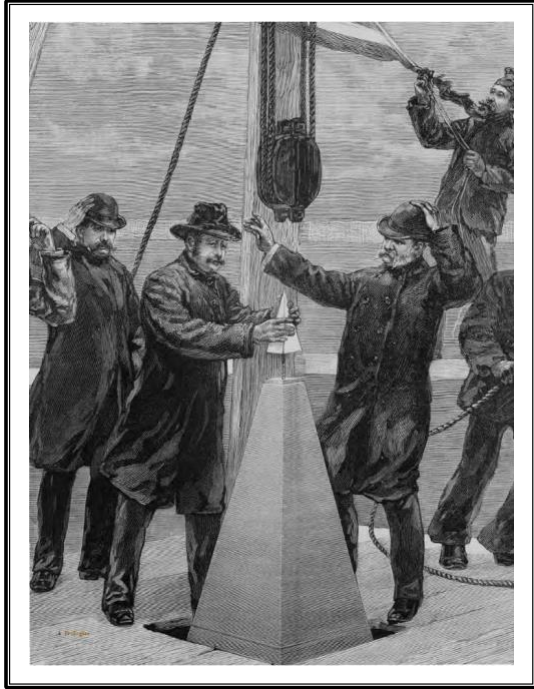




Third Base

Vol 89, Issue 8 • August 2025



December 6, 1884—top of 555 foot monument

From the Pastor

... That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness...

~Declaration of Independence

A complaint was filed with the Palm Beach Police Department in March 2005 (20 years ago) alleging Jeffery Epstein molested a minor.

6 years ago: Epstein was arrested by NYPD-FBI Task Force on Crimes Against Children—charged with sex trafficking of minors. He is denied bail and placed in Special Housing Unit of FBI Federal Detention Center in Manhattan. Two months later, Epstein is found dead in his cell.

31 years ago: prosecutors allege during the Ghislaine Maxwell trial, she began assisting Epstein in sexually exploiting underage girls—recruiting children as young as 14 for “massages” and arranging travel to one of several Epstein properties.

5 years ago: Maxwell is arrested and charged with sex trafficking and perjury for her role in Epstein’s abuse of minors.

3 years ago: Maxwell is sentence to 20 years in Federal Prison for her role in Epstein’s sex trafficking scheme.

6 years ago: the FBI searched Epstein’s Island in Little St. James—3 days after he was found dead— full disclosure of their discovery has never been released.

Therefore, after interactions of 31 years: Maxwell is sentenced to 20 years. Epstein is dead. And...it’s all wrapped up...thank you very much and time to move on.

Take a moment and re-read the excerpt from our Constitution in the first paragraph.

continued on page two

The covering up of *child sexual abuse* and the protection of elites is a red line.

Therefore, in the three decades long saga—our government—for the good of our social compact with one another—*needs to release it all without edit or equivocation.*

As a follower of Jesus, you consider events through the prism of Christian World View.

Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians:

*You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but **let us be awake** and sober.*

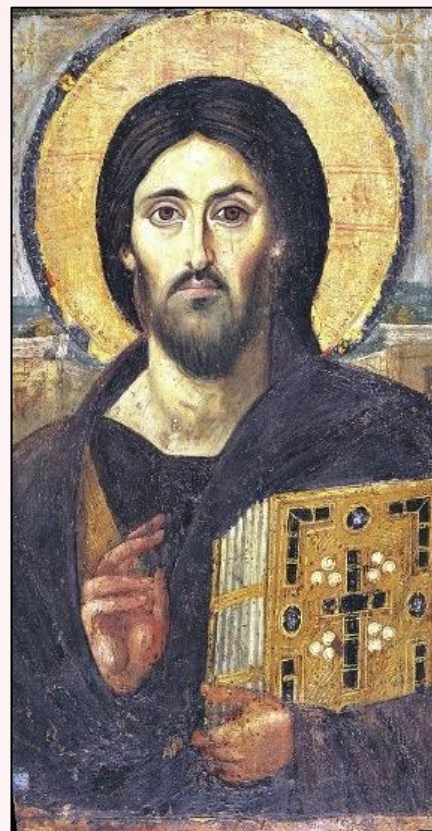
And I encourage you to remain awake until all parties involved in alleged sexual exploitation of children are transferred from darkness to light.

The capstone (topmost item on a structure), an aluminum pyramid—9 inches tall and 6 inches wide, was placed December 6, 1884, on top of The Washington Monument (see etching on page one).

Laus Deo is inscribed on the east side of the pyramid—facing the rising sun. The Latin phrase means “Praise God.” But it is good to keep in mind another phrase, written by an apostle of Jesus who was not in the best of moods—

*Do not be deceived; **God is not mocked**, for you reap whatever you sow (Galatians 6:7).*

Grace and Peace,
Tommy



Worship Series through August 31st

The Hallowing of the World explores how God’s presence sanctifies our lives, relationships, and creation.

Hallow means to consecrate, sanctify, or make holy. For example, “After this manner, pray: *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*”

Men’s and Teenage Boys Fellowship at Linda Roos’ Lake house ~ Saturday, August 23rd

- Cookout
- Boating, Water Sports
- Devotion by David Sanjay

Please meet at Lakehouse at NOON, or the van will depart church at 10:30 a.m., to share the ride. Planned return by 8 p.m.

Email tsimons@third-baptist.org
for reservations

Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Friends,

My back is sore, I'm a little more bug bitten than I was two weeks ago, and my heart is so, so full.

I'm thankful to this generous fellowship of believers called Third Baptist who allow, fund, endorse, and pray for our students. I'm thankful for families who prioritize making sure their students are in church, engaged and tending to their souls. I'm thankful for a church that embodies so much goodness and generosity for our students. Our students camp well--they encourage others, volunteer to do the hard things, care for those on the fringes, and participate with joy.

Natalie Thiems, who directed both weeks, is the bi-state camp hype award winner. Her passion for students to have a positive camp experience shines through her excellent work. Isaiah Collins (senior high), Gabe Thiems and Autumn Hillebrand (junior high) counseled with patience, gentle guidance, and good care. They modeled the fruits of the spirit for all the campers. Monica McDaniel-Collins (senior high) served camp as nurse, being called at all hours to wrap wounds, hand out meds, and listen to the hurting. Her huge heart and generous spirit were a gift to us all. (You can see a picture of Monica sharing her story at Camp Fire during Senior high, next page).

Before I preach with people who don't know me, I like to say that the best thing about me is that I get to be Dani's spouse and Julius's dad, but a close second is that I get to serve this church and her students.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17th

I want to highlight Sunday, August 17, when we will promote students to youth group.

And Youth families: we'll celebrate promotion Sunday and the start of the school year with lunch after worship at the Foundry! Join us!

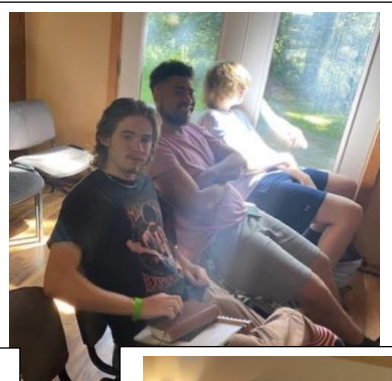
**Junior High Group
(with friends)
and camp
activities**



Photos courtesy
Drew Philips
and
Natalie Thiems



Senior High Group (with friends) and camp activities



Mission Focus: Updates from the Mission Field – August 2025

Dr. Tim and Kathy Rice: On Wednesday, March 26th, we hosted Dr. Tim and Kathy Rice here at Third for our Wednesday evening service. In preparation for their visit, several of our members knitted baby caps and made receiving blankets. Others shopped for infant clothing and receiving blankets. The caps and blankets are the first items nurses reach for at a baby's birth. Kathy sent this picture of one of the mom's receiving our gifts while big brother looks on.

From Kathy on May 21st:
Here is a photo of one of the moms
in maternity receiving a layette
from Third Baptist.
What a joy to partner together!



Check out a hair-raising adventure about a truck and a refrigerator. This happened on the Rice's return trip to the Congo this spring:

https://mailchi.mp/85ecce15403d/we_made_the_news?e=576f7d62d7



Olive branch

This lovely 7x7 inch piece of artwork was offered during the CBF Assembly here in St. Louis in June. Your missions chair could not pass it up as it reminds me so much of the work of the Chetti's in Beirut. It was created by a local artist in Cyprus and Jana Lee, our missionary to Cyprus found it for the CBF Silent Auction. Olive trees are a symbol of Cyprus and used in the imagery in the Middle East. So, this piece holds a special reminder for us of Jana in Cyprus, as well as the Chetti's in Beirut.

A few weeks ago, Gateway180 here in St. Louis suffered a serious fire. No one was hurt, but the smoke damage was extensive. Your Missions Team used funds from your mission gifts to replace some of the sheets and towels that were ruined.

Your gifts to this fund help us respond quickly to emergencies as these. Please consider giving - as you are able - to that fund by check, cash, or online.

Peggy Pittenger
Missions Chair



The Good Samaritan and Being a Neighbor

In the Wayfarers study of the parables, we landed most recently on the Good Samaritan.

One of the curious lessons from this story is that we might actually identify best with the man lying in the ditch. In that case we have to put ourselves in the position of receiving help from someone very different from (and maybe traditionally hated by) us.

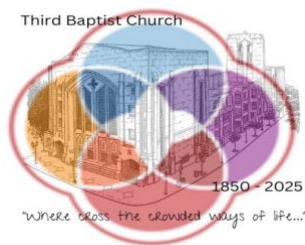
Use your imagination on that!

But however we read this parable, we cannot escape asking who our neighbor is. A hymn, sung to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation," but with re-done words, in part, goes like this:

O God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see
Our common fears and longings, our shared humanity.
You call us all to listen to burdens they have known,
To hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.

Maybe, together, this week we can ponder those words and read the Scriptures anew.
Steve and Dawn

2025 Anniversary Celebration Calendar



Sunday, August 17th

WORSHIP 11 A.M. with special guest, Mark Gifford,
former TBC church organist

and

SPECIAL ORGAN CONCERT at 1 PM!

Sunday, September 7th: 1950-2000

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. John F. Anderson, Senior Pastor from 1990-2000

**All church picnic in Johnson Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. **

Sunday, November 9th

Speaker: Dr. Richard Hipps, pastor, author and missionary to Brazil—celebrating Third's mission culture since its foundation.

Missions Fair for All - 10 a.m. in the Children's Department

Saturday, December 6th

Special 175th Anniversary Celebration Gala Luncheon, more details to come.

Sunday, December 7th: 2000-2025

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. Warren J. Hoffman, TBC Senior Pastor from 2005- 2013

Adult Discipleship

Vera Ramsay was scheduled for mission trip to Zambia with Impact One. Unfortunately, due to crisis in the Middle East, her trip was postponed until next summer.

Wednesday, August 6th: Whitney Moureau Zulu, Impact One founder, will lead discipleship. <https://www.impactoneinitiative.org/>

Wednesday Nights: August 13th through September 3rd

Cradle of Faith: Exploring Biblical Roots in Ancient Mesopotamia, Dr. Tommy Simons



Rob Lamb returns September 10th, continuing a series on The Gospel of John.

5:15 p.m. Dinner / **5:45 p.m.** Discussion and Spiritual Application

Sign up for dinner reservations with Tommy: tsimons@third-baptist.org

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 02 🎁 Natalie Thiems
- 04 🎁 Kayia Mooney
- 05 🎁 Ken Blanton
- 10 🎁 Rachael Whitt-Barnes
- 13 🎁 Jerry Campbell &
Julie McDaniel
- 20 🎁 Evelyn Kurtz
- 25 🎁 Samuel Governor &
Avery Brooks
- 27 🎁 Frank Stevens &
Pat Blake &
Josiah Huddlen
- 28 🎁 David Stevenson
- 22 🎁 Karen Stewart
- 28 🎁 David Stevenson
- 30 🎁 Jill Arbini



Listen in to Third's Podcasts:

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

You are invited to journey three paths:

- *Good Day!* - with the Pastor
- *Justice and Mercy* - with Jerry Bryan
- *At the Movies* – with Ashleigh and Aaron

Mark your calendar...

- **August 24:**
Church Council meets
following worship

- **August 31:** Quarterly Business
Meeting in Sanctuary after worship





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Third-baptist.org

We'd love to connect with you!



third-baptist.org/guest

Third Baptist Church Staff

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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

Christine McCarthy
FINANCE

Ronnie Winthrop
FACILITIES MANAGER