From the Pastor:

Kobe, Rush, Jerry and Ernie

That’s just ridiculous... how did he do that?!
Are you kidding me...?
We are in big trouble... foul him at least!

The above phrases, with a bit more spice and bravado, were shared in the nosebleed section of the Compaq Center (home of the Houston Rockets). The Rockets schedule would arrive in the summer—and I always circled—when Kobe and the Lakers were coming to town. Sitting in another zip code inside the arena—you would witness Kobe's relentless determination to be the best.

A few Sunday’s ago, Kobe Bryant and daughter (Gianna) attended 7am worship service and participated in communion—four hours later—they and 7 others were gone.

Rush Limbaugh was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. One group communicated news with sorrow, some with a shrug, others could not wait to express joy concerning his diagnoses of terminal cancer.

Jerry Nadler has been in the political crosshairs of impeachment. One side vilifies—another holds in high esteem. Jerry missed the final day of impeachment hearings—choosing to be with his wife—decisions had to be made—cancer had spread to her pancreas.

Followers of Jesus Christ rise above noise and echo chambers. Yes, we all have our political and personal biases—and we are called to question boldly and speak truth in love. Yet, there is a higher calling—concerning your relationship with the “other”.

The fork in the road—love or fear—is open for all to travel—and love is the hard path. To choose the path of love—we are called to see in our friends, enemies and irritants—the face of Christ.

Ernie Johnson is host of NBA on TNT—along with co-hosts Charles Barkley, Shaquille O’Neal and Kenny Smith. I read a few thoughts from Ernie when he was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago—and he was very open concerning faith in Jesus. Ernie Johnson guided his grieved co-workers with tenderness and love during an hour long broadcast following Kobe’s death. A few years ago—Ernie made a decision to become a follower of Jesus—and considered resigning from TNT and accepting a “faith-based job”. Cheryl (his wife) gifted Ernie with a compass on the anniversary of his decision to follow Jesus—reminding him to follow the One who gifted him “Ultimate Direction”. Johnson decided to stay at TNT—committing himself to use this platform—when proper circumstances arose—to share the love of Jesus.

Dear Ones, the spiritual compass—will always point true north—guiding you to a place of love.
And we welcome Lee Musgrave, pictured with his fiancé Emily Davis, to our beloved community. May we continue, with all our diversity, continue to be united in our common faith in Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

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**Worship and Music**

**Communion Services in 2020**

In recent years we’ve enriched our monthly communion services with the music of composers from England (John Rutter), Wales (William Mathias, and Scotland (James Macmillan). In 2020, we are using the music of Barrie Cabena (b. 1933) to enhance our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Cabena was born in Australia, but studied in England with Herbert Howells before emigrating to Canada, where he still lives. He has served as President of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and taught at Wilfred Laurier University in Ontario.

**Special Music at March 15 morning service**

Our worship on March 15 will be enriched by a particularly unusual musical presentation. In place of regular choir, we will be inviting Rebecca Margolis and Nathan Brown, our Alto and Tenor section leaders, to sing a remarkable ‘Canticle’ by the British composer, Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976) that recounts the troubled relationship between Abraham and Isaac – the focus of the Sermon that morning.

**Concerts at Third**

Someone recently asked if TBC is now presenting a second concert series to complement Friday Pipes. The answer is ‘yes’ and ‘no’. We’re not hosting a regular series, but as the word spreads about the wonderful facilities the church has to offer, we are hosting more recitals, many of which are offered to you, the TBC congregation, as a gift. The next two such events are on March 1 at 4:00 PM, when the ensemble TAPESTRIES, led by local harpsichordist Joy Ryan, will present an eclectic repertoire drawn from several centuries, performed in the 4th floor Memorial Chapel. A light supper will follow the performance, so please plan on joining us and perhaps bring a friend!

Then, on Sunday, April 26, we’ll welcome COLLEGIUM VOCALE for a fascinating presentation - a historical recreation of ‘the fabulous Buononcini Brothers’, again in Memorial Chapel: the music starts at 3:00 PM, and is preceded at 2:30 PM by a pre-concert lecture.
Worship in March
The Power of Two

Ancient society thought that leaders were born, not made. They were born to the right families, from which would flow wealth, success, and acclaim—the traditional marks of leaders. But Paul is describing a very different process. Leaders in the Pauline communities are designated by the gift of God, which seems to be given indiscriminately of anything else. Anyone could be a leader of a Pauline assembly. Leaders could be drawn from any walk of life and any social stratum, a phenomenon that would be enormously beneficial to the community, but it could also be enormously disruptive.

-Douglas A. Campbell

March 1
Faith: Jairus and his daughter

March 8
Deception: Jacob and Esau

March 15
Obedience: Abraham and Isaac

March 22
Service: Mary and Martha

March 29
Support: Priscilla and Aquilla
Wednesday Evening Adult Discipleship

According to the spirituals, the meaning of Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection is found in his identity with the poor, the blind and the sick. He has come to set them free, to restore their wholeness. He is the conquering King and the crucified Lord who has come to bring peace and justice to the dispossessed of the land.

-James Cone

Lenten Reflections:
The Spirituals and the Blues
Wednesday Nights in Johnson Hall
March 4 to April 1
5:00 PM- Dinner
6:00 PM- The Spirituals and the Blues

Anniversary Concert
and Dinner
Sunday, March 1

The Tapestries Ensemble will be in concert at 4:00 PM in the Memorial Chapel. Following the concert, at 5:00 PM, we will gather in Johnson Hall for homemade pizza, salad and dessert. The children and youth will provide entertainment during our fellowship meal.

Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 8
Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery, a Christian based recovery program, will begin on Wednesday, April 15 from 6:00 PM—7:30 PM. The first 30 minutes of the meeting will include a devotion and teaching. Beginning at 6:30 PM, small groups will meet. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life.

Food Pantry Fundraiser

During the month of March, you will have the opportunity to participate in a fundraiser for the Food Pantry. Shopping bags with the church’s logo will be available for purchase. For every bag purchased, one bag will be donated to the Food Pantry for use by Food Pantry clients.

In February, our Food Pantry served 68 families, representing 224 people.

Global Missions Update

Mary VanRheenen and Keith Holmes are one of seven missionaries supported by TBC’s Unified Budget. Below is a thank you note from Mary and Keith for TBC’s most recent gift. Mary and Keith will be speaking to our Wednesday evening adult discipleship group on April 29.

Dear brothers and sisters at Third Baptist,

Thank you for your recent gift to our programming fund. This provides financial support our day-to-day work such as Keith’s research into a YouTube project in Kalderash Romani, one of the most widely understood Romani languages and Mary’s online Oral Learning discussion group with field personnel in Slovakia, Romania, the Netherlands, and Sweden. Thank you for your partnership through prayer, through gifts, and through moral support! We look forward to sharing in person on April 29.

Yours in Christ,
Mary VanRheenen & Keith Holmes
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Europe Team, Romany (Gypsy) Ministries
I was re-reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer material in preparation for Youth Sunday School a few weeks ago and discovered that this brilliant theologian and eventual martyr was, when in the employ of churches from 1925-1939, a youth minister.

In parts of 1930-31, while studying at Union Seminary in New York Bonhoeffer was befriended by African-American students, found home worshipping at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, and was instructed about Jim Crow Laws by people who had suffered them.

He took the stories, instruction, and challenges he saw in the States home with him and continued to write, preach, and lead knowing that a Christian is called to respond to injustice. Not only do his writing and preaching but his lived testimony show his attempts to do this. At some point Bonhoeffer wrote “Eight Thesis on Youth Work in the Church” one of which is quoted below:

7. The authenticity of young people’s protest against their elders is demonstrated by their willingness to maintain solidarity with the guilt of the church-community and to bear that burden in love, abiding in penitence before God’s word.

We are a blessed people to serve, grieve, repent, and be reconciled with one another. 2020 USA is not 1940 Germany and yet our communal service and worship and our decision to follow Christ together will guide us in the ways of justice and our young people may help guide us.

I’m so grateful to serve with you and pray that God be our compass in coming days,

Drew

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**Spiritual Practices at Home**

*An Interactive Workshop for Families With Children*

Led by Rev. Hannah Coe,
Pastor of Families and Faith Formation, First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, MO

Saturday, March 14
10:00 AM—2:00 PM
March Events

1  Regular Sunday Schedule, Anniversary Concert and Dinner
3  WMS Meeting, Staff Meeting
4  Vulnerable Persons Training, Regular Wednesday Schedule
8  Regular Sunday Schedule, Vulnerable Persons Training
10  WMS Meeting, Staff Meeting
11  Regular Wednesday Schedule
14  Family Workshop
15  Regular Sunday Schedule, Vulnerable Persons Training
18  Regular Wednesday Schedule
21  Food Pantry
22  Regular Sunday Schedule, Vulnerable Persons Training
24  Staff Meeting
25  Regular Wednesday Schedule
29  Regular Sunday Schedule
31  Staff Meeting

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM  Doughnut & Coffee Fellowship
9:45 AM  Sunday School
11:00 AM  Worship, Sanctuary
Noon  Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold

Wednesday Schedule

3:30 PM  Third Readers
5:00 PM  Fellowship Dinner
6:00 PM  Adult Bible Study, Godly Play for Children, Youth Activities
7:00 PM  Choir Rehearsal

March Birthdays

3  Juanita Wallis
4  Maria Bradford
5  Grace Moore
8  Virgil Dickinson
9  Nancy Furgerson
10  Brent Johnson
11  Tom Kurtz
12  Charles Taylor
16  Kathy Herendeen
17  Naomi Thiems
20  Carolyn Head, Lynn Spencer
22  Richard Stevenson
23  Pat Whitt
25  Elizabeth Berger, Tena Thompson
28  Christie Kincannon
29  Don Wainwright
Staff

Dr. Tommy Simons  
Pastor

Rev. Maria Stinnett  
Associate Pastor for Missions & Communications

Dr. Edem Dzunu  
Associate Pastor

Rev. Drew Phillips  
Minister to Families

Dr. Philip Barnes  
Director of Music

Ella Banks  
Receptionist/Office Assistant

Byron Greer  
Building Supervisor

Timothy Harrison  
Custodian

Karen Stewart & Linda Freiburghaus  
Church Historians

Brent Johnson  
Organist

Tom Kurtz  
Business Manager

Lansin Lim Kimler  
Pianist

Christine McCarthy  
Finance

Raymond Murphy  
Custodian

Sally Stevenson  
Parish Nurse