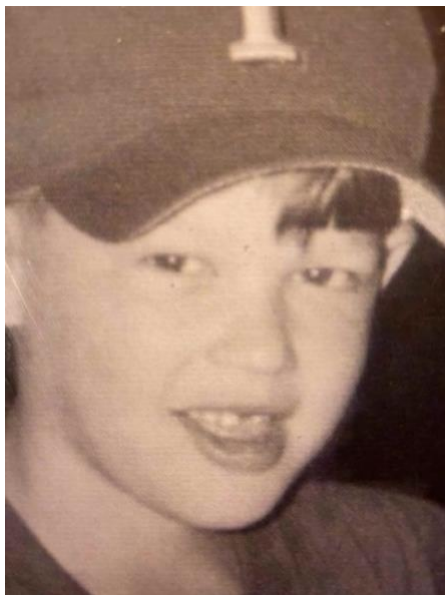




Third Base

Vol 89, Issue 6 · June 2025



From the Pastor

The boy grew up with a single mom, renting in a rich part of town—for the privilege of attending school in a quality district.

The pressures of money were ever present—and the affordability of attending a good college was out of the question.

The boy's anxiety and restlessness were ever present, for the inability to control his environment or destiny.

However...the boy's left arm! He loved playing baseball. But now, in his adolescence, this boy's game could no longer receive treatment as a game. The boy's left arm was his solution.

In games when he was scheduled to pitch, the boy was *intense and turned inward, all focus on the challenge at hand* – “I cannot give energies to school work today.”

His coach remembers him sitting on the bench—with an intense, blank stare before taking the mound. The boy was only 14 years old.

One month before turning 15 he met Ellen. She was outgoing and friendly and a member of the school's drill team. The boy asked her out, and they began to date.

Ellen's parents became a surrogate family to the boy, and he experienced the warmth of a stable, loving family. The boy and his mom would connect with Ellen's family during holidays. The boy would join Ellen's family each Sunday for worship services.

This opened a door for conversations about faith between the boy and Ellen. The boy changed his view of God— from one of distance to one as close as the boy's heart—and God's grace was all around him.

The left arm of the boy received a *reframing*:

The Gift of his left arm was not a burden but an *instrument, and honoring this gift required doing his best*. Colossians 3:23 was adopted as his life verse:

Whatever you do, work at it with your whole heart, as working for the Lord...

The young teenage boy evolved from good to a *great* pitcher. The discipline, exercised through the framework of honoring God's gift with hard work, was incorporated from young adult to adult stages of his life.

He would marry Ellen and have four children.

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Choosing to live in the same city, the boy's mom rented in the rich part of town—Highland Park, Texas.

ESPN rated the greatest left hander pitchers of all time. The boy ranked third—behind Randy Johnson and his mentor while playing for the Dodgers, Sandy Koufax. The boy's name is Clayton Kershaw.

Clayton Kershaw was drafted by the Dodgers in 2006—and has become one in a long line of beloved Dodger pitchers. Clayton is in the winter of his career, returning in a few weeks to pitch for the Dodgers after one year of rehabilitation.

Clayton has earned around \$300 million playing a boy's game—but money is not the point. It was the drive to be the best—a good steward of God's gift of a left arm. Given an ability to contort his arm and shoulders, throwing a baseball in a way not intended for the body.

Andy McCollough ends his biography of Kershaw on this note:

I drove by his home in Highland Park, Christmas Eve of 2022, before Clayton wrecked his arm and considered retirement. As I rolled past his lawn, I saw a pair of two pint sized kids bouncing on a trampoline. Outside the protective netting, illuminated by Christmas lights stood their dad.

Someday Clayton Kershaw's career will end. His life will not. He will continue on, as a husband, as a father, as a man. He will have to work at it with all his heart.

Paul says:

Whatever you do, work at it with your whole heart...as unto the Lord.

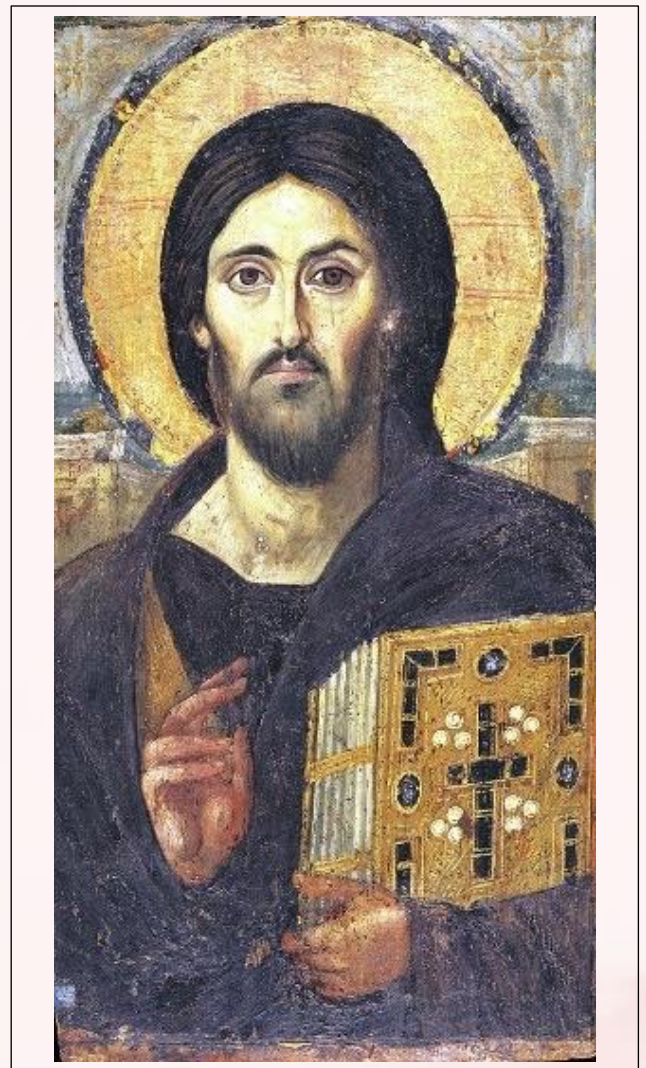
Blessings and love to all,

Tommy

Worship Series Debuts June 8th – Pentecost - through August 31st

The Hallowing of the World explores how God's presence sanctifies our lives, relationships, and creation.

Hallow means to consecrate, sanctify or make holy. For example: "After this manner, pray *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*"



Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

SAVE THE DATES! Lake Springfield Baptist Summer Camps – signup links here:

June 18-21: Everyone Grades 6-12: Summer Surge
(a mini-camp directed by Natalie Thiems)
<https://form.jotform.com/250406489356160>

July 6-12: Junior High Summer Camp Grades 6-8
<https://form.jotform.com/242066892795168>

July 13-19: Senior High Camp Grades 9-12
<https://form.jotform.com/250374907188162>

One Day VBS Event!

June 29th, after worship: 1-4 p.m.

“Stories that Jesus tells (Parables)”

Lunch is provided for families -
please register with Drew.



Each month Stephen Schermitzler is meeting with the youth for music lab.

6th graders through Senior High are invited and welcome!



**Wednesday, June 11th
Cardinals vs Blue Jays
1:15 p.m.**

We have 30 free tickets!
Contact Drew if interested

5th Grade Sunday School meets with Ms. Lakisha at 10 a.m. every Sunday in the Children's Department.

In May, the group watched a movie on Jacob.





Restorative Practices recognizes the importance of maintaining positive relationships and provides a pathway for encouraging community building, restoring trust, and holding space for healing. Join me in actively building connections or learning more about RJ.

- **Neighborhood Connections | June 2, 2025 | Rita Ford Community Center | Free Session**
- **Affirming Blackness | June 17, 2025 | Rita Ford Community Center | Affinity Space | Juneteenth Connection**
- **Spiritual Self-care | July 23, 2025 | Third Baptist Church**

<https://sites.google.com/view/dpe-rj-consulting/home>
 dpe.restorativeconsulting@gmail.com  Saint Louis, South City



Restorative Practices recognizes the importance of maintaining positive relationships and provides a pathway for encouraging community building, restoring trust, and holding space for healing. Join me in actively building connections or learning more about RJ.

Topic: Spiritual Self-care

Register Here

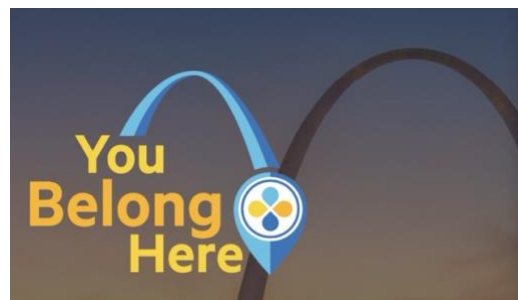


MORE INFORMATION

<https://sites.google.com/view/dpe-rj-consulting/home>
 dpe.restorativeconsulting@gmail.com  620 N Grand Blvd

**From Jeff Langford,
Coordinator, CBF Heartland**

I am really excited about CBF Heartland hosting the 2025 CBF General Assembly in St. Louis this summer: June 24-26



Why bring a group?

The 2025 General Assembly is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for church leaders in the Heartland to experience the best of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. **For the first time, CBF's annual gathering is within driving distance of most Heartland congregations**—giving lay leaders access to innovative ministry ideas, inspiring speakers, a wide array of ministry partners as well as CBF field personnel serving around the globe. I am confident that people who attend the General Assembly will come away feeling better informed and more excited about Third's partnership with CBF.

How to register for General Assembly

Although the General Assembly is free, each person needs to register for the event. The online process takes just a few minutes at www.cbf.net/assembly. Meals and other special events are individually priced in the registration form.

Questions?

The General Assembly is a jam-packed 3-day event, so you may have questions about the best times to arrive and so forth. Please feel free to reach out with any questions about the schedule - outlined in the website - or registration.

**Third Members, if you would like to attend and want to carpool, contact Drew Philips:
dphillips@third-baptist.org**

Mission Focus: CBF General Assembly – June 2025

You are invited:

In a year that feels more polarized than ever before, we want to be a place of belonging—where everyone is not just welcome to our table and in our communities but feel a deep sense of belonging in our Fellowship. Together, we will reflect on what radical hospitality can look like and explore the texts that call us to no longer be strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.

“So then you are no longer strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

-Ephesians 2:19-22

Our CBF Missionaries:

Mary Holmes and Keith Holmes: Several years ago, Keith retired from Full-Time Global Mission “Field Personnel” to volunteering with CBF’s Europe Team. Earlier this year, Mary transitioned to become a volunteer with CBF. As their positions have changed, we are no longer able to offer support for them as our Mission’s Teams have in the past. Mary and Keith will be in St. Louis for the Assembly and plan to visit us here at Third on June 22nd, to thank the congregation for the many years of support.

Jana Lee – With this change, our Mission Team has adopted Jana Lee, who was commissioned by CBF two years ago to be our missionary in Larnaca, Cyprus. Jana will also be in St. Louis for the Assembly, and we hope to spend time with her at some point during the week.

Ellen Sechrest – Ellen serves CBF as the Director for Mission Engagement. She was instrumental in introducing us to Jana. Ellen will also be in St. Louis in June and plans to visit Third on June 22nd as well. Third Baptist meets the criteria of an “Encourager Church”. Ellen will unpack what that means and work with us to commit to fully engage with Jana in her work.

Scarlett Jasper: Finally, Scarlette is our other CBF Missionary we support. She serves in Corbin KY. This is an area of extreme poverty. While still recovering from the flooding in Appalachia, this area has suffered with recent tornadoes, just as St. Louis. Keep this ministry in your prayers as recovery is exceedingly slow as they have so few resources.

The General Assembly coming June 24th, presents an amazing opportunity to meet “our” missionaries as well as many others doing the work of the Lord for many of the world’s disenfranchised people. You belong here!

Peggy Pittenger,
Missions Chair



Living in Chaos

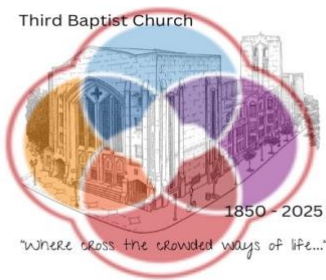
Each of us determines in her own mind whether or not chaos is the current state of things. We all define chaos differently.

We can safely say, however, that chaos is something with which we are familiar. There are days--even weeks, months, and years--that are not smooth sailing. We live in the midst of challenges and the unknown. We have been heard to say, "Nothing like this has ever happened before."

As a consequence, we look for whatever might provide safety or refuge in the storm. We cling to whatever. So, here's a thought. It's not original (and cannot even tell you where we read it). But we believe it's true, and we might try hanging on to it: the Kingdom of God is not in trouble.

Suppose it's another way to say we can trust God or that our future with Him is secure. But we do think it is a lifebuoy in a raging sea. The Kingdom of God is not in trouble. We Wayfarers are latching on to that truth, and you are welcome to join us in that truth journey.

Steve and Dawn



2025 Anniversary Celebration Calendar

Sunday, August 17th

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Special guest, Mark Gifford, former TBC church organist (currently Director of Music and Organist for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois).

CONCERT 1 P.M.

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 9th

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

Wednesdays in June

Continuing study and discussion of
Michael Card's *Gospel of John*

5:15 p.m. Dinner

5:45 p.m. Discussion and Spiritual Application

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



Listen in to Third's Lively Table Podcasts:

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

You are invited to journey three paths:

- *Ten Thousand Mile Journey, with the Pastor*
 - *Justice and Mercy, with Jerry Bryan*
 - *At the Movies, with Ashley and Aaron*

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 03 🎁 Susan Seewoster
- 06 🎁 Mireille Bradford
- 08 🎁 Christopher Lee
- 09 🎁 Addison Hulett
- 18 🎁 Eunsil Stevenson
- 19 🎁 Drew Phillips
- 21 🎁 Betty James
- 23 🎁 Joseph Agor
- 24 🎁 Lydia Thiems
- 25 🎁 Fran Blake
- 27 🎁 Monica O'Dell
- 28 🎁 Pat Stevens
- 29 🎁 Deanna Davis

Third's Food Pantry needs you!

Donations of food, toiletries, funds, and your time are always welcome.

Contact Rev. Drew Phillips or Monica McDaniel-Collins for more information, or to donate any of the above.

New volunteers are needed and welcome!
Serving our community on the third Saturday of every month, starting at 8 a.m.

Please bookmark!

<https://third-baptist.org/calendar>

This is the primary calendar for discovering Third Ministries and partnership ministries connected to our beloved community.



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