



Annual Report
2019

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Pastor's Report

The Apostle Paul was attempting to communicate the depth of God's love:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from who all fatherhood in heaven and on earth derives its name, I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power, through his Spirit, in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through believing; and I pray that you,

Being rooted and grounded in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how width and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love surpasses all knowledge, that you may be filled to the measure, with the fullness of God.

-Ephesians 3:14-19

The following committee reports represent Third members exercising their gifts of the Spirit. All of our organizational structure is geared toward effectively using Third's time, talents and financial resources—to assist others to be filled to the measure, with the fullness of God.

~

I am most grateful to all of our servants who work many hours behind the scenes—applying their skills of administration and organization.

And may all continue to commit ourselves to Third's relational vitality. The web of networks in our personal and professional lives continue to build up our family of faith.

The beautiful tapestry of faith continues to be enhanced through those who have joined our church family. Since our last annual meeting, we have welcomed:

Drew Phillips
Dani Phillips
Tammy Lamb
Rob Lamb
Portia Nartey
Karen Hoshino
David Martins
Michelle Campbell
Steve Campbell
Zach Rogers
Linda Rogers
Ken Rogers

Monica Odell
Jim Robbins
Jerri Robbins
Sylvester Jacobs
Janet Jacobs
Michelle Harris
Robin Ebert
Emily Davis
William Stovall
Lee Musgrave
Gil Williams

~

These names represent a wide range of diversity and background. Their stories were formed in Ghana, Brazil, Spain, Illinois, Switzerland, Oklahoma, Saint Louis and Saint Louis County. From my conversations, their theological and political positions are all over the scale. They work for the postal service, students, authors, drama teachers, retirees, successful business men and women to those who are dealing with issues of poverty and needs for long-term care.

Sound familiar? Yes, they came to the right church!

May we continue to communicate and invite others to an open seat at our table of grace—promoting love over fear; grace over law.

Blessings,
Tommy

Church Council and Executive Committee

Third Baptist Church continued to be a place of faith and support for our members and a “light in the city” in 2019 as we worshipped, celebrated and welcomed members together. Dr. Tommy Simons and Reverend Maria Stinnett, along with many dedicated lay leaders, worked throughout the year to provide us with many opportunities to come together as a community. Reverend Drew Phillips and his wife Dani joined our Church in August and brought energy and engagement to our church family. Philip Barnes, along with our pianist, Lansin Lim Kimler, organist, Brent Johnson, and our ever-dedicated sanctuary choir continued to move us with their music and commitment. Community outreach ministries such as the Food Pantry, under the leadership of Alexandria Hamilton, Monica McDaniel-Collins and Bonnie McDaniel, along with a strong team of regular volunteers, have continued to share love and resources with our community through their monthly service. Crossover Basketball, WMS, Friday Pipes Concerts, Music Concerts and work with other local churches, and other ministries all demonstrate our commitment to serve in our community for good. All of these and more are testaments to our faith that this is where God calls us to gather.

The Church Council and Trustees, in conjunction with the Pastoral team and church staff, have continued to work together to make decisions that support the vitality of our facility and ensure it is a welcoming and functional space for years to come. With the sale of the parking lot, the church commissioned an ad hoc committee to investigate opportunities to use the proceeds. We welcomed North Side Community School into our church space in 2018 and with the gracious financial support of the Third Foundation, renovated the 3rd floor in 2019 to accommodate the addition of new grades per our contractual agreement. North Side Community School continues to be a wonderful tenant and our support of an institution that is doing great work educating children within St. Louis City is another way we are using our space in support of the community in which reside. We are also continuing to work with our neighbors as Grand Center continues to evolve. Our Children and Youth programming is taking shape as they continue to enjoy their spaces. Projects to keep our spaces clean and updated are constantly in progress. The hard work behind the scenes accomplished by our team of dedicated maintenance staff, led by Byron Greer who has recovered and looks great, cannot be over-estimated.

We have much to be grateful for in the many lay leaders that served in 2019:

Office of Secretary – Gwendolyn Grimstead

Office of Treasurer – Ken Blanton

Deacon Chair – Clara Jackson

Business Manager – Tom Kurtz

Health & Wellness Ministry Team – Sally Stevenson

Community Ministry – Alexandria Hamilton

Family Ministries Team – Rachael Barnes

Adult Ministry Team – Nancy Furgerson

Global Missions Committee – Steve Phillips

Hospitality Team – Connie Vohsen
Environmental Team – Deanna Davis

Administrative Committees:

Communication - Deanna Davis
Nominating – Evelyn Kurtz
Stewardship – Beverly Odell
Personnel – Mike Thiems
Trustees – Ken Blanton
Sound and Lighting – Howard Roos & Mike Thiems
DPBC- Urban Ministries Board – Peggy Pittenger
Foundation Board – Harold Jackson

2020 will provide us with the opportunity to show our love for one another and the people we meet as we face changes that will surely come our way. Together as a congregation and with the strong leadership of our pastoral team, church staff and lay leaders, we will meet those changes and listen for the ways in which God continues to call us to be a voice for peace and love in our community.

I want to thank everyone for their patience, guidance and support as Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,
Juan Moore
Church Moderator

Board of Deacons

Clara Jackson – Chair

God has blessed Third Baptist Church with men and women who love the Lord and use their talents to minister and serve others. The Deacons are just a small collection of these men and women.

As a collective group and as individuals the Deacons are here to assist you, Third Baptist Church – we are here to pray for you and with you, rejoice and grieve with you, as well as be a companion in your daily walk with Christ.

Thank you, Diaconate, for serving the congregation of Third Baptist Church throughout 2019. I know God will continue to bless you and to minister through you. I am honored and proud to serve among you.

2019 Board of Deacons:

Simon Bailey, Ella Banks, Rachael Barnes, Demetrius Bryant, Alexandria Hamilton, Chris Lee, Ron Littlejohn, Craig Robinson, Sally Stevenson and Natalie Thiems

“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”
Isaiah 40:31

Community Ministries

Thank you to Third Baptist Church for your unwavering support of Community Ministries.

January through November Third Baptist offers a Food Pantry allowing our guest to shop through our rows of canned goods, hygiene products, household supplies, the occasional frozen meat or vegetable and of course toilet paper. Did you know government assistance (EBT, food stamps) cannot be used to purchase toilet paper?

In December we pre-register up to 150 families, inclusive of our food pantry guest, Third Readers families, and the schools near/in the church. The preassembled baskets consist of sugar, flour, crackers, oatmeal, green beans, corn, peanut butter, jelly, soup, baked beans, cake mix, applesauce, corn bread mix, rice, pasta, pudding, butter, fruit, sliced bread and a chicken. In addition to food we allow parents to choose a gift for their children under 12, along with hats and gloves for each child registered.

We continue to be grateful to Kirkwood Baptist for allowing us to use their truck to pick up food the Thursday before the third Saturday when we serve the community. During 2019 we served 1,896 families (3,296 people) inclusive of Food Pantry and Christmas Baskets. Yes, some of the families are recurring and have come to rely on Third Baptist to assist them throughout the year. The team is grateful that we were able to help our guest during the government shutdown when food assistance was downsized and withheld.

This year in addition to our own wonderful youth and adult volunteers, we were blessed to have the Harris Stowe chapter of the NAACP, SLU students, Wash U students, and other local groups' partner with us to serve our community.

If you helped pack or unpack the truck, if you showed up to serve, if you offered financial support, if you donated specific items, if you prayed for our guest or ministry. We Thank You! If you would like to experience the blessing of giving, or have questions please speak with Alexandria Hamilton, Monica McDaniel-Collins, or Maria Stinnett.

Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment for Inner-City Ministries

Annual Report to Congregation 2019

Mission of the DPBC Endowment Fund:

The Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund for Inner-City Ministries at Third Baptist Church is to provide funding for compassionate and relevant ministries in St. Louis City that address spiritual and physical needs as the church strives to be the presence of Christ in the city for good.

Members:

Peggy Pittenger, Member-at-Large, Chair (1st term, exp.12/20)
Richard Stevenson, Board of Trustees, recording secretary (2nd term, exp. 12/19)
Tena Thompson, Community Ministries (1st term, exp. 12/20)
Sally Stevenson, Board of Deacons (1st term, exp. 12/20)
Greg Martin, Member at large (2nd term, exp. 12/20)
Tommy Simons, Pastoral Staff (as assigned from Pastor / ex-officio)

Criteria for approving grants was updated this fall:

- Grants will be awarded based on available funds.
- Applicants may be asked to present their request in person to the DPBC/EF Committee.
- Grants will **not** be considered for:
 - An organization's operating or capital expenses
 - Salaries of TBC ministerial or lay staff
 - Incomplete application / incomplete budget
- Funding decisions are final – there is no outside review or appeal process.

The committee unanimously adopted a new policy on May 29th concerning future funding of grants:

Policy on Funding New Grants

The Endowment Board, Des Peres Baptist Church Urban Ministries Fund, at all times will limit its funding of new projects to no more than that amount of funds currently available in the Urban Ministries Fund account balance at Third Baptist Church and not already committed to funding of previously approved projects.

Grants running through 2019 included the following:

Project	Sponsor	Amount	Start Date	End Date
Crossover Basketball	Demetrius Bryant Maria Stinnett	\$2,200	Nov. 2018	Apr. 2019
TBC City Arts Project	Sylvester Jacobs Tommy Simons	\$8,000	Jan. 2019	Dec. 2019
TBC Saturday Food Pantry	Allie Hamilton Maria Stinnett	\$7,000	Jan. 2019	Dec. 2019
TBC Children's Ministry Assistant	Maria Stinnett	\$1,872	Jan. 2019	Dec. 2019
TBC Summer CBF Intern	Tommy Simons	\$3,000	Jun.2019	Aug 2019
Cornerstone Early Learning Center	Edem Dzunu	\$1,000	Aug.2019	Aug.2019
FAEC, After Sessions	Ruthie Vincill	\$5,000	Aug. 2019	May 2020

Support of the Interim Minister of Urban Ministries approved in 2018 was approved for a second year to continue through the spring of 2020:

TBC Interim Minister of Urban Ministries	Pastor Simons	\$20,000	Jun. 2018	Jun. 2019
		\$20,000	Jun. 2019	May 2020

Our Spring assessment of funding was completed with adequate funds in hand to manage new and on-going grants. The first and second quarter receipts generated by funds invested with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Foundation (CBFF) were significantly lower than expected. This raised concerns about how the principle is invested. The investment strategy was adjusted in accordance with the 2009 DPBC Endowment for Inner City Ministries Fund Resolution:

“an amount that is equal to a prudent percentage of the average balance of The Inner City Ministries Fund over the previous sixteen quarters”

The expectation is that the amount of future receipts will be less variable.

Respectfully Submitted

Peggy Pittenger, Chair

Environmental Ministry Team

Team Member: Deanna Davis

The goal of the Environmental Ministry Team is to help TBC members recognize our responsibility for the stewardship of God's creation. We believe this is one way we can love God and our neighbors. I invite you to join me as a fellow team member!

The primary efforts of our team revolve around recycling efforts and promoting sustainable practices in our local and more global environments.

Recycling. Earth Circle Recycling continues to provide service to both the church and North Side Community School in a joint recycling effort that began in 2018. The service continues to furnish three large rolling carts for the collection of items. Carts are located on the east wall of Johnson Hall (behind the curtains), but you're welcome to empty your recyclable material into any small blue bin around the building – find these next to the coffee counter, in Pillsbury Threshold, at the side and Narthex entrances of the sanctuary, and in the church office. There is a recycling bin in the Pillsbury Threshold for the collection of plastic cups.

Clean and dry paper (without glitter, glue, etc.), plastic, glass, and aluminum can be recycled. Rinsing before throwing out helps reduce the risk of pests. (Thank you for helping with this!) Special thanks to Byron Greer and Tom Kurtz for their assistance in shepherding TBC's recycling efforts. For more information about how to responsibly recycle at home, visit STLCityRecycles.com or search "St Louis County Recycling at Home" for County-specific recycling details.

Energy. Tom Kurtz has also been working over several years to reduce energy usage and continuing to keep solar energy working for TBC. Solar energy panels were initially installed on our main building and garage/ apartment complex – all panels have been moved to the main church roof in 2018. You can view the amount of solar energy generated over time by visiting <http://thirdbaptist.egaug.es/stats.html>. 48,300 kWh of energy were generated in 2019. (This is a big deal – as 27,392 kWh of energy were generated in 2018!) Since 2014, this adds up to 169,683 total kWh generated.

Partnership for Sustainability in our Region We continued our affiliation with Missouri Interfaith Power and Light (MOIPL). MOIPL is the local chapter of Interfaith Power and Light which is a national organization. This organization helps faith communities respond to climate change. It works with the Jewish Environmental Initiative and the Missouri Gateway Chapter of the U.S. Green Buildings Council. This allows our church to share information about sustainability with our membership and other congregations.

Earth Day 2020: Look for forthcoming information about how to participate in sustainable living initiatives for yourself and your community, as part of Earth Day 2020. Festivities will be held in Forest Park on April 25th and 26th. (There will be no 'Recycling Extravaganza' event in 2020, typically held on the campus of St. Louis Community College, according to event organizers.)



Family Ministries Team

(formerly Children & Youth Ministry Team)

Rachael Barnes, chair

Dear Third Baptist Church,

As 2019 began, the ongoing search for a new Youth Minister transitioned to a search for a Minister to Families. To affirm Maria Stinnett's pursuit of her Doctor of Ministry and her evolving ministry gifts, and to appeal to a broader group of more highly qualified candidates, the search committee worked to define a new role for a full-time Minister to Families. This short-form position description – along with a more detailed outline of responsibilities and qualifications – was shared widely and produced a competitive list of applicants who were carefully and prayerfully considered by the search committee.

Third Baptist Church, located in St. Louis's bustling Grand Center Arts District, seeks a gifted Minister to Families to work with a diverse group of both traditional and non-traditional families and their students in grades 1 through 12. Responsibilities include discipleship, fellowship, bible study, outreach to visiting families, relationship-building, recruiting and training volunteers, and assisting/teaching Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

Meanwhile, the ongoing ministries to TBC families continued to thrive under pastoral support from Maria Stinnett, Edem Dzun, and Tommy Simons as well as committed lay leadership. TBC preschoolers and elementary students continue to be blessed by the faithfulness of their Sunday School teachers: Evelyn Kurtz, Clara Jackson, Elizabeth Hoffman, Alexandria Hamilton, and Juan Moore. We extend special thanks and appreciation to these additional volunteers who served with our children and youth in the months before the arrival of the new Minister to Families: Robin Bailey, Pam Dzun, Eliza & Aaron Griffith, Michelle & Craig Robinson, Caren Simons, Natalie Thiems, and Deborah Watson. In addition, the church was able to welcome a summer intern, Andrew Tonks, through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Thanks to a wonderful team effort throughout the extended search period, our children and youth continued to experience spiritual growth and discipleship through a vibrant mix of Bible study, worship, service, and fellowship.

Winter fellowship events included *Home Alone* at Powell Hall, a night of movies/games/karaoke, and a progressive dinner in the homes of the Tommy & Caren Simons, Pam & Edem Dzun, and Sylvester & Janet Jacobs. Along with pool parties, bowling, SkyZone, and assisting with Food Pantry, several camp opportunities punctuated the summer months. With gratitude to Natalie Thiems for her leadership and for this summary, here is a report about two trips to Lake Springfield Baptist Camp:

Summer of 2019 again held wonderful camping opportunities for the children and youth of TBC. At the end of June we had the privilege of being heavily involved in Middler Camp at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. There we served in roles of co-director, counselors, junior counselors,

helpers and campers. We were there from Sunday to Wednesday. In July we attended Senior High Camp. This gave us a great time to get away and to delve deeper into God's word and our community with each other and other senior high kids from around the region. It is truly a joy to watch our kids grow in their own faith as well as minister to others at camp. Between the two camps we sent 4 adults and 5 children and youth to church camp this summer. We are so thankful for the support this church gives to us in our participation in camping ministries. Lives are truly changed at church camp.

Back home at Third Baptist, Maria Stinnett led another successful summer of Music & Arts Camp and Vacation Bible School for younger students. With gratitude to Maria for her ministry and for this summary, here is a report about those ministries:

Our Music & Arts Camp was attended by seven children. In the mornings, we participated in Bible studies, learned music and practiced a drama. In the afternoons, we visited Saint Louis attractions such as the zoo and the Science Center.

Vacation Bible School was attended by nine children. Our theme was: To Mars and Beyond. We had the opportunity to hear Bible stories, make crafts and participate in recreation during our Vacation Bible School.

Speaking for the members of the search committee, one of the most anticipated events of summer 2019 was the arrival of our new Minister to Families, Drew Phillips! The search process was longer than anticipated, but our prayers and hard work paid off when, in God's time, we connected with Drew and realized that he was just who we'd been waiting for. Drew & Dani Phillips arrived in August 2019 and immediately set about building relationships with TBC families and the entire congregation. Drew's kindness, warmth, and authenticity are evident to children, youth, and parents alike. Beyond Sunday and Wednesday programming, Drew has met individually with parents and attended school-based sporting events of our youth. He has led the youth in bonding experiences like an afternoon of gaming and sports at church, a progressive dinner at iconic St. Louis restaurants, an overnight lock-in, and volunteering together with the TBC Food Pantry. Drew can be seen sitting with the elementary children during worship, and most Sundays he leads them in Children's Church during part of the Sunday service.

While not as fun as fellowship or as transformational as camp or Sunday School, the administrative side of ministry is also important. Maria and Drew continue to ensure that children participating in our ministries are safe by updating permissions, emergency contacts, photo releases, etc. The Family Ministry Team is compiling a photo directory of families with children and youth, and Drew has begun implementing special training for staff and volunteers who work with vulnerable persons, which includes minors.

In the new sharing of responsibilities, Maria Stinnett continues to oversee childcare and ministries for ages birth to Kindergarten, while Drew Phillips coordinates programming for students in grades 1 through 12 and their families. David Martins, a Saint Louis University

student who joined Third last fall, assists with youth who attend on Wednesdays while Drew ministers to children in our tutoring program, Third Readers. On Sundays, Drew has introduced the youth to the practice of Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina is a traditional monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. Each Sunday, youth read and reflect on the day's sermon scripture prior to the worship service to prepare them for the message during worship. During Children's Church on Sundays and with Third Readers on Wednesdays, Drew leads elementary school students in the practice of Godly Play. Starting with the premise that children have an innate sense of the presence of God, the Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Maria offered a Faith at Home workshop for parents and children to explore family-centered spiritual formation practices. In addition, Tommy Simons continues include children and youth in worship on Sunday mornings: reading scripture, helping the deacons, responding to the message through art, and sharing their musical gifts with the congregation.

Drew, Maria, and Tommy – with the support of parents, David Martins, Sunday School teachers, and other volunteers – are helping the children and youth of Third Baptist Church learn about God's love, grow their faith, respond to God's call in their lives, and honor God through meaningful worship and service to others. The members of the Family Ministries Team proudly support this important kingdom-building work. We continue to be so thankful to the extended family of Third Baptist for their continued investment in the children and youth of Third. Thank you to all who donate time, money, or energy, and who lift up prayers for the lives being changed through these ministries. We deeply appreciate your continued support throughout 2020, which we pray will be another year of profound spiritual growth for all who encounter these ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachael Barnes
Chair of Family Ministries Team

Global Missions Committee

Missionary support is one of the top priorities of the Global Missions Committee. This year we supported our missionaries with the direct assistance totaling \$15,900. We supported the following missionaries:

- Dan and Sarah ChettiLebanon
- Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenenThe Netherlands
- Khomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga.....Haiti
- Tim and Kathy RiceDemocratic Republic of the Congo
- Kit Ripley.....Thailand
- Paula Settle.....Kentucky
- Lillian SoltCosta Rica
- Sasha and Mira ZivanovBosnian community in Saint Louis

Easter Offering

- We raised a total of \$ 3,600 for projects in Owsley County, KY and Thailand.

Global Missions Offering

- We raised over \$19,000 for projects in Saint Louis, Haiti and India.

Baptist Missions Agencies supported included:

- American Baptist Churches USA
- ABC, Great Rivers Region
- ABC, Great Rivers Region, Area V
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, National
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Heartland Region
- Southern Baptist Convention

WMS Projects

The dedicated group of women of the WMS at Third Baptist does an amazing amount of missionary work. Here's a list of their work during 2019.

- Monthly, sandwiches/lunch bag combos were made and delivered to Gateway Center 180 with the help of the Open Door Sunday School class.
- Volunteer with Missouri Baptist Hospital to make pillows for surgery patients. On two occasions, over 150 pillows were made.
- Made and assembled over 50 layettes, a White Cross project for Tim and Kathy Rice in their ministry in Vanga (Democratic Republic of the Congo). This project included making gowns/blankets and baby caps.
- Purchased clothes and other items for nine children who are ministered to through the Christian Activity Center (CAC).

Music and Worship

Philip Barnes, Director of Music

New and old choir members

At the start of summer we bade a fond farewell to our Soprano section leader, Margaret (Maggie) Boeckman, who relocated to North Carolina. By the end of summer we had welcomed in her place Heather Fehl, who, like Maggie, sings with the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus, and is a very experienced choral singer. We are lucky to have her with us! We were joined by several singers, including Emily Davis, Myles Trudo and David Gines. We continue to invite interest from potential members through various choral websites and the listings services of KDHX community radio and Craigslist.

New piano

We were greatly blessed in 2019 to receive a new Steinway 'D' concert grand piano. The power and beauty of this instrument is ideal for the grand space of our sanctuary, and it opens up a new range of possibilities, both in terms of our regular worship and special events & concerts. Our previous grand piano, a smaller Mason & Hamlin, has been 'retired' to the Choir rehearsal room.

Range of music in worship

There are very few congregations with as wide a repertoire as TBC; it ranges from music written for the early English Church (16th century) to the present day, and in diverse styles from Renaissance to Romanticism, to Gospel and contemporary composers. The abiding rule remains that it must complement worship and be readily understood (i.e., sung in English wherever possible).

Commissioned music

Repeat use was made of pieces previously written for TBC by Melissa Dunphy and Martha Shaffer, and at the beginning of September the choir sang the first performance of Judith Bingham's Psalm 121 (in a reduced version). This piece was commissioned by a consortium of church & community choirs in St. Louis, in celebration of Sarah Bryan Miller, music critic for the Post-Dispatch. Several months earlier, on the Sunday following Easter ('Low' Sunday) our musicians Lansin Lim Kimler and Brent Johnson premiered a new duet written for them & TBC by the British composer, Sasha Johnson Manning.

Music for the Lord's Table

As in previous years, we have added to the celebration of the Lord's Supper with a communion service by a contemporary composer, in this case by the Scottish musician, Sir James Macmillan. Repeating this each month during the year brings continuity and allows the choir members to focus on their own worship, and not learning a new set of music each month. An added bonus was that the Macmillan piece invited some congregational participation.

Summer music

Once again, during the summer months, the music we used to enhance our worship alternated between the choir and invited soloists. This allowed for a much wider range of music to be heard on Sunday mornings.

Female composers

We continue to be intentional in applying the music of women to our worship. Most Sundays at least one of our selections has been written by a woman composer. In this, TBC is very much a pioneer in St. Louis, though some other congregations are now following suit, including First Congregational of Clayton.

Music library

TBC has long invested in its sheet music, with the result that its library is quite large. However, a considerable number of sets are either decrepit or unsuitable for our current resources, which necessitates either replacement or the purchase of new repertoire. We have continued to invest in this, acquiring music scores that should have repeat use over the next decade. Keeping track of this large resource, maintaining our database, and ensuring that sufficient scores are made available to choir members in a timely fashion – this is the responsibility of our Librarian, Ms. Clara Jackson, to whom we owe our warmest thanks.

Occasional concerts & instrumentalists

We welcomed back the Perseid String Quartet for our Good Friday service.

In addition to our regular Friday Pipes series, in November our own Brent Johnson was joined by pianist Brook Bisailon and Adam Kosberg (trombone) for a concert that was presented for our congregation in the Sanctuary.

Stewardship Committee Report

This year's Stewardship emphasis revolved around the theme of getting everyone involved, as in "I'm IN." Our goal was have as close to 100% participation, including youth and children, in completing and handing in pledge cards for 2020. We did increase from 69 pledges to 74 this year.

"I'm IN" theme was presented to the congregation three Sundays in September 2019, with "I'm IN" a New City, "I'm IN" a New Church, and "I'm IN" a New You. The theme was expressed through spoken word, musings from a variety of congregation members about why they are "IN" Third Baptist Church, musical offerings, and proclamation. Each Sunday congregants were encouraged to bring forth their pledge cards and slide them in the replica of TBC that adorned the Communion Table.

Our committee would like to sincerely thank each of you who were able and did complete and submit a commitment plan card. The total pledge amount received was \$317, 923. Because of you, our church will be able to enhance the overall worship of our God through our congregation, community and throughout our country and the world. Praise be to God!

Committee members:

Jerry Campbell, Samuel Governor, Rev. Maria Stinnett, Dr. Tommy Simons, Rev. Drew Phillips and Beverly Odell (chair)

Third Baptist Church Foundation

The Third Baptist Church Foundation (TBCF) ended 2019 with assets of approximately \$5.054 million, which is an increase of approximately \$200,000 from December 2018. The financial markets were up significantly over the year, which was very beneficial with the increased distributions.

The Foundation provided almost \$650,000 in financial support to the church last year, and for 2020, the Foundation pledge to TBC annual budget remains the same, which is approximately 4% of Foundation assets. TBCF continues to play a major role in the support of the ministries and capital needs of the Church. The Foundation has provided more than \$2 million to the Church over the last seven years.

The Foundation maintains a slight overweight to stocks (60%) that reflects our long-term commitment to growing the portfolio. Overall, the Foundation returns for the year were in line with generally accepted market indices, such as the Standard and Poor's 500 stock index.

The Foundation welcomes all gifts to help offset expenditures and grow the Foundation. Keep in mind that the larger the Foundation assets, the larger the pledge it can make to the Church's annual budget. Please consider a gift to the Foundation when developing giving and estate plans.

Highlights of the year included the Foundation support in the purchase of the new piano for the sanctuary and the money provided for the building renovations for the school.

I'd like to thank the board members for taking time and effort to serve the Foundation and the Church.

Harold Jackson, Chair

Foundation Members: Evelyn Kurtz – Vice Chair; Carla Jackson – Treasurer; Tom Puhse – Secretary; Judy Parham; Joel Pittenger, Jerry Bryan; Richard Stevenson and Gene Dobbs Bradford

Trustees

Thanks to those who have served on Third Baptist Church Trustees this year: Gene Dobbs Bradford, Maria Bradford, Carla Jackson, Richard Stevenson, Robin Bailey and Joel Pittenger. Richard Stevenson and I will rotate off and welcome Jerry Campbell and Tom Kurtz (who will serve as chair).

We continue to be blessed with your support and financial giving to the work of God in this place and around the world. Maintaining a huge space, keeping up with needed and necessary updates and maintenance and making some physical plant changes continue to remain on the horizon for the trustees this past year.

Some of the highlights for 2019:

- Pledges and unpledged receipts were up \$13,000 at year's end.
- Total assets for 2019 \$4,561,738 (up 7%)
- Total capital for 2019 \$4,523,498 (up 10%)
- Continue to work with Northside Community School as our tenant in the second year (and beyond). Current rental agreement with Northside Community School extends through 07/01/2024.
- Endorsed a plan for the renovation of the remaining two floors in the east educational wing (three and four). This renovation restructures the old general meeting room for Sunday School which had smaller breakouts around the perimeter. The new configuration provides larger classrooms, new electricity, lighting and water in some areas.
- Investment in our building renovation of educational space is a positive incentive for the current lessee to remain as a long-term tenant.
 - Northside Community School is ranked in the top three public charter schools in the state.
 - University of Missouri-Saint Louis granted an extension of 10 years to the school (universities usually grant 5-year (or less) charters).
- Asbestos abatement approved for the renovation in the educational east wing
- Accepted the work from the Piano Committee and recommended to the TBC Foundation the purchase of a concert grand Steinway Model D for the sanctuary replacing the existing Mason-Hamlin.

Thanks to Third Baptist Church Foundation for their continued support of major projects throughout the year, to Mr. Tom Kurtz for his assistance to the trustees by generating numerous reports and continuing to provide a wealth of data, and to the congregation for your giving and support in many numerous ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Blanton