



Third Base

Vol 88, Issue 12 · December 2024

From the Pastor



Pieter Brughel:

*The Adoration
of the Magi in
the Snow,*

1567

The world is indifferent to the birth of Christ—Joseph and Mary are featured at bottom left, above —background players in the greatest event in human history.

Brughel visualizes birth of Jesus Christ, as it was in reality—with added snow and contemporary setting of Netherlands in 1563.

Jesus' birth was uncelebrated and anonymous as community gathers for census in the city of David.

The painting is intentionally “blurry” and “out of focus”—shadows of armed military, parents searching for children, enjoying a cold drink and searching for wood—attempting to find relief from bitter cold.

The surreal setting is assisted by snow, which continues to fall. As hours pass, it seems the painting is destined to fade—covered with snow.

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Advent in our post Christian world has certainly placed the birth of Christ on outlines of our culture and completely off the canvas.

The snow blurs reality of blessed event—the Word becoming Flesh in Bethlehem—to take away the sins of the world.

I encourage you to remove the snow from your celebration of Advent. The pundits encouraging you to disengage with friends and family because of an election to misplaced priorities in your own journey.

Focus on the birth of Christ—in all of its overwhelming simplicity—the answer to the problem of sin and death—through the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.

I trust you are warmed by the love of family and friends—and pay particular attention to those unable to travel home—here with us from India, Puerto Rico, and Africa.

Build a comforting fire for people traveling through their first Christmas separated by death from loved ones.

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Third changed the name of our annual community Food Pantry Christmas Baskets event to the *Alexandria Hamilton Memorial Christmas Basket Ministry*.

Third comes from a long line of faithful witnesses, now cheering us on from afar until we all arrive home.

Let us honor the legacy of servant hearts gone before us—through an invitation to an open seat at your table during Advent.

Never underestimate the power of your table—

The Holy Spirit can guide you as an instrument of love and hope—warmed by fire of your embrace.

Let's all assist one another and help clear away as much snow as possible—in order to see clearly:

*Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you this day is born in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

Merry Christmas my dear beloved community,

Tommy

Third's Food Pantry needs your help stocking the toy room for guests attending our annual December event, **the Alexandria Hamilton Memorial Christmas Basket Ministry!**

Through Wednesday, December 18th:  
New toys for ages 0-18 would be welcomed!

or:

*Hats and gloves are also welcome for donations to this ministry.*

or:

*Monetary donations (others will shop).*

Please find Drew Philips or Deanna Davis for donations or questions.



# Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

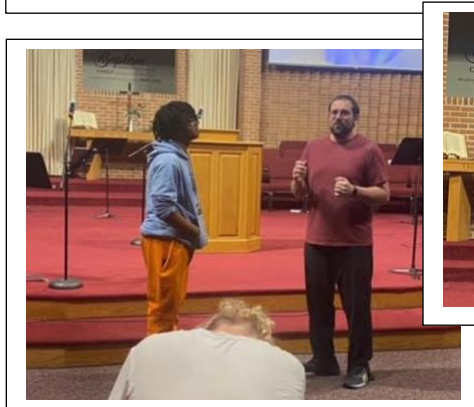
For the December calendar:

During worship each Sunday in the month of December, our K-5th graders will *Godly Play* the Advent story for children's church.

December 8th: families of babies through youth, join us after worship for an Advent meal and fellowship in the Children's Department.



Below are some highlights from the American Baptist Youth retreat (ABY), "The Gathering," held in Mattoon, IL, over November 8-10. The theme was *Seen. Heard. Known.* The speaker (speaking at the pulpit, below) was Rev. Natasha Nedrick Adzudzor, and the band was from the host church, First Baptist Church of Mattoon.







## Missions Focus: Third's Community Food Pantry

For decades TBF has given generous Christmas baskets to our community: Church Council voted to rename this ministry: The Alexandria Hamilton Memorial Christmas Basket Ministry in honor of our dear friend, a tireless leader and advocate for our food pantry.

We can use donations of food, toiletries, funds, and your time! We will be setting up and packing Thursday, December 19th, from 12:00pm-2:00pm and Friday, December 20th from 9:00am-12:00pm. **Look for the large blue bin at the bottom of the ramp near room 2 on Sundays and Wednesdays to leave donations.**

For more information or to ask questions about volunteering for a period of time within these preparation dates, please reach out to Monica McDaniel-Collins or Bonnie McDaniel.

Below: volunteers preparing to greet guests in the toy giveaway (Teen) room and in the food "baskets" giveaway (Children's department) for the 2023 event:



# Wednesday Night Fellowship

Join our welcoming group!



From Tommy:

*You have created a special, beautiful group on Wednesday nights. I am deeply grateful for all. Take a moment and review the faces written into each other's story, arriving from various backgrounds and cultures, fellowshipping as one in Christ. We are blessed. Blessings and love to all.*





Happy  
Anniversary

Save the Date!  
Third Baptist Church's 175th Anniversary  
Celebrations  
~2025~



WE ARE MAKING PLANS TO HAVE A  
YEAR LONG CELEBRATION WITH  
SPECIAL FESTIVITIES AND WORSHIP:  
FEBRUARY 23RD ~ MAY  
4TH SEPTEMBER 7TH ~ DECEMBER 6TH  
~ DECEMBER 7TH  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW - SO  
THAT YOU CAN JOIN THE  
CELEBRATIONS!  
MORE DETAILS TO COME.

# Adult Discipleship

Wednesdays in December  
4, 11, and 18:

A Call to Discipleship

5:15 p.m. Dinner

5:45 p.m. Discipleship study

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



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### Happy Birthday to...

- 03 🎁 Ezra Estes
- 10 🎁 Candace Thomas
- 11 🎁 Karen King
- 14 🎁 Kelly King
- 17 🎁 Tisha Brooks
- 20 🎁 Carson Wright
- 21 🎁 James Robbins
- 23 🎁 Timothy Harrison
- 24 🎁 Lois Hunsaker
- 28 🎁 Gregory Robinson
- 29 🎁 Bill Pearson
- 30 🎁 Connie Vohsen

Note Your  
Calendar:



Tuesday, December 24th ~  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Grand and Washington Podcast  
Dr. Tommy Simons

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



# 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. 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