



Third Base

Vol 89, Issue 10 • October 2025

From the Pastor

The Jericho Road was well traveled but dangerous road connecting Jericho with Jerusalem. The winding hill, valleys, and crevices placed pilgrims and travelers at risk.

God has called Third to exist on The Jericho Road—as members and guests arrive from 30 different zip codes—from Chesterfield to Edwardsville.

And you are not shielded from God's children suffering hardship, begging in the street or finding rest and shade from one of Third's canopies.

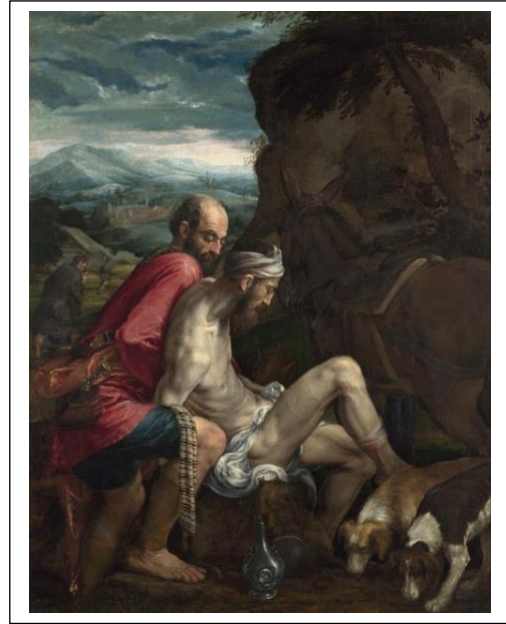
The first impulse from Third is to inquire: Are you thirsty? Come in from the heat or cold and share a drink.

Are you hungry? Brother or sister walk with me to the Fellowship Hall and sit around the table—I'll serve you donuts and coffee and food from our pantry.

Third's diverse community travels the Jericho Road and arrives at Grand and Washington—urban and suburban followers of Jesus Christ—ministering with place and population God has planted us.

Third matters.

'Thanos snap' Third Baptist Church and remove from present location—and it would have profound negative impact on our beloved city of St. Louis.



The Good Samaritan, Jacopo Bassano, 1562

Third, founded in 1850, and residing in present location since late 19th Century—each generation has wrestled with question: Who is my neighbor?

In our present context: the neighbors and membership gather around the Table of Grace as artists, lawyers, teachers along with dear ones struggling with sight and physical challenges, poverty and economic hardship.

Third reflects Paul's magnificent description of Christians in Galatians:

There is "neither Jew nor Greek; Male or Female; Slave or Free; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

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For the past 10 years we've recited familiar litany as "Third's signature" before partaking of The Lord's Supper by asking, "Who is welcome to the Table of the LORD?"

Everyone.

Everyone? The Democrat, Republican, or Independent - and even disliked Samaritans - written into your story?

Yes, all are welcome to partake of the Table of Grace.

Third matters.

And this message matters in a culture determined to divide and demonize "the other."

Third's focus is Jesus Christ and sharing Gospel to all—and each of us sit around fellowship tables—respecting differences but unified by:

Jesus Crucified.

Jesus Resurrected.

Discipleship guided by "iron sharpeneth iron."

And all agree, without equivocation:

God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

Thanks be to God for "whosoever" written into Third's story.

And as Third opens door to another Stewardship Season, you will travel familiar roads:

- All are asked to return annual pledge and place in model of Third, at proper time during worship, October 5, 12, and 19. As an option, you may email annual pledge to cmccarthy@third-baptist.org
- The pledge process is an act of worship—used in crafting a wise and doable 2026 Unified Budget.

And for those new to our community, Third's Stewardship season arrives from a place of gratitude and thanksgiving to God, and we gladly set aside manipulation and unnecessary drama.

It is an adventure on The Jericho Road! Therefore, let us consecrate ourselves, walk in love and run the good race while fixing our eyes on Jesus—preparing to steward Third into year 176.

Blessings and love to all,
Tommy

St. Louis Chamber Chorus Concert at TBC

October 5th, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

<https://www.chamberchorus.org/current-season>

Science / From Leonardo Da Vinci to Albert Einstein

Third Baptist Church, Grand Center
620 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103

Since Aristotle, music and science have intersected in provocative and illuminating ways: the discovery of new data and the creation of original art are two sides of the same coin. On this program, composers describe revelations and discoveries, from astronomy to optics, from advances in engineering to our theory of matter, as conceived by the ancient Roman poet, Lucretius. A new commission from Francis Pott complements recent works by Dobrinka Tabakova and Melissa Dunphy, and Renaissance songs by Dowland and Weelkes.

Celebrate Philip Barnes: Nine Years Anniversary as Third's Director of Music

On October 5th, during morning worship, Third recognizes Dr. Philip Barnes' nine years contribution to the church's exceptional musical history.

Read more about Philip's extraordinary musical experience [here](#).



Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Wednesday, October 15th: Youth group will meet for Dinner at Drew, Dani, and Julius' house—families are invited for walking tacos/Mexican buffet.
- Saturday Evening, November 1st: Pre-K to 5th Graders—Hayride in Forest Park! RSVP with Drew, let him know if you need transportation.
- Friday, Nov. 7 - Sunday, Nov. 9: ABY YOUTH Gathering - Fall retreat at FBC Bloomington, IL. (Think of this is a mini-midyear camp experience!) Contact Drew with questions. Sign up at [this link](#).

Children: Every other Sunday – during worship Children K-5th Graders gather in the Children's Department for Godly Play where we wonder through Bible stories.

Youth! Join us on Wednesdays—
Have homework? Need a quiet place to read?
Want to study with the motivation that after doing so you can beat Drew on the Playstation?
The youth room is open from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays for just these occasions.

Dinner is at 5:15 p.m.
(make reservation with Pastor Tommy)
Youth Group is at 5:45 p.m. Last month we met in the sub-basement and decorated with ancient art from the first centuries of the church!



Thank you, Church, thank you Church Leadership, and thank you Students for leading worship on September 14th. I hope you, too, were encouraged by the thoughtful, inspired, and encouraging leadership of your youth.



Third Baptist Church

Grant opportunity for service in the city

Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund

**Do you or your organization serve in Saint Louis City?
Is there a funding need for an initiative or project?**

- The application process is simple.
- An opportunity to tell your organization's story.
- Explain your specific need and hopes for the grant.
- Eligible requests will be awarded based on the availability of funding.
- The Urban Ministries Board will assess financial need and alignment with the mission of Third Baptist Church and the Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund.

Fall 2025 Grant Cycle

October 1 - October 31

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

Mission Focus October: News from Kihomi and Nzunga

From Kihomi and Nzunga's Newsletters, September 3 & 4, 2025

Dear Loved Ones,

Greetings. Many of you have been wondering about the whereabouts of Nzunga & Kihomi. Thank you for your concerns, your prayers, and your support. We do not take your love for us and our ministries for granted. We are still in mission serving the Almighty God in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Kihomi went to the Democratic Republic of Congo to visit her aged mother who had a stroke that has left her completely paralyzed the left side. The day Kihomi arrived to greet the mother, it was the day the mother was going to exit this world. Thanks to Kihomi's quick thinking and action, the mother is still alive today and doing relatively well for her situation and for her age. What was going to kill my mother-in-law? Malaria and dehydration.

While Kihomi was in Congo, I went to Haiti where I spent almost 3 good weeks working at the eye clinic. I was positively impressed by how the staff of the eye clinic carry themselves at work. It seems that everybody has really mastered the lesson learned from watching THE ANTS in Proverbs 6:6. No need to tell them what to do.

You are watching here the images of the deterioration of the building of the Eye Clinic; This FORTRESS built during the colonial time is still the strongest building one is likely to find in the of Cap-Haitian. To most of us the building is run down and there is no way to use it for medical purposes. Most of our people do not have that kind of choice. They just care about the treatment of their eyes they get. The time I was there this summer, I worked hard to restore the water system until running again all over. We have 7 functioning toilettes, 6 sinks / lavabos and 2 full showers. Today the staff and their patients cannot stop thanking God.



What is destroying our fortress? The building is built a couple of feet from the ocean bay. The salty air from the ocean hit the building hard. The building has two big roofs that are directly exposed to and get plenty of tropical sun and rains. The metal sheets that cover the roofs are hit day and night by salty air from the ocean bay. Thus, they become too rusty. When it rains it pours, and the rain penetrates through the rusty nails. The rain destroys the ceiling and the paint in the walls.

To receive future missions newsletters, go to:

<https://internationalministries.org/author/kn-mabudiga/>. Scroll down the page to Newsletter sign up under "Get Connected". Their newsletters are always packed with vital information concerning their ministry in Haiti/Dominican Republic.

Peggy Pittenger
Mission Chair



ON BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

When you talk about suffering, you inevitably end up, talking about how you manage suffering. People say good and beneficial things to those in the throes of hardship. They also say mean and hurtful things. Those of us in Wayfarers have been wading through all of this and here are a few of the ideas we have landed on. Not all thoughts will be useful to you. But perhaps a few will.

The idea is to provoke thinking and help us bear one another's burdens more ably. Here goes:

- Suffering may be seen as a sign of life.
- To feel abandoned (by God) does not mean we are abandoned (by God).
- We need stronger stretcher-bearers.
- Christ may be especially present in our weakness and suffering.
- There is healing as we look in Jesus' face.
- Suffering and dying are ways by which the world is changed.
- Love will always suffer if it is invested.
- In Christ suffering will have a sense of finality.
- We have not suffered in a way Jesus does not understand.

For more conversations that look and sound like this, please join us as Wayfarers on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Your inquiry will get you a zoom invitation. ~~~Steve & Dawn

2025 Anniversary Calendar

Sunday, November 2nd

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

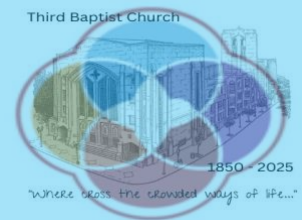
Missions Fair for All - 10 a.m. in the Children's Department

Saturday, December 6th

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

Sunday, December 7th

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



Mark your calendars for Sunday October 26th when organist Amanda Mole will be here at Third performing a recital on the 72-rank sanctuary organ.

Dr. Mole is an award-winning young organist, having brought home first place in 2017 from the International Musashino-Tokyo Organ Competition, one of the largest and most prestigious organ competitions in the world. She also was the first-place and audience prize winner of the Miami International Organ Competition in 2016, and the first-place winner of the Arthur Poister Organ Competition and the John Rodland Memorial Organ Competition in 2014. Since 2017, she has served as a juror for live and preliminary rounds for several organ competitions and, in 2016, Amanda was chosen as one of The Diapason magazine's Top 20 Under 30, a feature that selects some of the most successful young artists in the field. Originally from Holden, Massachusetts, Dr. Mole holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.



Her program here will include not only works for organ, but transcriptions of orchestral works that the organ of Third Baptist handles particularly well. The concert is free and open to the public, and starts at 3:00pm on Sunday, October 26th. Please make plans to attend and invite your friends for what promises to be a thrilling afternoon of music!

Adult Discipleship

Continued Study of The Gospel of John

Wednesdays through November 23

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

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



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



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

Look for a big blue donation bin on the
Ground Floor!



- ♦ Food pantry donations are always welcome, held the 3rd Saturday of every month.
- ♦ Christmas Baskets toy drive! Along with the Missions' Team collections for CAC Adopt-a-Child Christmas gifts, consider dropping donations for our own Food Pantry toy collection!



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. 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

Christine McCarthy
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Ronnie Winthrop
FACILITIES MANAGER