From the Pastor:
The Passing of Billy Kilmer
A Lesson for Third

Billy Kilmer played for Washington’s NFL team from 1971-1978.

Billy was one of the last players to wear a single bar helmet.

He was overweight.
Slow.
Billy’s passes were an adventure—tight spirals were not his forte.

I close my eyes and can see him now on my old black and white television.

Billy dropping back to pass (belly wobbling) football in his right arm—in one slingshot motion the football is released—floundering to its destination—into the arms of intended receiver.
How was that completed?!

Kilmer looked like your favorite middle age uncle at thanksgiving dinner—let’s pull him out of the kitchen—now uncle—go play against the Cowboys.

Kilmer led Washington to their first Super Bowl in 1972. And finished a 16 year career— completing 1,585 passes for 20,495 yards.

He summed up his style, “it never looked pretty, but it got the job done”.

~

Zoom and social media options are wobbly passes—they are a poor substitute for face to face connection.

How does Third remain relationally healthy if we are unable to:
Worship together in person.
Fellowship with one another around the dinner table.
Socially meet together in a non-anxious fashion.
Activate home fellowships and hospitality.

continued on page two
Yet… in this season… we must remain diligent, wise and flexible and move “down the field” (even if the pass is a bit wobbly).

I suspect there are two categories in relation to Third.
What we do know.
What we don’t know.
~
I don’t know when most of our congregation will feel comfortable returning to worship.
I don’t know when Sunday school or mid week discipleship will return on our church campus.
I don’t know how this will effect our long term financial stability. As we stand now, thanks be to God, we are doing remarkably well—thanks to your faithfulness.
I don’t know when we will be able to incorporate face to face family ministries and fellowships.
~
But here’s what I do know:
We are going to drop back, wind up, and throw the ball downfield.
We will continue to discover creative options to share gospel and enhance our fellowship.
A few examples:
We’ve increased production value of worship broadcast.
Continued discipleship for children, youth and adults through Zoom.
Committees faithfully meet through Zoom to continue administrative health.
Philip, Brent and Lansin are doing a superb job with creative, appropriate musical options.
Worship is planned—as though we were speaking to 1,000 in our Sanctuary. Nothing is phoned in or done half-way.
Innovations Team is meeting every other Sunday and preparing viable options to increase our congregational health.
I’ll begin facilitating podcast in September.
Family Ministries will continue to connect through social media and other creative avenues.
The building is undergoing a solid cleaning, in preparation for Northside Community and our eventual return.
Pastoral Care will continue to our congregation and community, doing all we can to be sensitive to social distancing and hospital guidelines.
~
The above is not my preference— it is a joy to gather face to face—but it’s our only viable option.
And it may not be pretty, but we are called to get the job done.
Therefore, let’s continue with confidence and good cheer.
Please continue to uphold our beloved community in your prayers.

We will persevere up this long hard climb, and come out stronger on the other side.

God is Good.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

(Friends, Third Base articles are compiled a few weeks before communication by email. As of this morning, our hearts are broken over situation in Kenosha and other cities. Please continue to pray for peace, wisdom and reconciliation. We will take a moment, reflect and pray in service this Sunday—and communicate through other avenues as our country navigates through this period of unrest). Now, more than ever, Third needs to continue modeling strength through diversity—preaching, teaching and living—we are one in Christ).

Adult Discipleship in September
Wednesdays at 6pm through Zoom
The Power of Art: 8 Artistic works to assist your spiritual formation

Discover artists, gifted with unparalleled imagination.

♦ What background led to this artistic creation?
♦ Where do we see God in these creations?
♦ How do you “read” works of art?
♦ Why are these creations considered masterpiece? What sets them apart?
♦ What contemporary lessons are derived from their creations?
♦ Artists explored are Caravaggio, Bernini, Rembrandt, Turner, Van Gogh, Picasso, Rothko and Jacques Louis David.

How can you join each Wednesday from 6pm-6:45pm?
Invitations to join by Zoom will be emailed through Third Baptist Church. If you are not on Third’s all church email list, drop a note and your name will be added to list (tsimons@third-baptist.org).
Public Worship is scheduled to return Sunday, September 13.
The situation is fluid—Third and friends will be contacted week of September 6 to confirm return or extension of date.
Sunday school on campus—will not meet.

Worship focus in September:
Seeing Jesus through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

The Gospels were directed to specific communities of early Christians—each group experienced different historical and cultural differences.

Jesus is experienced through four gospel lenses.

Church tradition offers four different images of Gospel.
(From Book of Kells, 9th Century The Four Evangelists)

(from left to right): a man (Matthew), a lion (Mark), an eagle (John) and an ox (Luke).

The Way—four ways of seeing Jesus—will increase your comprehension and appreciation of the evangelists. And their timeless message can be applied to your story.
Looking at VBS material this winter I had no idea I would be recording videos, putting together backpacks, and individually wrapped snacks. I did not even have a Zoom account yet.

Yet last week we met on zoom each day, children watched pre-made videos (Thank You: Robin Bailey, Elizabeth Hoffman, Evelyn Kurtz, Dani Phillips, Maria Stinnett), and talked about our Big Beautiful World.

The last day concluded with a lesson from Revelation, John’s vision of a new heaven and a new earth, one with no more crying, with a river running through the city, with a tree whose leaves bring healing to the nations (Revelation 22:1-5, You can see Kaelyn Smithers drawing of this dream to the right.)

It’s an interesting thing talking about God’s will with children during a pandemic. Their vision is much like one we find in Zechariah 8, God’s word for a city in turmoil: “Old men and women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing….Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it be impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts?” (Zechariah 8:5-6) Kids want to be able to be outside with their friends playing, with their elders feeling safe in the streets with them.

These two ancient visions one from the Old Testament, one from the New, point us beyond ourselves and what we currently experience. They remind us the mess that we live in right now is not God’s will for our city. God’s will is that earth resemble God’s kingdom in heaven. And as we talked about God’s creation and our role in participating in and caring for it, we have a role in answering this prayer for God’s will for our city. We get to be a part of the new thing God is doing!

I’m so grateful to minister with and learn from our students and will keep up the challenge of loving God and dreaming and listening together even as we’re distanced.

Peace and love,
Drew
Layette Sets Presented to Missionaries to Congo

Recently, the Women’s Missions Society presented 67 handmade layette sets to our missionaries serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tim and Kathy Rice. The layette sets will be presented to mothers of newborns at the Vanga Hospital and surrounding community.

Crisis in Beirut

Since the explosion several weeks ago that rocked Beirut, Third’s Global Missions Committee has been in regular contact with our missionaries serving in Beirut, Dan and Sarah Chetti. Here is an excerpt from the Chettis’ most recent journal:

“The explosion at the Port of Beirut last week has been described as Lebanon’s 9/11. All of us in the city can recall the exact place we were standing when it happened. Many of our migrant domestic workers (MDW) were at home or work. Many of them experienced windows blown out and walked away with minor injuries. Some have had all of their belongings buried in the rubble.

We are grateful that the Insaaf Director, Sarah Chetti, and Assistant Director, Elma Khoury, were not at the Center at the time of the explosion. The windows of the Center were blown out by the blast, being four kilometers away. Our partner church, Resurrection Church Beirut, sent a team to help clean up the damage.

Insaaf immediately responded to this crisis by helping injured migrant domestic workers by taking them to various clinics to treat their injuries. We are also in touch with our migrant churches to see how we can serve their congregations. Additionally, we’re grateful for our partner ministry, MERATH, for providing around 200 meals a day for INSAAF to distribute to the migrant domestic workers.”

Please continue to pray for Dan and Sarah Chetti as they minister in Beirut.
Call for Proposals – Urban Ministries Projects

The board of the Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment for Inner-City Ministries at Third Baptist Church is seeking proposals for financial support toward delivering “compassionate and relevant ministries ... that address spiritual and physical needs” of our neighbors here in the center of the St. Louis area.

A bit of background: Des Peres Baptist Church (DPBC) was established in 1955 with financial assistance and manpower support provided by members of Third Baptist Church. As all earthly bodies have a life cycle – even churches – in 2008 the membership of Des Peres Baptist Church recognized it was time for them to disband. Appreciating their historic linkage to TBC and valuing our strategic location, DPBC Church chose to distribute $550,000 to us from their remaining assets. They asked that we use their gift to establish an endowment fund to be known as The Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment for Inner City Ministries, the net proceeds from which was to support inner-city ministry programs.

Please apply! Application forms, with guidelines, are available by contacting endowment board chairperson Peggy Pittenger (peggypittenger@gmail.com). Deadline to receive applications will be October 15, 2020.

September Birthdays

1 Demetria Bryant, Pam Dzunu
2 Alan Jay
3 Lela Jones
8 Danny Lawrence
11 André McDaniel
12 Juan Moore
14 Lera Bryant
17 Willard Swyers, Dani Phillips
18 Mercy Vincill
22 Demetrius Bryant
24 Judy Vansickle
29 Dave Walser
30 Mary Wainwright
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Dr. Tommy Simons</th>
<th>Ella Banks</th>
<th>Brent Johnson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PASTOR</td>
<td>Dr. Maria Stinnett</td>
<td>RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT</td>
<td>ORGANIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR MISSIONS &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>Michael Ellison</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Drew Phillips</td>
<td>Timothy Harrison</td>
<td>Tom Kurtz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINISTER TO FAMILIES</td>
<td>CUSTODIAN</td>
<td>BUSINESS MANAGER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Philip Barnes</td>
<td>Karen Stewart &amp; Linda Freiburghaus</td>
<td>Lansin Lim Kimler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC</td>
<td>CHURCH HISTORIANS</td>
<td>PIANIST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christine McCarthy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FINANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sally Stevenson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PARISH NURSE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>