



# Third Base

Vol 88, Issue 11 · November 2024

## From the Pastor

It's around midnight October 14—and with two bulldogs snoring away on my lap—I'm watching Frank Capra's *Arsenic and Old Lace* on TCM—an uplifting story of a theater critic discovering his two elderly aunts serve poisoned elderberry wine to lonely gentleman callers.

Josephine Hull and Jean Adair play the two aunts. Josephine enjoyed a 50-year career and won academy award for Best Supporting Actress in *Harvey*. Jean began singing comedy in vaudeville—and fashioned her craft in the theater—before her breakout performance in *Arsenic and Old Lace*—a role she originated on Broadway. The movie version was released September 1, 1944.

On this day, Patton's U.S. Third Army was temporarily slowed due to gasoline shortage—clearing a path through France and into heartland of Germany following D-Day.

A few blocks from Third Baptist, Hal Newhouser won his 22nd game, when the Detroit Tigers beat Saint Louis Browns before 14,030 fans. One month later, all six games of 1944 World Series are played down the street as the Cards beat Saint Louis Browns in six games.

I suspect a good number of Americans went to Sportsman's Park or the opening of *Arsenic and Old Lace* to escape for a couple hours—two months from D-Day and waiting for loved ones to return home.



Cary Grant, Josephine Hull, and Jean Adair  
in *Arsenic and Old Lace*

And around 80 years later, on a chilly October night in 2024, I'm escaping through sports and enjoying Josephine and Jean's poisoning escapade.

Escaping from what? Information overload.

The most effective mode of persuasion is fear. And it seems we are counting down *for the most crucial event of our lifetime— a presidential election scheduled for Tuesday, November 5th!* This is the most crucial election in our lifetimes... until congressional elections in 2026 and another presidential in 2028.

And whether your preferred candidate wins or loses one thing is assured— *promises will not match reality* due to “laws of the great unknown.” Presidents navigate unforeseen crises written into their story—sometimes of such import that any promises are placed in background, dealing with an unexpected five alarm fire.

*continued on page two*

Presidents plan and promise, but as Mike Tyson surmised, plans change when you get punched in the mouth.

How could voters in the 1940 election know Pearl Harbor was one year away, and an Atomic age was around the corner, and the world was entering deadliest conflict in human history – 55 to 80 million dead.

In recent memory, remember the controversy of 2000 election of hanging chads—results delayed for weeks. How could George Bush, Al Gore, or American voters know *everything* would change on September 11, 2001.

Therefore, I encourage you to seek balance as rhetoric and fear boils over before, during, and after election.

Take a break and enjoy an *Arsenic and Old Lace* moment.

Understand persuasion by fear is always an instrument of politics. The Apostle Paul knew death was near and encouraged young Timothy—

*“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, and of power and a sound mind.”*

And with a sound mind—understand Presidents and you—can plan, dream and communicate future vision—but it must be tinged with absolute assurance—that unforeseen crisis will change trajectory of your story, promises and future.

*All the more reason to build your house on the Rock, because storms, planned and unplanned, are on the way.*

Well, its 1:05 a.m., but I still want to watch a few more scenes from *Arsenic and Old Lace* and tip my hat to Josephine and Jean—for offering much needed laughs for anxious movie goers on September 1, 1944, and another viewer in Saint Louis 80 years later... now down to one bulldog snoring away...

Love to All,  
Tommy

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Congrats to Brent on 20 years of extraordinary musical service to Third Baptist and its membership.



# Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

## Junior and Senior High “The Gathering” American Baptist Youth Retreat: November 8-10, 2024, FBC ~ Mattoon, IL

Fall Youth Retreat, worship, small groups, games, a mission experience! We are excited to be taking a group. If you're interested, contact Drew.

We are pleased to announce that this year's speaker is Rev. Natasha Adzudzor. Natasha is the Minister of Discipleship at Central Baptist Church of St. Louis. She currently serves on the Pan African Koinonia Steering Committee and on the leadership team for the Baptist Women in Ministry. We are excited to have Natasha as our speaker this year!



### FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

- Wednesday nights: dinner at 5:15 p.m., youth group at 5:45 p.m.
- Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. From now until Advent looking at “So What?”
- November 20th at 5:15 p.m.: shop for our adopted CAC student (we'll have a meal off campus)
- Advent Family Meal: December 8, 2024, after worship in the Children's Department.

### Brown Bag assembly for Gateway 180



Creative  
contemplation  
during  
morning  
worship



### With rising needs and increased pantry guests, Third's Food Pantry needs your help:

- canned meals (for example: spaghetti and meatballs)
- canned meat
- canned veggies
- canned fruit

Every third Saturday we are open and serve anyone who comes from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

***If you would like to come and help, consider this your invitation!***

You may also donate funds, as pantry leaders shop monthly, too. There will be a large blue bin on the ground floor near the ramp.

# Missions Focus: World Mission Offering 2024

Our Mission Focus for this November is preparing us for our special Christmas Offering in December.



Each year through International Ministries' (IM) World Mission Offering (WMO), thousands of churches and individuals come together to promote and support ministries that God is using to transform the world. We are asking Third Baptist Church to join our American Baptist brothers and sisters. By joining other like-minded churches, we work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

We will be supporting global servants serving in some 70 countries alongside 250+ global partners. Our participation will change lives internationally as well as deepen our own discipleship in Christ. We can take part in what the Holy Spirit is doing to bring God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."

You may know that Global Servants raise their own support. But when this funding falls short, WMO gifts provide a supplement to keep global servants in their country of service. Because of your giving to WMO, global servants will never miss a paycheck.

WMO gifts also support global servants with training and pastoral care and enable ABC IM to address crises when they arise. WMO gifts also support the next generation of new global servants who are in the discernment, orientation and preparation process. Giving to the WMO is the best way to make sure that you support all of IM's ministries.

Our Worship Guide will look a little different this month. IM has provided information about a variety of ministries in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. These servants have an amazing array of skill sets: business entrepreneur, pastor, occupational therapist, consultant on theological education and leadership development, regional coordinator for education in Iberoamerica, IM global consultant for immigrants and refugees, and finally an Information technologist.

I hope you will take time to look at their stories in our Worship Guide.

Peggy Pittenger, Missions Chair



\*Third Baptist Missions Team sends personalized support quarterly to four American Baptist Missionaries using our budgeted funds.

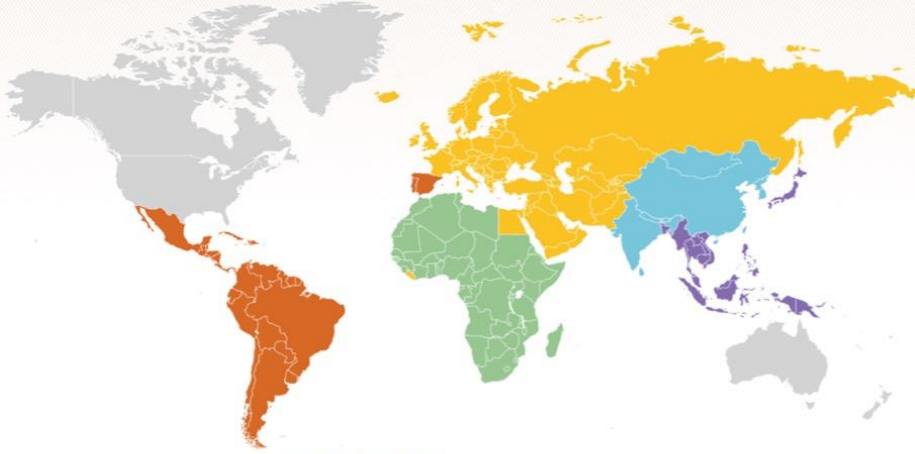
Source: <https://internationalministries.org/wmo-2024-what-is-the-world-mission-offering/>

# Global Servants 2024



## IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Barbara & Dwight Bolick  
Regional Consultants
- Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovannetti  
Regional Consultants
- Delris & Morse Carrion-Joseph  
Mexico
- Waleska Febres Hernandez  
Colombia
- Marcy Gonzalez-Barnes  
Regional Consultant
- Sue Hogarty  
Costa Rica
- Elberio & Molly Juárez  
El Salvador
- Christina Lafferty  
Nicaragua
- Patti & Tim Long  
Mexico
- Luis & Sarah Matos  
Mexico
- Ricardo Mayol-Bracero  
Regional Consultant
- Sarah McCurdy  
Regional Coordinator
- Debbie & Keith Myers  
Mexico
- Khomsi Ngweni & Nzoung Mabudiga  
Dominican Republic
- David Parajón  
Nicaragua
- Katy & Vital Pierre  
Dominican Republic
- J.D. Reed  
Regional Consultant
- Stacy & Tim Reese  
Dominican Republic
- Brian & Lynette Smith  
Dominican Republic
- Corene & Phil Smith  
Brazil
- Jae Stockton  
Mexico
- Ruth Vindas  
Costa Rica
- Dilia Zelaya  
Honduras



## AFRICA

- Ann & Bill Clemmer  
Regional Consultants
- Anita & Rick Gutierrez  
South Africa
- Boaz Kenberak  
Kenya
- Christina & Lance Mulye  
Zimbabwe
- Katherine & Wayne Niles  
DR Congo
- Kathy & Tim Rice  
DR Congo
- Faye Yarrowagh  
South Africa

## EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND LIBERIA

- Melanie Baggio  
Lebanon
- Don & Sarah Chetti  
Lebanon
- Hermelinda & Jorge Damasceno  
United Kingdom
- Laura & Rich Freeman  
Turkey
- Amanda & Jon Good  
Europe
- Carmelle Jones  
Regional Consultant
- Nora & Peter Kalkman  
Regional Consultants
- Becky & Larry Stanton  
Hungary

## EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

- Lanuteman Janir & Alemita Ao  
India
- Katie & Taku  
East & South Asia
- David Sagar  
India

## GLOBAL CONSULTANTS

- Myinda Balts  
Restorative Arts
- Lauran Bethell  
Abolishing Global Slavery
- Kristy Engel  
Health & Wellness
- Mike Mann  
Economic Development
- Rodney Ragwan  
Theological Education
- Ray Schellinger  
Immigrants & Refugees
- Jeanine & Matt White  
Health & Wellness, Capacity Building

## SOUTHEAST ASIA AND JAPAN

- Aphwan & Scott Coats  
Myanmar & Thailand
- Annie & Jeff Diesenberg  
Thailand
- Joel & Trish Hoelle-Magal  
Thailand
- Gordon & Lee Ann Heang  
Japan
- Alise & Mark James  
Thailand
- Eric & Yuse Lemke  
Thailand
- Becky Mann  
Thailand
- Lori & Matt Mann  
Southeast Asia
- Sarah McCloy  
Japan
- Jonathan & Thelma Nambu  
Philippines
- Aaron & Valerie Osterbrock  
Malaysia
- Kir Ripley  
Thailand
- Paul Rollet  
Philippines
- Shigemi Tomita  
Japan
- Aaron & AmyEstelle Trout  
Southeast Asia
- Katrina & Kyle Williams  
Southeast Asia

## GLOBAL COORDINATORS

- David & Joyce Reed  
Spiritual Care
- Rhonda Reed  
Health & Wellness
- Debbie Wilmer  
Missiary Kid & Family Care

Explore more about the Global Servants at the map link [here](#).

We'd love to play with you!

Come join the fun as an Extended Session volunteer, rotating with other volunteers to help out in the Children's Room during worship service from time to time.

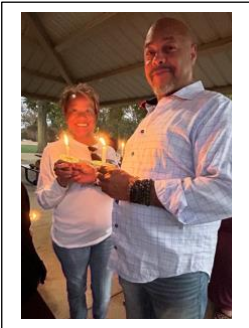
Contact Ella Banks for more information.

[ebanks@third-baptist.org](mailto:ebanks@third-baptist.org)



# A Candlelight Remembrance for Alexandria Hamilton

Organized by Allie's sister, Victoria Johnson, on the occasion of her birthday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, attended by friends, family, and other loved ones.



# Adult Discipleship

**November Wednesdays –  
6, 13, and 20th:**

**Reflections on the Psalms**

**Facilitated by Rob Lamb**

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

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

**5:45 p.m. Discipleship study**

David dictating the Psalms, ivory, codex binding.  
From the Treasure of Saint-Denis, France, 10<sup>th</sup> century.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to...*

- 03 🎁 Timothy Miller
- 04 🎁 Peggy Pittinger
- 06 🎁 Clayton Smithers
- 10 🎁 J.B. Richman &  
Arleta Thurman
- 15 🎁 Monica McDaniel-Collins &  
Stephen Schermitzler
- 16 🎁 Greg Martin &  
Isaiah Collins
- 17 🎁 Christine McCarthy
- 18 🎁 Nancy King
- 22 🎁 Gene Stewart
- 23 🎁 Carla Jackson

### Note Your Calendar: Sunday, November 3rd



We celebrate Gene Stewart's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday  
in the Pillsbury Threshold, following  
morning worship service



Grand and Washington Podcast  
Dr. Tommy Simons

<https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1750498.rss>



# Third Baptist Church

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**Bld**

**St. Louis, MO 63103**

**Office: 314-533-**

**7340**

We'd love to connect with you!



[third-baptist.org/guest](http://third-baptist.org/guest)

## Third Baptist Church Staff

**Dr. Tommy Simons**  
PASTOR

**Rev. Drew Phillips**  
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

**Dr. Philip Barnes**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Ella Banks**  
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASST.

**Brent Johnson**  
ORGANIST

**Lansin Lim Kimler**  
PIANIST

**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE

**Tom Kurtz**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**Christine McCarthy**  
FINANCE

**Ronnie Winthrop**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Timothy Harrison**  
CUSTODIAN