a once-in-a-generation flood last year.



take two
PRODUCTIONS

March 17 - 25, 2023



Sept. 29 - Oct. 7, 2023



Sunday, August 13th, in Morning Worship:

Third will recognize and honor *Take Two Productions*, for the group's service to the Saint Louis community and their gift of *money and service* to Third's Food Pantry!

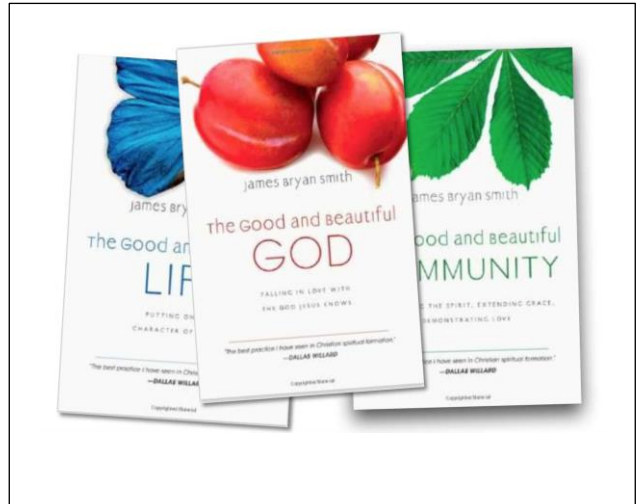
Adult Discipleship

Wednesday Night Discipleship
starting August 2nd - Fall and Winter
Season begins

Continuing *The Good and Beautiful*
series of studies

Dinner by Arris Harris is served at
5:15 p.m.

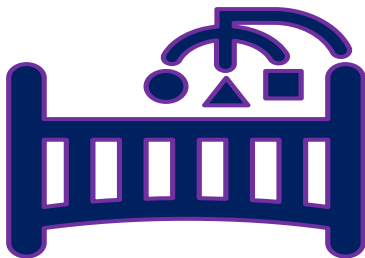
Please RSVP to Tommy by the
Tuesday before, to reserve your
spot: tsimons@third-baptist.org



Volunteers Needed!

We have a regular group of preschool assistants who watch our young ones during Sunday morning worship, but if others pitch in, this can bring relief to those regularly watching our infants.

Please check your Summer and Fall calendar and email a date for at least one Sunday you are able to assist! Send to Ella Banks at ebanks@third-baptist.org



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 02 🎁 Natalie Thiems
- 04 🎁 Maggie Jackson & Gwendolyn Tyson & Kaiya Mooney
- 05 🎁 Ken Blanton
- 09 🎁 Cynthia Dickinson
- 10 🎁 Rachael Whitt-Barnes
- 13 🎁 Jerry Campbell & Julie McDaniel
- 20 🎁 Evelyn Kurtz & Edna Betts
- 25 🎁 Samuel Governor & Morgan Bluestein
- 27 🎁 Frank Stevens & Pat Blake
- 28 🎁 Jacqueline Baxter & David Stevenson



In the city for good!

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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
PIANIST

Sally Stevenson
PARISH NURSE

Tom Kurtz
BUSINESS MANAGER

Christine McCarthy
FINANCE

Robert Hubbard
FACILITIES MANAGER

Timothy Harrison
CUSTODIAN