



Third Base

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From the Pastor

Joe Campos Torres was arrested, beaten by police and body dumped into Buffalo Bayou.

The officers involved were sentenced to one year probation and \$1 fine.

In the early evening of May 7, 1978, Houston's worst riot in modern history broke out in Moody Park.

The following week, entering sophomore year at Houston Baptist University, I received an invitation from Park Memorial Baptist to serve as Minister to Youth, located in Houston's East Side - ground zero of racial tensions and near Moody Park.

I was turning 19 in a couple months, and with idealism and the passion of youth, I accepted and began service at Park Memorial in June 1978 - remaining until graduation and beginning Seminary years

in Fort Worth, Texas, in August 1981.

And for those three years, I don't think I've ever laughed as hard, played as much, and enjoyed being around a group of people more. The world was young, and everything was new.

46 years ago, I walked into a fellowship hall as a suburban gringo and met inner city hispanic youth in a church located in a political tinderbox.

The concept of time changes as you age—a stretch of three years is a blink of an eye. Journeying the ages between 18-21 seems like a lifetime.

The burnout is rather high among folks entering "church work," perception does not meet reality and younger ministers

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are expected to exercise wisdom beyond their years.

There is only one time for first impressions, and I was blessed beyond measure to serve with a group of people dissimilar to my own story, but similar in fellowship with Jesus Christ.

God wrote Park Memorial into my story during David and Goliath stage of youth—*I'm not afraid. I don't require any armor, I'll jog over to a stream, pick up a few stones and swing away.*

The acceptance of this position had a lot of down sides and physical risks. But I was tuned into idealism, not the reality of my situation. And God used this step of faith to teach foundational lessons about race, culture, and hope that is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ.

The final goodbyes as their youth minister were during an evening Youth Service in August, 1981. I took several pictures, developed, and took the treasured remembrances with me to Fort Worth. I placed them in a bag which I accidentally tossed into dumpster. A few months later, I received one blurry picture taken with a “throw-away” camera:



The group photo is reminder of joy and remembrance of youth— beginning years of ministry, built on solid foundations.

I broke down two years ago and signed up for Facebook. I had no idea how it worked and really didn't care. And if not for keeping up with church family and pastoral care issues, I would discontinue, glad to find dopamine hits in other areas of life. Though I believe I'm stuck on 666 friends— so if someone would add or drop me, I would appreciate it.

A Facebook message was received soon after I signed up, “Hello Tommy, is this you? I thought you were dead.” (I think she was joking.) Park Memorial youth sent a link, created by those participating in youth ministries from late '70's to early '80's. I scanned various faces, 44 years after the above photo was taken—Javier tragically killed in car accident, Isobel is now a grandmother, Carlos is a regional manager for Kentucky Fried Chicken, Karen was a nurse and happily married with children and on and on... and most active youth had links to various churches attending with family.

I've inherited my grandfather's stoicism, but I walked from my desk and closed the office door and began to cry. Sometimes life comes at you too fast, waves of joy and melancholy, overwhelmed by the passage of time.

I turn 65 next month and my professional ministry years, begun in summer of '78, is closer to the end. And this pilgrimage was blessed to start in Houston's East Side, offering glimpses of the Kingdom of God:

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God so loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:10-11)

Grace and peace,
Tommy

Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Summer Youth Calendar

JUNE and JULY:

June 1: LSBC Workday at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

June 5: Youth Pickleball in Johnson Hall

June 12: 6:45 p.m.
Cardinals game
for families - let
Drew know if
you'd like tickets!



June 19: TBD

June 26: Youth tour of the Cathedral Basilica and meal out. Meet at 4 p.m.

June 19-22:

Our own, Natalie Thiems is directing a three day "Choose your own adventure camp." Grades 6-12 are eligible. Sign up here: <https://form.jotform.com/240155987062157>

Junior High is July 7-13 and the signup link is here: <https://form.jotform.com/240156342247148>

Senior High is July 14-20 and the signup link is here: <https://form.jotform.com/240156436369157>

I am happy to talk camp with anyone interested!

AUGUST:

VBS is coming!

August 2-4, 2024. Let Drew know if you would like to volunteer or need more information: dphillips@third-baptist.org



Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund Recipients

2024

The Endowment Fund is a special fund created by a generous gift from Des Peres Baptist Church to support service in the city. The application cycle occurs twice a year during the months of April and October. The spring 2024 cycle concluded on April 30, 2024. The Urban Ministries Committee will release information for the fall cycle on October 1, 2024. We ask for the congregation's support in sharing this resource with your networks.

- **Assisi House** provides permanent-supportive housing to unhoused or housing-insecure individuals. The executive director explained that the last thing many of their residents think of is getting proper dental care, that many of them have lost many teeth and require dentures and that, to date, there's been no funding to address the health concern that negatively affects one's health and appearance. The request goes towards residents who have reached financial stability and can now focus on their smiles. The grant will cover 10 residents' dental care.
- **The Revival School** empowers refugees by fostering their creativity while supporting their goals to further their skills in the industry. The grant will support the expansion of equipment to produce their music and support unforeseen circumstances that students may experience at any given time.
- **Prospect Hill Mission House** is located in the Walnut Park community and rates of poverty are known to be higher than the state and national averages. Prospect Hill expanded its food and clothing pantry ministry located in its Mission House. The grant will support the purchase of supplies, items, and any other needs for the Mission House.
- **Hope in the Ville** project hopes to increase access to fresh produce for pantry visitors by actively using a vacant lot they acquired to expand their community garden and establish a community orchard. The grant will support the initial efforts of bringing fresh food to an area with limited access to these items.
- **Top Ladies of Distinction** is a national organization. The Cardinal Chapter is the St. Louis local service organization. They support and develop teenagers who are selected for development. Their service project focuses on the statistic where those who leave the foster system do so with a trash bag and their items. The grant will support essential tools for independence by providing 10 comfort cases and luggage pieces to youth transitioning from Every Child's Hope.

At this writing we Wayfarers are three weeks into our journey.

Begun April 29, we are a long-distance zoom gathering, originating from the dining room table of Steve and Dawn Phillips in Indianapolis, Indiana. Meeting one another wherever we are, we seek to create comradery as we study Scripture together. We commit to being “alone together” in following God’s guidance for our lives.



To that end, our forty-five minute sessions so far have focused on Biblical characters Abram and Sarai, Ruth, and Jonah. We have pondered what those wayfarers have to say to us who are Wayfarers.

Fifteen have signed on so far, though, as you will clearly understand, the composition of the gathering has varied from week to week. We expect that. Wayfarers are, after all, a transient lot.

We are grateful that our home base is Third Baptist Church and its ministry. We came to life at the suggestion of Pastor Tommy. Our hope is that as we talk, study, and pray, we will—with the leadership of the Holy Spirit—enhance the work of this great church.

We are excited and hopeful as we have begun our travels together. After all, Abram and Sarai did not know precisely where they were headed, only that God was leading them and going with them all the way.

Thus, we covet your prayers. We welcome participation by any who currently do not have a small group home within the church. And we give thanks for this new avenue of following Christ together. To receive a zoom invitation, email drstevedawn50@att.net.

Missions Moment – Kihomi & Nzunga



Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga are well known to Third Baptist Church as they have visited St. Louis many times.

They served in Haiti for many years, until political issues made it impossible. After some setbacks, they are finally in their new home in Altagracia, Dominican Republic (DR). This is a small village about 30-45 minutes’ drive from Santo Domingo, and close to mission land where they are building a new church – New Creation Baptist Church.

Kihomi and Nzunga request prayer support as they navigate complicated family situations, with no easy answers, such as a recent visit from 5 teenage girls asking for prayers to help them stop fighting and insulting people.

While they are in the process of building the church, they carry on with pastoral ministry to their congregation as well as teaching every Tuesday and Friday evening as well as sharing Sunday duties.

Needs:

Financial Support: American Baptist Missionaries (ABC) must raise their own support. Currently they are at 68% of their needed support. Gifts given through Third Baptist may be designated for Kihomi and Nzunga or donated directly online through ABC's International Ministries (IM) website.

Architectural rendition of New Creation Baptist Church



Prayer: As they navigate the stress of building a church, and minister to individuals and families fleeing Haiti for safety.

Visits: Mission trips are encouraged in a beautiful setting, to gain insight into Gods work in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Ways to Stay in touch:

Stay in touch by going to ABC website and signing up for their updates. Kihomi and Nzunga are great communicators about the triumphs and challenges in the DR and their beloved Haiti. <https://internationalministries.org/author/kn-mabudiga/>



Adult Discipleship



Pilgrim's Progress:
A Summer Discipleship Journey
Wednesdays in June
5:15 p.m. dinner
5:45 p.m. Discipleship
Dinner reservations: tsimons@third-baptist.org

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 03 🎁 Susan Seewoster
- 06 🎁 Mireille Bradford
- 08 🎁 Christopher Lee
- 09 🎁 Addison Hulett
- 18 🎁 Eunsil Stevenson
- 19 🎁 Drew Phillips
- 21 🎁 Betty James
- 23 🎁 Joseph Agor
- 24 🎁 Lydia Thiems
- 25 🎁 Fran Blake
- 27 🎁 Monica O'Dell
- 28 🎁 Pat Stevens
- 29 🎁 Deanna Davis

Sunday Morning Volunteer Call

Come hang out with us! If you're interested in helping with extended session care from time to time (on a rotation with other volunteers) your help would be welcome.



Please contact Ella Banks at ebanks@third-baptist.org to get on the schedule.

Note Your Calendar...

June 2nd
Church Council Meeting

June 23rd
Quarterly Business Meeting





Third Baptist Church

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Third-baptist.org

We'd love to connect with you!



third-baptist.org/quest

Third Baptist Church Staff

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Dr. Philip Barnes
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE
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Sally Stevenson
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