



Third Base

Vol 88, Issue 5 • May 2024

From the Pastor

Easter Morning was a social media firestorm.

The government recognizes a Transgender Day of Visibility (scheduled since 2007 on March 31st), this year coinciding with Easter 2024.

The written replies from Christians ran the gamut of outrage, blasphemy, and calls for moving Transgender Day of Visibility when it conflicts with Easter.

James suggests: *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God (James 1:19-20).*

I suggest memorizing that passage before posting responses to the latest “cultural outrage.”

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Christians continue falling into the trap of playing defense— a “controversy” is amplified by social media; therefore, I must respond and express my point of view— usually in a state of irritation.

Beloved, Jesus calls us to be gentle as doves and wise as serpents—wisely remove yourself from divisive language and go on the *righteous offense*—as an example:



*I wish you well on your day of visibility as proclaimed by our government, and as we celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection, I want you to know you are deeply loved by God. He demonstrated this love by sending His Son to die on the cross for you—the best decision you’ll ever make is to follow Jesus.*

*And to all Christians, the same spirit that rose Jesus from the dead will rise you one day. Blessings and love to all—He is Risen!*

Dear Ones, before replying to a Twitter or Facebook storm, ask two questions:

1. Will my comments *attract or repel* people from following Jesus?
2. Will my comments *cause unnecessary harm*, posted anonymously to a follower of Jesus?

After reviewing, I believe you will find yourself on solid ground:

*Love over Fear; Grace over Law.*

Friends, do you believe anybody changes an opinion from your post on a controversial subject? In the social media universe, you have another's attention span for 15 seconds. Therefore, go on a righteous offense and focus on Jesus Christ.

I believe on Easter morning, Christian parents of transgenders and other stripes of sexuality woke up and felt salt poured on wounds. I don't understand one's decision to transition and believe the procedure should be illegal for minors, that's my opinion. However, we are called to look beyond opinions to the overarching theme of grace and love. And I believe it's not much of an imaginative leap to believe parents of transgendered travel hard roads I will never understand; therefore, I will choose a path of quick hearing and slow speech.

Finally, always remember **The Table**—Jesus' broken body and shed blood was grace gift to **ALL**.

And from a relational standpoint, when breaking bread with "the other," it is hard to hate up close.

Thanks be to God, your decision to follow Christ has nothing to do with the State. The State will make declarations, appeasing and affirming their perceived political base—that is the North Star of politics.

As for followers of Jesus, I prefer words written around 90AD, from John— an elder statesman of the church:

*This is how God showed His love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another...There is no fear in love.*

This is a Christian's North Star: fix your eyes on Jesus.

Love to all,  
Tommy

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### Welcome New Members!

Stephen Schermitzler



John Jones



Deborah Lee



Steve and Dawn Phillips



Wayne Brewer  
(with  
Vanessa  
Gibson)

# Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Families,

Our youth will be exploring Acts in Sunday School throughout the month of May. For Youth Group on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Third's own, Sydney Bailey, will be leading us in an art project at 5:45 p.m.

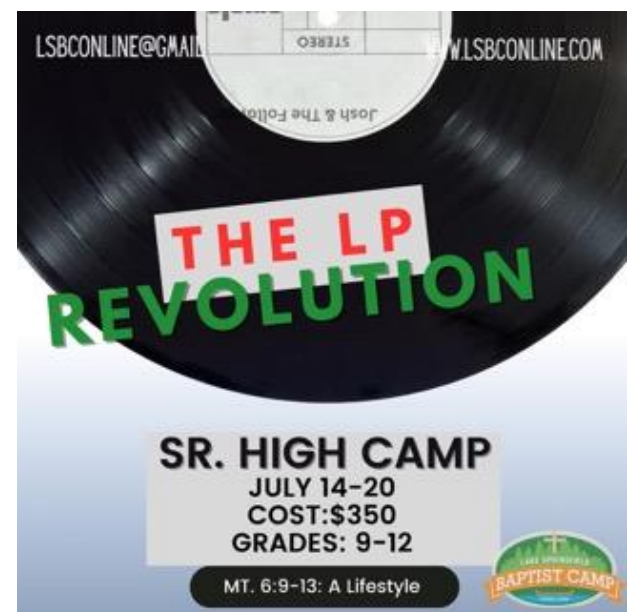
Cardinals game for families: June 12th, 6:4 p.m. Let Drew know if you'd like tickets!

VBS is coming! August 2-4, 2024. Let Drew know if you would like to volunteer or need more information: [dphillips@third-baptist.org](mailto:dphillips@third-baptist.org)

“Choose Your Own Adventure” Junior and Senior High Camps

[www.lsbconline.com](http://www.lsbconline.com)

Our own, Natalie Thiems is directing! Please contact Drew if interested or if you have any questions.

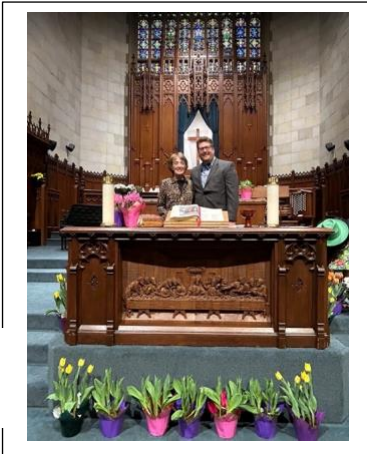




# Youth Activities and Easter Season ~ April 2024



Easter morning music, sanctuary flowers, and egg hunt story time



Stations of the Cross



Gateway 180 bag packing



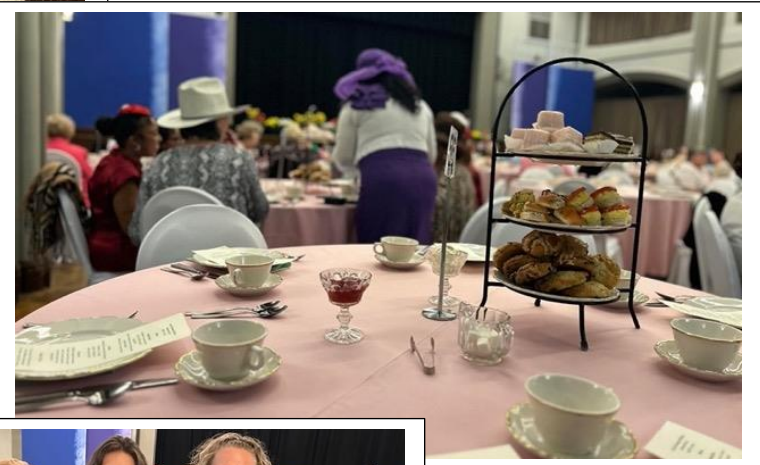
Youth lock-in 2024



# Carol Fleming Pillsbury Memorial Tea ~ April, 6, 2024









# Missions Moment – Scarlette Jasper Updates



Scarlette Jasper is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel serving with Together for Hope, CBF’s rural poverty initiative, in the Appalachian foothills of Southern and South Central Kentucky. A longtime champion for the economically disadvantaged, Scarlette ministers within some of the poorest counties in the United States.

The majority of the counties in which Scarlette serves are considered “distressed” counties on the basis of low per capita income and high rates of poverty and unemployment. Scarlette has been involved in nonprofit work with disadvantaged communities for more than 27 years, serving in leadership positions locally and nationally for various organizations. Now, Scarlette is the Director of Olive Branch Ministries, which serves individuals and families in crisis.





Drawing on local assets, Scarlette partners with schools, housing authorities, churches, agencies, and other local entities to organize grassroots campaigns that enable materially poor to gain traction in society. Ask: how can I help? Many needs exist for warm clothes and food. Prayers for many needs are appreciated:

- The homeless
- Those with mental health issues
- Those with medical issues
- Mission teams traveling to help.

Donate [here](#).

Find regular reports of Scarlette’s work in her newsletter [here](#).

How To Help

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|  <p>Domestic Violence Help \$50</p> <p>\$50.00 provides the resources to facilitate a self-help group for survivors of domestic violence.</p> <p>DONATE</p> |  <p>Financial Literacy \$100</p> <p>\$100.00 provides the resources to facilitate a financial literacy class in McCreary County.</p> <p>DONATE</p> |  <p>Food and Personal Care \$150</p> <p>\$150.00 provides food and personal care items for a family for a week.</p> <p>DONATE</p> |  <p>Shelter for a Family \$350</p> <p>\$350.00 provides shelter for an individual or family for one week.</p> <p>DONATE</p> |
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## Adult Discipleship

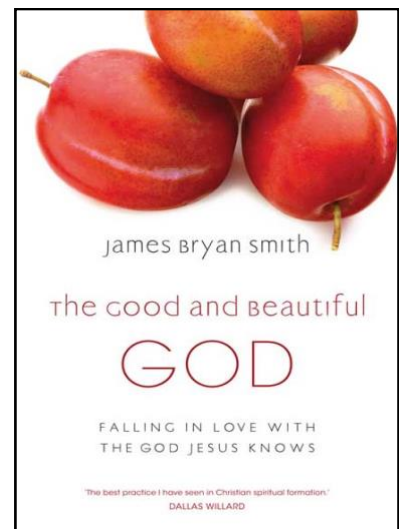
Discipleship is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8th, and after a few weeks break, returns Wednesday, May 29th.

and throughout summer months.

The Good and Beautiful God  
James Bryan Smith

5:15 p.m. Dinner  
5:45 p.m. Discipleship

Email [tsimons@third-baptist.org](mailto:tsimons@third-baptist.org) for dinner reservations





Come hang out with us! If you're interested in helping with extended session care from time to time, your help would be welcome! Contact Ella Banks at [ebanks@third-baptist.org](mailto:ebanks@third-baptist.org) to get on the schedule.



Faith and Film  
Podcast Series:  
[https://www.buzzsprout.com/  
%201750498](https://www.buzzsprout.com/201750498)



Distance is no barrier whatsoever in the arc of God's universe! Thanks to that fact and Zoom, Third Baptist Church is beginning a class called WAYfarers.

For about 45 minutes each Sunday, starting at 9 a.m., WAYfarers will study scripture and enjoy fellowship with one another. Steve and Dawn Phillips will lead from their home in Indianapolis. Please email [drstevedawn50@att.net](mailto:drstevedawn50@att.net) to receive your Zoom invitation.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to...*

- 02 🎁 Lakeisha Johnson
- 03 🎁 Jonathan Watson
- 05 🎁 Tammy Harrison
- 06 🎁 Gary Thompson
- 15 🎁 Stephen Gray  
& Craig Robinson  
& Mawufemor Amuzu
- 18 🎁 Berneice Donnelly  
& Sally Stevenson
- 19 🎁 Gloria Gordon
- 27 🎁 Julia Bruenger



# 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/quest](http://third-baptist.org/quest)

## 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

**Lansin Lim Kimler**  
PIANIST

**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE

**Tom Kurtz**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**Christine McCarthy**  
FINANCE

**Robert Hubbard**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Timothy Harrison**  
CUSTODIAN