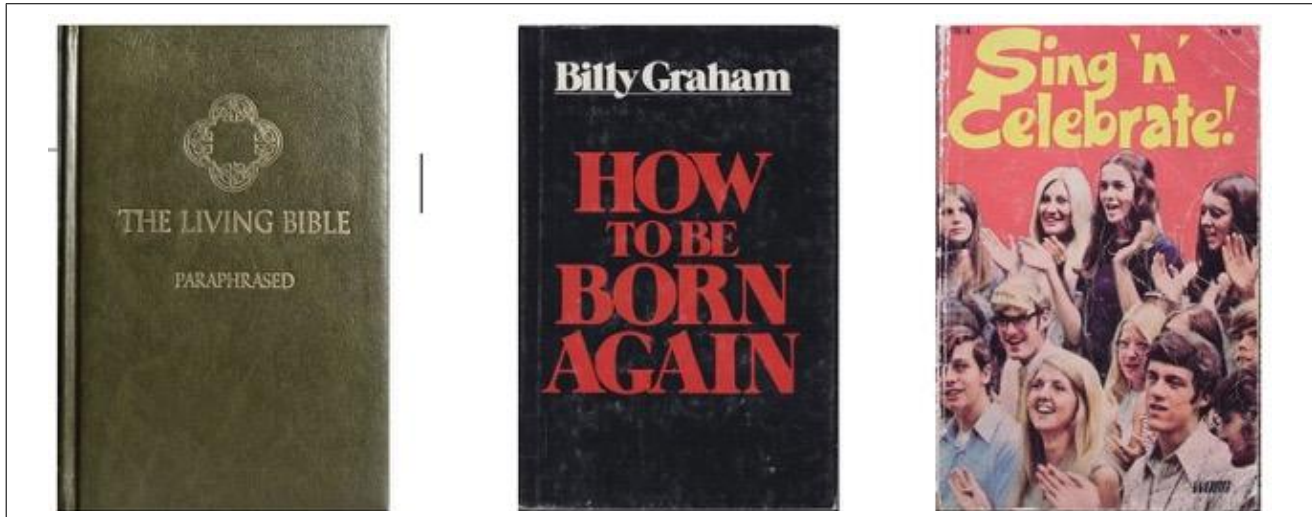




Third Base

Vol 90, Issue 7 • July 2026

From the Pastor



The Living Bible, How to Be Born Again by Billy Graham, *Sing and Celebrate for Youth Choirs*, and a loving youth community guided me to faith in Jesus Christ.

The summer of 1977, during youth retreat at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, I felt called to full time ministry—Paul’s *Letter to Philippians* was guide and teacher, paraphrased through the Living Bible.

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I am planning to end where I began— with final sermon series before departure August 30th:

*Hold You in My Heart: Joy of Philippians*

Paul, as founder of first European church, held congregation in *his heart*; yet his words of passion and thanksgiving derive from understanding: the church in Philippi held Paul *in their hearts*.

*Kardia*, translates heart as center of one’s inner life, you *are on my mind*, thoughts, concerns—I “carry you” wherever I go.

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The expressions of Joy are reviewed through Philippians lens of partnership, progress, agape, encouragement, contentment, pressing on and ending with proclamation: In Christ Alone.

Philippians, in preparation for the next pastor of Third, builds solid foundations for continued personal and spiritual health of Third’s beloved community.

Philippians will guide and remind Third to echo Christ’s character of humility.

Dear ones, I am blessed beyond measure to understand Paul’s opening sentences to his beloved church in Philippi:

continued on next page

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you” (Philippians 1:3). And in remembrance, I will always hold Third in my heart.

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I recall late one evening, sitting next to my cabin on retreat in June of '77— weighing pros and cons of full-time ministry. My dear Grandfather, serving churches throughout his life said, “it must come from God, if you can do anything else...do it.”

The anxiety rose and brother Paul turned down temperature with a few sentences toward end of his letter, penned during time of incarceration:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds on Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:6-7).*

And 49 years later, stirred with a sleepless night, and anxieties about departing Third, and traveling into retirement at 67; I am as anxious as my 17-year-old self, and continue to drink in Paul’s wisdom from this passage.

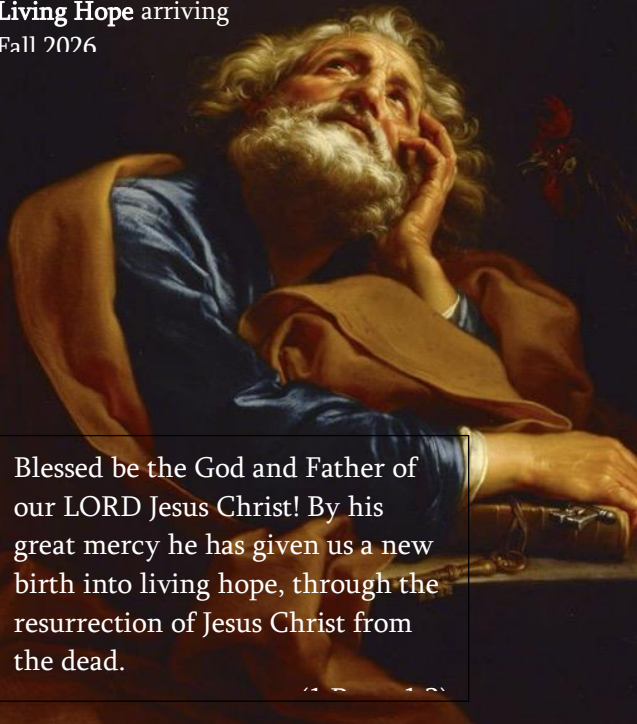
And in quoting this famous verse, the first three words, written a bit awkwardly in numbering of verses states, *The LORD is near...and nearness of Jesus Christ gifting Holy Spirit entering our hearts—is a good antidote for anxiety.*

*Beloved, we will end our journey together, on a note of Joy: “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever. Amen.*

*(Philippians 4:19-20)*

Blessings and love to all,  
Tommy

Stewardship 2027  
Living Hope arriving  
Fall 2026



Blessed be the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Third’s once-a-month Saturday Food Pantry serves a great – and growing - need in our community.

Contribute food, cash, or your time in volunteer hours, for the worthy cause! (Teens can count this towards community service...)

Item donations are great and will be gratefully received and distributed! Including packaged food, fresh produce, drinks, or hygiene items. Of particular assistance: hearty soups, and sauce with meat (such as Chef Boyardee) - cans or factory-sealed packets.

Please connect with Pastor Drew or Monica McDaniel-Collins about where to drop off donations.



# Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

## SUMMER CAMP SIGN-UPS!

- **JUNIOR HIGH**, 6th - 9th grades - July 5-11:  
<https://pci.jotform.com/form/260255379463160>
- **SENIOR HIGH**, 10th - 12th grades - July 12-18:  
<https://pci.jotform.com/form/260045037589157>

TBC,  
I'm currently on a bus driving through Colorado deeply grateful for a week with some of our students, for the generosity and good care of our church, and to God who goes before, behind, and beside us. The American Baptist Church Mountain Prairie Youth Conference was an exceptional event. Our Great Rivers Region chartered a bus and we were able to invite three longtime friends from camp who needed chaperones to be part of our group. I invited our students to share their experience:

### Jaden Jacobs:

I'm so thankful I was able to come to this event and do many things that I never thought would be possible. Also, the new outlooks on life and how God is there with you. all the time which is something that I knew but good to keep hearing. Also all the amazing people like this really Cool Pastor D.J. Dangerfield. So overall I enjoyed this trip very much and am very thankful for it.

### Elise Newton:

I have thoroughly enjoyed going to church events with third Baptist. Their members always make sure that everyone feels welcome and included. This trip was especially memorable because I felt like I got to know some people who I had known for a while but never had the chance to connect with. I also got to see some beautiful views with some of my favorite people. I hope that the great rivers region continues to be involved in opportunities like this so that more kids like me can experience this type of community and connections through the church.

### Gabe Thiems:

This was a very good week. The space was beautiful and our speaker, DJ, spoke a lot of good and I think made an impact on a lot of the youth present. I'm really thankful I got to experience this week, and I'm thankful for all the people who made it possible.

### Natalie Mayhew:

I enjoy going to church events with TBC because I can grow with God while being with my second family. There's no better feeling than connecting with people from all over through a shared love for God. Events like this are honestly the highlight of my year.

## Sunday, July 19th – VBS!

### For students Pre-K through 5th Grade

Stay for lunch after worship and leave your students from 1-3 p.m. for Godly Play: stories from scripture, music, crafts, and games.

RSVP with Drew:

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



**Gregory Robinson:**

I just wanted to send a quick note to say thank you so much for the incredible trip to Colorado! Being out in the mountains surrounded by God's creation was exactly what I needed to recharge. From the late-night cabin laughs and intentional fellowship to the deep moments during worship, I really felt God moving in my life and shifting my perspective. Thank you for putting so much effort into planning this for us and for investing in our youth group. And thank you so much for making our Colorado trip such a blast! The mountain views were absolutely beautiful, but the best part was getting to connect more deeply with everyone in the youth group. I really appreciate all the hard work, prayer, and time you put into organizing these trips for us. It was an unforgettable week.

**Ephraim Newton:**

Opportunities like this are life changing because of the impact it makes on my faith. Getting to see God's creations is great by itself but being able to do it with the family I have created at Third Baptist St. Louis is truly amazing. It's crazy to think that hundreds of people from around the nation can come together to this beautiful place because of one shared love, God.

**Natalie Thiems:**

This week at MPYC with our kids and kids from around the country was indescribable. Our kids led small groups, participated enthusiastically in worship and games, hiked trails, tubed down mountains, built friendships with each other and kids from many other churches, and grew in their faith. Drew led an enlightening session for all the conference participants on prayer practices. I will be eternally grateful to this church for loving our kids and helping to provide these opportunities for them. I am so thankful to God for allowing me to be part of this ministry.



## July 2026: Mission Updates

Many thanks to those who donated to the World Mission Fund in April. The April funds were designated for the **Baptists in Lebanon** who are working diligently to care for **refugees** fleeing from a variety of locations in Lebanon where the conflict with Israel and Hezbollah are taking place. Previously, those attacks were mainly in southern Lebanon, but the latest conflict has spread throughout the county, including Beirut - some strikes coming very close to the Baptist Seminary as well as the Baptist Grade School. Resources have been spread thin as the Christian community works diligently to minister to refugees.

In April our World Missions Fund received \$745.00. Your mission team rounded that up to \$1,000.00 which has been sent to our partners in Lebanon. Again, thank you for your generosity.

Remember our friend **Vera Ramsey** while she visits **Whitney Zulu's ministry, Impact One**. Word from Zambia is that it is an inspiring, full week filled with visits to several schools as well as meeting with the School Board. On behalf of our congregation, our Missions Team purchased several books for the school/library – which are on their way, first to Maryland, then on to Zambia.

You are encouraged to purchase additional books through this Amazon link:  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2IS3Q6RGBNHJN/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2IS3Q6RGBNHJN/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex).

In a recent newsletter from the **Rice's in the Congo**, Tim reports they are quite distant from the Ebola outbreak in the Easten part of the country. Their work in Vanga continues, while carefully monitoring the outbreak. Tim is asking for prayers for colleagues with Ebola, as well as those that have been exposed. One physician with active Ebola has been evacuated for specialized care to a hospital in Germany.

Several St. Louisans are currently traveling to Vanga. This shows their truck full of supplies and heading out for the long arduous trip to Vanga. If you remember in previous posts, they have several old refrigerators. Just a year ago their newsletter was telling of the difficult terrain they had to cross to deliver it, not to mention locals who had to be talked into clearing room for the truck to pass. Currently they have four refrigerators that are not working and #5 is loaded on this truck. It will be welcomed with open arms.



The 5th refrigerator for the hospital in Vanga

In addition to prayers for Tim and Kathy, and their colleagues with, or exposed to Ebola, let us remember to pray for the heavy schedule he carries as hospital administrator, professor, and surgeon. Pray God will raise up help to walk alongside Tim and Kathy in Vanga.

You can read his full blog at: <https://internationalministries.org/update-from-vanga-drc/>

As you pray, please remember all our missionaries/global servants around the world.

Peggy Pittenger  
Missions Chair



# Urban Ministries Board 2026 Des Peres Baptist Endowment Funding Supports



We are funding a support program for Humanitri that equips youth with practical life skills, giving them the confidence to thrive at home, in school and in their communities.



To help students grow beyond academics, we are funding a curriculum that provides character and social development.



We have allocated funding for Foster & Adoptive Care to purchase backpacks and uniforms for children during their annual back-to-school campaign.

## Prospect Hill M.B. Church

In an effort to serve our community with resources that will enrich lives, we are supporting a Fall wellness event called B.R.E.A.T.H.E. at Prospect Hill M.B. Church. B.R.E.A.T.H.E. incorporates Belonging, Restoration, Education, Art, Therapy, Health and Empowerment.



We are supporting Mission: St. Louis with funding for a Fall essential food drive.



### WE DIDN'T EXPECT IT

Before the pandemic and the accompanying lock-down become distant memories, please hear this thought.

In that arid and frustrating time new relationships still managed to find their way into our lives.

Previously had you told us we would find community with people we seldom or, even never, actually see in person by way of zoom calls, we would have dismissed the idea. In all likelihood, we would not have even known what Zoom calls were.

Yet our Sunday morning Wayfarers gathering is proof that community can happen even when those gathering do so in front of computer screens.

Which is just another reason we want to invite you who may not be able to make it to the TBC building or your friends to join us.

We're about Bible study. We're about relationships, and we're about community. We'd be delighted to spend time with you. Just e-mail us at [drstevedawn50@att.net](mailto:drstevedawn50@att.net) for an invitation.

Steve and Dawn

On Friday, July 24 at 7:00 pm there will be a showing of the 1929 silent film "Spite Marriage" co-directed by and starring Buster Keaton. In this movie a hapless tailor named Elmer marries the aloof stage actress of his dreams. He soon discovers she only wed him out of spite to make her ex-lover jealous. The ensuing comedy escalates from a disastrous wedding night into a thrilling, stunt-filled maritime adventure with gangsters.



Organist Luke Staiunas will accompany the movie with an improvised score, on the big screen in the sanctuary. Luke is an organist and organ technician based in Philadelphia and currently serves as the interim organist-choirmaster at the Anglo-Catholic Parish of Christ Church in Woodbury NJ.

He served as an assistant organist for the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia and has also served on call as an organ technician for restoration work on the world-famous instrument. He is a board member and Secretary of the American Theatre Organ Society; a board member of the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society; and a consultant, technician, and performer for the Garden State Theatre Organ Society.

This movie is free and open to the public, so invite your friends and family. There will be free ice cream for all after the movie!

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to...*

- 04 🎁 Linda Roos
- 06 🎁 Tommy Simons
- 10 🎁 Harold Jackson
- 14 🎁 Arris Harris  
& Alice Worrell
- 15 🎁 Elizabeth Hoffman
- 16 🎁 Lynda Sharpe
- 17 🎁 Elijah Kimler
- 18 🎁 Marvelle Johnson
- 19 🎁 Andrea Banks
- 21 🎁 Simon Bailey
- 22 🎁 Karen Stewart
- 25 🎁 Gerri Robins
- 29 🎁 Dea Hoover



**Listen in to Third's Podcasts:**

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

You are invited to journey three paths:

- *Justice and Mercy* - with Jerry Bryan, weekly on Sundays
- *Finishing Well* – Pastor Tommy
- *At the Movies* – with Ashleigh and Aaron



# Third Baptist Church

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**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

**Isabel Moreno**  
FINANCE MANAGER

**Ronnie Winthrop**  
FACILITIES MANAGER