



Third Base

Vol 88, Issue 10 · October 2024



Third Baptist celebrates Brent Johnson's 20th Anniversary as church organist on Sunday, October 27th, during Morning Worship – followed by luncheon in the Children's Department.

Brent is a grace gift from God—musical gifts connecting with hearts, souls and minds. You are invited to participate and write a note of encouragement, and if financially able, please place gift card in Pillsbury Threshold October 27th — honoring 20 years of ministry at Third. Brent's gifts reach far beyond his musical ability, bearing gifts of love, joy, patience and kindness to Third's staff and beloved community.

On behalf of all – Brent, we are blessed God has written you into our story.
Blessings, Pastor Dr. Tommy Simons



Third Baptist Church

Grant opportunity for service in the city

↓ APPLY NOW ↓

Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund

Do you or your organization serve in Saint Louis City and have a financial need?

- Simple Application Process
- Opportunity to tell your organization's mission/story
- Explain your specific need and hopes for the grant
- Grants that meet criteria will be awarded based on available funds during the cycle
- Applications will be reviewed by the Urban Ministries Board to assess financial need and alignment with the mission of Third Baptist Church and Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund

Fall 2024 Grant Cycle

Begins- October 1, 2024

Applications Due- October 31, 2024

To request an application e-mail Dani Phillips, at phillipsedanielle@gmail.com.

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

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.

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!

Below: Elaina Lewis, longtime guest and faithful volunteer - organizing attendees every month. Along with Jackson (left) new, college volunteer



Chris Lee and Danny Lawrence: welcoming guests, and serving as unofficial hall monitors (human arrows)



Some of our regular volunteers and guests!



Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Third Families:

Every Wednesday from 5:45-6:45 p.m., youth group will - up to Advent season - continue doing practices of our faith, writing, praying, collecting, giving, and pondering together.

On Sundays during Sunday School hour, youth are asking "So what?" as we look at the big story of faith leading up to Advent.

Children, ages Kindergarten-5th Grade: Lakisha Johnson is doing an excellent job of leading our children in Sunday School where they hear a mission story and scripture lesson each week.

Every other Sunday, children ages kindergarten-fifth will have Godly Play during morning Worship service, where we wonder together through Bible stories.

Upcoming -

Youth: November 8-10th: Gathering of the American Baptist Youth, FBC Retreat - Mattoon, IL. Sign up with Drew, it will be a blast, consider this a teaser for summer camp!

Scenes from youth-led worship in September:



Missions Moment: Kihomi and Nzunga

Third was blessed to have a special missionary team with us on September 22nd. Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga minister in the Dominican Republic (DR). Their first love is always Haiti, but conditions in the country have made it impossible to live there, and so they minister to Haitians from the DR. Kihomi and Nzunga were joined by Joan and Dennis Shewell, friends who have supported them over many years.

Kihomi and Nzunga spoke about their work during a recent Sunday School hour, with many images that illustrated the challenges they face every day. From Pastor Drew: their ministries are multi-faceted, they work with single women securing micro loans for their work, schools, hospitals, universities, churches, and women's groups all over the country. Haiti is in the news often and never for good things: coups, earthquakes, gang war, the simplest things such as cashing a check or travel from town to town are often harrowing. And these two with their deep and loving hearts have served and loved well. I'm so grateful God allows us to partner with them, hear their stories, encourage them with our prayers, and join the good, good work they do.

Other comments about this special visit:

Pastor Tommy said it so well: "Dear Ones, thank you for your superb hospitality to Nzunga and Kihomi and Dennis and Joan Sewell who visited us at Third on Sunday, September 22nd." Note that our guests travel expenses were covered while they generously spent time with our members Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

Dennis Shewell wrote, "we have never received this level of hospitality"—this is a beautiful witness of our beloved community."

It was especially meaningful to have our missionaries with us. The impact is so much greater when you see them and hear their stories and understand all the challenges they face every single day. For example, we take so much for granted. It is unimaginable to hear that roads may be washed out or inaccessible for the simplest journey, commented Jane Russell.

Tom Kurtz recalled Nzunga's description of going to a "missionary school" in Africa. As a young person the lessons learned there led him to accept the call to be a missionary and serve in Haiti. What a beautiful reflection on the schools founded by Baptists and the impact it has on so many lives.

From Pastor Drew: Nzunga and Kihomi have done heroic work in difficult places for years. One sees and hears in their voices, stories, and the pictures of their work the deep love, commitment, and connection they have made, wherever they are. I'm struck that even though they have had to relocate to the other side of Hispaniola in the DR because of the unrest in what has been their Haitian home for nearly two decades, their commitment and work.

Ric Hunsaker was so impressed by the description of the eye clinic in Cap Hatian which Nzunga founded. The fact that cataracts are frequently discovered in children really sets this clinic apart, as it is the only place in Haiti where children as well as adults may receive surgery for cataracts.

From Peggy Pittenger: One of the most recent issues Nzunga has been dealing with is the loss of the air conditioning unit in the Eye Clinic in Cap Haitian. In Haiti, where it is always hot and humid, having air conditioning where patients are having eye surgery is critical. Every project in Haiti is a long, complicated and expensive process. Donations given to our "World Missions" offering allowed your Missions Team to send check for \$1,000.00 toward the replacement of this unit. It is a blessing to hear that they are moving forward with the installation despite all the challenges.

It was heartwarming having our friends with us. I would love to hear your thoughts about the visit and how you were inspired. Please feel free to let me know in person or at peggypittenger@gmail.com.



With Joan & Dennis Shewell



Speaking in Sunday School



From the pulpit



Third has sent financial assistance to displaced families and first responders. In the long term, Church Council will recommend various avenues of financial support and sending mission teams to assist those ravaged by Hurricane Helene.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18).

Third, thank you for your kind and generous hearts.

Welcome new member!

We extend Raul Gierbolini a warm welcome into our beloved Third Baptist community



Adult Discipleship



Wednesdays in September:

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

Verse by verse study, led by Dr. Tommy Simons

5:15 p.m. Dinner

(sign up for dinner reservations at tsimons@third-baptist.org)

5:45 p.m. Discipleship study

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 01 🎁 Bonnie McDaniel
- 02 🎁 Tammy Lamb
- 03 🎁 Luther Jackson
- 09 🎁 Mona Harrison
- 12 🎁 Eliot Barnes
- 17 🎁 Jerry Bryan
- 22 🎁 Judy Parham
- 25 🎁 Mary Lynom &
Julius Phillips
- 27 🎁 Ruby Whiteside
- 31 🎁 Jacqueline Madey

Note Your Calendar:

Sunday, October 13th

All-church Quarterly Business Meeting, following morning worship service



We celebrate the recent baptism of Sharon Erdani, here pictured surrounded by her friends for the occasion.





Third Baptist Church

620 North Grand Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63103

Office: 314-533-7340

Third-baptist.org

We'd love to connect with you!



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