



Third Base

Vol 89, Issue 9 · September 2025

From the Pastor

Reels on Facebook are video posts up to 90 seconds in length.

I noticed an uptick on short scenes from 1970's and 80's—scrolling across visuals – “a world with no cell phones, personal computers, or social media.”

I'm not a fan of nostalgia and “good old days.” Billy Joel wrote, “the good old days weren't always good and tomorrow's not as bad as it seems.” The old believe their time was good—because they were young.

My time period of youthful nostalgia is mid-70s to mid-80's. Memories of youth are *imprinted* into our brain. I can listen to any song from this time period, and I'm taken back to a world which no longer exists.

A Facebook post asked, “what is one short lyric, which takes you back to your youth?” I wrote without hesitation, Boston's *More Than a Feeling*. As the song crescendos, “it's more than a feeling, when I hear that old song they used to play, I begin dreaming...” I'm not the only one: checking Spotify, *More Than a Feeling* passed one billion listens.

But I've arrived at sad conclusion—*those days may have been better days*.

Imagine growing up as a teenager in today's culture... What would happen to your quality of life with full access to social media and cell phones. Your first impulses are sent, read, recorded, and never deleted.

How do you process living in this atmosphere with brain not fully formed? And it gets worse...

The adults, on both sides of the aisle, are passing unsustainable debt to our children—exceeding 37 trillion dollars.

But adults do vote as one concerning legalization of marijuana. The American main street is fast food, Walmart, and cannabis shops. What long term effects will be discovered in the late 2020's into 2030?

Adult leaders refuse to place restrictions on teenagers' easy access to pornography, whose only limit is their imagination.

This generation of youth are bombarded with sexual confusion—engaged in serious discussion on what is a man and what is a woman? The transitioning of female to male, and male to female?

My generation has passed on debt, legalized vices and prioritized comfort over placing wise guardrails for younger generations. Adults vote and set policy which minors are legally bound to follow. By any metric—emotional, spiritual and physical health of America's younger generation is decreasing. The boomer generation bloviates over importance of education while cost for Universities in America is a national disgrace.

continued on page two

There is no decision devoid of world view—adults in charge of policy have paved this hard road for the young...Why is that...?

Beloved, followers of Jesus Christ are called to holiness—set apart by moral purity and distinctiveness from the values and behavior of the spirit of the age.

And we all fall short, but in our falling, we get up and run the good race and fix our eyes on Jesus.

Peter reminds second generation Christians: you are aliens and exiles in a land not your own. Therefore, strive for holiness, living as God's people in midst of hostility.

Jesus prayed:

“I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of this world, just as I am not of the world...Sanctify them in the truth; for your word is Truth.”

And speaking of youth, on September 14th, our Youth Group will lead worship from Prelude to Postlude. Let us gather in great numbers, supporting these dear ones with presence and encouragement.

Blessings and love to all,
Tommy

Third is blessed with another follower of Christ, whose story began in Ghana...

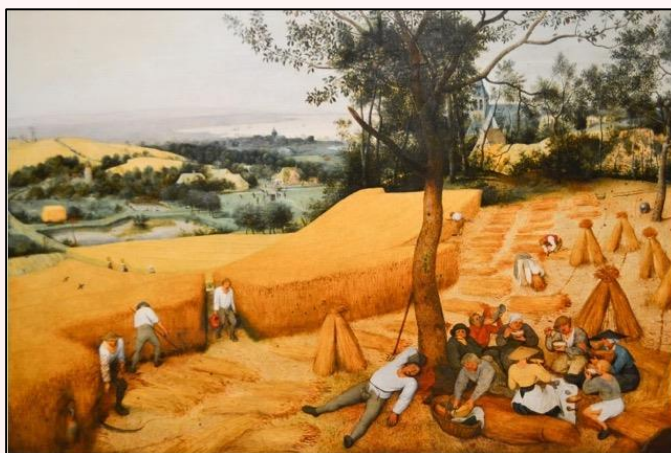
Benjamin Tabi, welcome to Third's beloved community!



**Worship Series
through November 23rd:**

The Work of the World

So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)



Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

CHILDREN AGES 3 TO PRE-K

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: We'll head to Union, MO, for free train (steam and diesel) rides. Our friend, Joel Pittenger, is one of the conductors and has invited us to this event. There is no cost for the train rides or lunch (we'll have Subway near the park).

The van will leave church at 9:30 and return to church at 3 p.m. If you would like to drive, I'll will be happy to send the address - simply let me know if you'd like to meet us there.



PRE-K to 5th GRADE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

after worship, from 1-4 p.m.:

VBS lunch provided, songs, crafts, Bible stories, and games!

“Food pantries in St. Louis face longer lines and rising prices” - was the headline in the Post-Dispatch on a recent Sunday.



After the last few months, reeling from a tornado, rising economic costs, and increasingly limited access, Food Pantry attendance numbers have increased, and shelves empty quickly each month. Serving the community every third Saturday from 9:00-10:30 a.m., donations are needed: canned food, monetary contributions (which allows us to purchase food from the St. Louis Food Bank at a better price than through the stores), and volunteer help! This is a vital ministry for our community, and the needs are great.

REMINDERS:

- Youth - Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays (6th Grade and up)
- Kindergarten to 5th grade - with Lakisha Johnson at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays
- Youth Group - Wednesday meals at 5:15 and Youth group from 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Children and Youth are invited to sit with Drew near the front right of the sanctuary where there is space and materials to draw, create, read, pray, and play (quietly!)



Welcome to the Youth group
Isaac Brett and Mya Harris!

And finally: Join us for youth led worship, September 14, 2025!
You'll want to worship with us as our Youth prepare and lead our service this special day.

COLLEGE STUDENTS!

We have a unique event: Lake Springfield Baptist Camp, where we take our youth in the summer is having a three-day weekend retreat this September.

Third Baptist will cover the cost if you are interested – simply sign up with Drew and fill out the QR code.

College Camp
at LSBC

One weekend.
worship.
small group
discussions.
daily prayers.
College age kids.
a lifetime of
memories.
building your
relationship with
God.

Sep 26-28th
Ages 18-24
\$180

Sign up here!

Peace and Love,
Drew

Mission Focus: CAC ~ Adopt-a-Child for Christmas



The Christian Activity Center (CAC) in East St. Louis has grown from its humble beginnings. Starting with 13 teens in 1989, they have grown to serving 450+ children and youth ages 5-18 years. Over that time the mission has transitioned from “saving lives” to a mission of changing lives.

Their website provides amazing statistics showing their progress: <https://www.cacesl.org/about>

- Graduation Rates
- Post-Secondary Advancement
- Cumulative GPA
- Juvenile Delinquency

Adopting a Child for Christmas ensures that kids in East St. Louis wake up full of joy on Christmas morning! You get to play "Santa" by either shopping and providing wrapped gifts, or by donating \$150 to have a CAC representative shop for a child on your behalf.



Christmas for CAC in 2024:

- 15 individuals, families, or groups provided gifts for CAC children last Christmas
- 7 individuals, families or groups donated \$ for gifts for an additional 10 children.
- In 2024 Third Baptist's congregation supplied Christmas gifts for a total of 29 children.

St. Louis Chamber Chorus Concert at TBC

October 5th, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

<https://www.chamberchorus.org/current-season>

October 5, 2025

Science / From Leonardo Da Vinci to Albert Einstein

Third Baptist Church, Grand Center
620 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103

Since Aristotle, music and science have intersected in provocative and illuminating ways: the discovery of new data and the creation of original art are two sides of the same coin. On this program, composers describe revelations and discoveries, from astronomy to optics, from advances in engineering to our theory of matter, as conceived by the ancient Roman poet, Lucretius. A new commission from Francis Pott complements recent works by Dobrinka Tabakova and Melissa Dunphy, and Renaissance songs by Dowland and Weelkes.



Wayfarers and Suffering

Last year we were very deliberate in the name choice for Wayfarers. We are all on a journey. In this life no follower of Jesus has arrived.

And in the course of journeying, we wayfarers face the joys, travail, and challenges of life.

One is suffering.

This has been our most recent topic. Looking at Scripture passages from the Psalms, II Corinthians, Philippians, and I Peter, we have asked ourselves what suffering is about, how God is involved in our suffering, and where we go from here.

Wayfarers, you see, learn from each other, and that is what these sessions have been about.

Should you choose to wayfare with us, we would welcome you. No one gets to the final course in life alone.

Steve and Dawn

2025 Anniversary Celebration Calendar



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 2nd

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

Continued Study of The Gospel of John

Wednesdays through November 23

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

Sign up for dinner reservations with Tommy:
tsimons@third-baptist.org



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 01 🎁 Demetria Bryant Austin
- 04 🎁 Danté Clay
- 08 🎁 Danny Lawrence
- 11 🎁 André McDaniel
- 12 🎁 Juan Moore
- 14 🎁 Lera Bryant
- 17 🎁 Willard Swyers &
Dani Phillips &
Harrison Gordon
- 22 🎁 Demetrius Bryant
- 27 🎁 Portia Nartey
- 30 🎁 Mary Wainwright



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

Mark your calendar...

- ⊛ Committee Budgets
due by
September 28th!



- ⊛ Christmas Baskets toy drive! It's
never too early to think about
hitting up those seasonal toy sales...



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

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

Christine McCarthy
FINANCE

Ronnie Winthrop
FACILITIES MANAGER