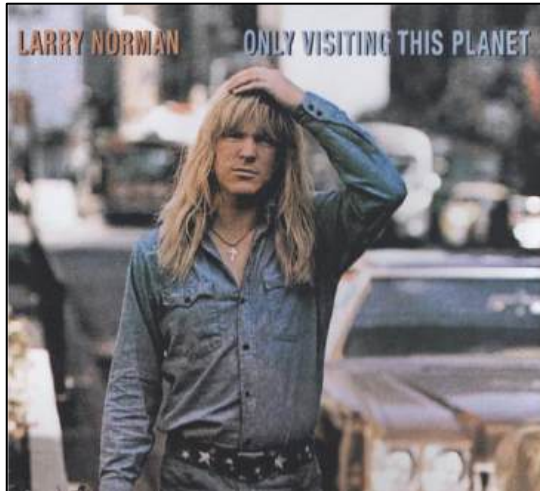




Third Base

Vol 89, Issue 3 · March 2025



From the Pastor

Whatever I have is yours, as Colton rummaged through albums purchased in 70's.

He passed on Neil Diamond, Kenny Rogers and Chicago—opting for Zeppelin, Cream and Beatles.

A large section was untouched—Chuck Girard, Love Song, Barry McGwire, Pat Terry Group, Second Chapter of Acts and Phil Keaggy—all artists from the Jesus Rock movement of late '60's and early 70's. I haven't played or reviewed in decades.

I placed a few on record player and heard familiar crackle, pop, and skip from 45-year-old albums. I turned to Spotify and reviewed artists from my Jesus Rock collection.

The memories of another time and place touched my heart—listening to this genre in pristine condition.

I was once again 16 years old, in bell-bottom jeans – sitting next to my speakers with perfect balance of bass and treble (don't touch my levels!).

But one album stood out— Larry Norman's *Only Visiting This Planet*. And I remembered lyrics without hesitation:

Life is filled with guns and wars and everyone got trampled on the floor; I wish we'd all been ready.

Children died the days grew cold, a piece of bread would buy a bag of gold; there's no time to change your mind, the Son has come and you've been left behind.

The song, *Why Should the Devil Have All the Good Music*, explained to a “traditionalist:” it is not a sin for Christians to grow long hair and play rock music with Jesus lyrics— because present hymns sound like funeral marches.

The cover of *Only Visiting This Planet* (above) is Larry walking in the middle of LA rush hour traffic— “is this all there is?”

I listened from beginning to end—a superb mixture of social justice and a call to salvation.

I was curious about reviews and googled away:

Only Visiting This Planet was inducted into the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry in 2013 as an album of cultural significance.

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U2's Bono, in Rolling Stone interview, cites *Only Visiting This Planet* as an influential album, "Larry Norman was the first guy who made me think that you could be a Christian and rock 'n' roll musician at the same time."

Norman suffered bipolar trauma from a plane crash in 1978, was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2001, and passed away at 60 in 2008.

Christian Rock Historian John J. Thompson compared Norman's impact on Christian contemporary music to John Lennon's influence on rock & roll and Bob Dylan's to folk music.

"Jesus Music Artists" were partners in my spiritual birth and adolescence. And now, 49 years later, it's a healthy exercise—remembering fervor and idealism of first discovering Jesus and soundtrack from those early years.

First loves are passionate and you have a natural longing for past days of "idealism and innocence."

But faith is grounded on solid rock, as you're confronted with evil, suffering and injustice. True Love is not dependent on passion of first experience, ecstasy or limerence. The directionally accurate way to finish the race is placing Love on Solid Rock—withstanding the inevitable wind, rain, and storms.

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Norman was a cultural critic of hard times and offered clear solution without apology. From the *Only Visiting This Planet* album, *Why Don't You Look Into Jesus?*

*Sipping whiskey from a paper cup  
You drown your sorrows till you can't stand up  
Take a look at what you've done to yourself  
Why don't you put the bottle back on the shelf*

*Why don't you look into Jesus?*

*Gonorrhea on Valentine's Day  
And you're still looking for the perfect lay  
You think rock and roll will set you free  
You'll be deaf before you're thirty-three  
Why don't you look into Jesus?*

*Think back to when you were a child  
Your soul was free, your heart ran wild  
Each day was different and life was a thrill  
You knew tomorrow would be better still  
But things have changed, you're much older now  
If you're unhappy and you don't know how  
Why don't you look into Jesus?  
He's got the answer*

Norman could get his point across in economy of words:

*The Beatles said, All You Need is Love—  
and then they broke up.*

-attributed to Larry Norman

I remain ever grateful for these "Jesus Freaks"—mostly from Southern California—accompanying first steps of my pilgrimage.

Grace and Peace,  
Tommy

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Third Welcomes New Members!

Ashleigh Brandmeyer,  
Broadcast Producer for  
KSDK, and Aaron Seidel,  
Asst Branch Manager,  
Florissant Valley.  
Engagement photo at  
Alamo Drafthouse;  
wedding date February  
14, 2026.



Melissa Simons is recently retired from Chevron and connected to Third one year ago due to Linda Roos' "cell phone" group.

# Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

## SAVE THE DATES!

**March 9, 2025:** Spring Bible School for families of 3-year-old through 5th graders. After worship, stay for lunch and leave your kids from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We'll have Godly Play stories from the Old Testament, snacks, crafts, and music. Please RSVP with Drew.



**Saturday, March 29:** Youth! Meal and activity!

**July 6-12:** Save the date for Junior Summer Camp. Grades 6-8

**July 13-19:** Senior High Camp. Grades 9-12

**May 14-17:** College Student Camp - at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp



**Wednesdays: Youth Group 5:45-6:45 p.m.** We'll continue practicing the examen prayer, have games, and lection divina.

**Sunday morning Extended Session**

**Volunteers Needed!**

Please contact Drew or Ella Banks

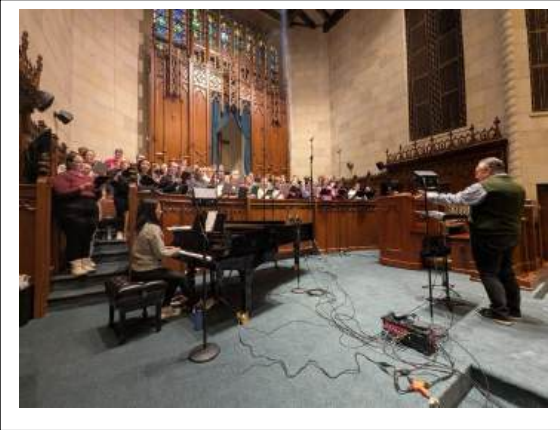
**Annual Carol Fleming Pillsbury Tea**  
Coming April 5, 2025





## Chamber Chorus Album Recording

The St. Louis Chamber Chorus spent a few evenings in February recording music for an album to be released within the next year. The recording label is Regent Records from Wolverhampton, England. A producer came over from England to oversee the recording.



THE  
*Wayfarers*

We Wayfarers have come through an exceedingly interesting and practical study of an often overlooked spiritual discipline—hospitality.

In the New Testament the word for hospitality is used twice; once in Romans 12:13, once in Hebrews 13:2. In both instances it refers to the treatment of strangers. In the broader sense, however, Jesus' actions and those of His disciples also point to hospitality toward persons

they knew, for instance, Jesus' feeding of the disciples on the seashore (John 21:1-14). We clearly are called to various kinds of hospitality.

What we may not realize is how many such ministries are happening at Third Baptist. Consider these: Food Pantry; Act Two; Northside School; many musical opportunities; Gateway 180; Wednesday night dinner; the welcoming of college students; cookie fellowship after morning worship. And there are more. Hospitality leads to friendship and friendship leads to community and community leads to shared faith in Christ.

Why not do all we can to foster hospitality in our church and individual lives?

Steve and Dawn

## Missions Focus: CBF Global Missions ~ Easter Offering

### **Isaiah 43:19**

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the  
wilderness and rivers in the desert.*



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions mobilizes missionaries to share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ in 18 countries around the world. Responding to God's call and empowered by the Holy Spirit, field personnel cultivate community, bear witness to Jesus Christ and seek transformational development among people who have been forgotten and forsaken by others. CBF's field personnel serve alongside congregations and local ministry partners within three contexts: global poverty, global migration and the global church.

The Offering for Global Missions secures the *long-term presence* of all CBF field personnel. Securing the presence of our missionaries translates as their salaries, benefits, housing, and children's educational needs. Our OGM dollars go 100% to keeping field personnel funded long-term.

Presence is different than programming. Programming support encompasses the costs of various projects or programs. Field personnel raise support from friends, family, and other partners to fund their mission programming.

Because of generous giving to our Third Baptist's World Missions account, your mission's team was able to send \$2,000 to Scarlette Jasper recently. She is our CBF missionary in Corbin, Kentucky. This gift was for *programming*. With cold weather at hand, I anticipate our gift will allow for warm coats, blankets and other warming supplies.

A recent newsletter from Scarlette highlighted another program that was provided at Christmas where a partner donated shoes. They had received over 600 requests for shoes in eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. Not only were new shoes distributed, but Christmas toys as well. The stories of children receiving shoes and Christmas toys was touching.

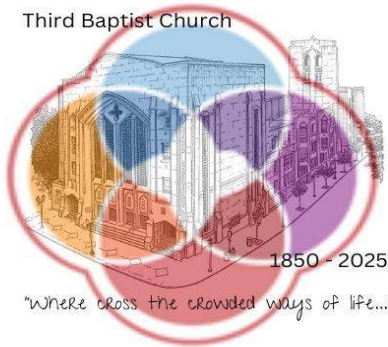
Offering envelopes are available beginning in March for donations to CBF's Global Mission Offering.

Please see our presentation on the screens in Pillsbury Threshold for more information on our Global Servants we are supporting with this offering.

Peggy Pittenger  
Mission Chair

*"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples."*  
1 Chronicles 16:24 NRSV

Third Baptist Church



## 2025 Anniversary Celebration Calendar

### **Sunday, May 4, 2025: 1900-1950**

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest Speaker: Rev Adam Banks, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, Ohio, and son of Ira and Ella Banks, members of TBC since 1991

CHURCH OUTING! Cardinals-Mets Baseball Game, 1:15 p.m. **Tickets will go on sale Sunday, April 6th, at the reduced price of \$10.00.** Upper deck, right of home plate, rows 1-3.

### **Sunday, August 17, 2025**

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 7, 2025: 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.

### **Saturday, December 6, 2025**

Special 175th Anniversary Celebration Gala Luncheon, details to come

### **Sunday, December 7, 2025: 2000-2025**

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. Warren J. Hoffman, TBC Senior Pastor from 2005- 2013

## Adult Discipleship



**Wednesdays, March 12 & 19**

**5:15 p.m.** Dinner

**5:45 p.m.** Discussion and Spiritual application  
of Michael Card's *John:  
The Gospel of Wisdom*  
&

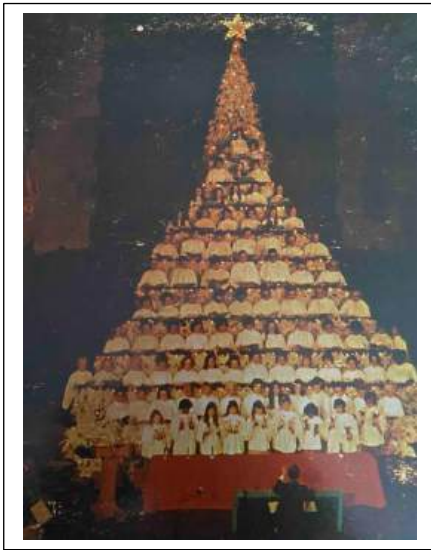
Youth activities with Rev. Drew Phillips

**Wednesday, March 26th:**

Dinner and Conversation with Missionaries  
Tim and Kathy Rice

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





*The Living Christmas Tree*  
by Third's Sanctuary Choir  
was broadcast nationally in 1974.  
As part of Third's 175th Celebration, a DVD  
of the concert is available for gift of \$10.  
Please purchase in main office  
following Morning Worship.

**Ash Wednesday  
Service, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**6 p.m.  
Memorial Chapel**



### 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.

Find volunteers serving our community on  
the third Saturday of every month,  
starting at 8 a.m.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

### *Happy Birthday to...*

- 01 🎁 Michelle Robinson
- 03 🎁 Juanita Wallis
- 04 🎁 Maria Bradford  
& Dennis Reinard
- 08 🎁 Virgil Dickinson
- 09 🎁 Nancy Furgerson
- 10 🎁 Brent Johnson
- 11 🎁 Tom Kurtz  
& Steven Spencer
- 16 🎁 Marquis Johnson
- 17 🎁 Naomi Thiems
- 20 🎁 Lynn Spencer
- 22 🎁 Richard Stevenson
- 25 🎁 Tena Thompson
- 29 🎁 Don Wainwright



**Grand and Washington Podcast**  
<https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1750498.rss>

You are invited to experience:

- *At the Movies with Ashley and Aaron*
- *Justice and Mercy with Jerry Bryan*
- *The Baptists Story with Pastor*



# Third Baptist Church

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**St. Louis, MO 63103**

**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

**Christine McCarthy**  
FINANCE

**Ronnie Winthrop**  
FACILITIES MANAGER