A group is gathered above a store front building between Center and 13th street in downtown Saint Louis.

From time to time, someone looks out the window and notices a city recovering—400 buildings destroyed in the Great Fire of 1849.

The conversations turn to cholera epidemic—killing 6 percent of Saint Louis residents.

This Sabbath Morning—all can hear constant noise of commerce—steamships moving along the Mississippi River.

Through land and water—Saint Louis is experiencing a rise of German/Irish immigrants—along with African Americans (both slave and free).

A few blocks west is the Saint Louis Court—five years earlier—Dred Scott sued for freedom.

continued on page two
And a deacon calls everyone together...

Reverend Joseph Walker is preparing to preach inaugural sermon for a newly constituted Third Baptist Church—it is 1851.

I stand on the shoulders of committed pastors, staff and congregation. And looking out my window in 2020:

The once bustling Grand Center is silent due to pandemic. Third is uncomfortably quiet on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. The beautiful noise of fellowship, joy and reconnections is replaced with sound-checks and presenting worship and discipleship through social media. Pastoral Care is carefully coordinated to prevent spread of infection.

However, Third was birthed from a resilient group of people. Third has developed a congregation possessed by “holy stubbornness”— refusing to travel an easy path of convenience.

The following voices echo throughout our history:

Saint Louis is losing around 500,000 in population—no thanks—we are staying in the city for good.

The crime rate is soaring and property values are declining around Third—membership has been moving out of the city for decades—thanks for your concern—but no thank you—we are staying in the city for good.

Renovation and restoration is occurring around Third Baptist—suddenly our campus is in the middle of an arts district rebirth. And then...

The coronavirus arrives as an unwelcome guest—along with rising unemployment, crime and civil unrest.

And we are staying the city for good!

Beloved, we will continue to minister not maintain. The question before us is not how do we survive? but how do we serve?

And we are “stubbornly moving ahead”—in the city for good.
Innovations Committee is meeting often—offering direction and suggestions to continue Third’s vitality throughout the decade of the 20’s.

Morning Worship and mid-week online offerings are well attended and your encouragement adds fuel to passion.

Ministry to families will continue through social media and other creative options.

Committees, Food Pantry, Des Peres Mission funds have remained in effect—doing all we can to maintain administrative and missional health of our beloved community.

The financial commitment to our church has been outstanding. Your continued tithes and offerings given online, in person and through the mail— is a testimony of faith.

~

**Saying all that to say…**

Third's Stewardship Committee, chaired by Gene Dobbs Bradford, has chosen a magnificent 2021 Stewardship Theme and logo:

![170th Anniversary Logo](image)

Yes, another challenge—Stewardship drive during a pandemic—*not a problem! Third is up to the challenge!*

Here’s how you can participate:

**Sunday, October 4th** public worship returns.

October worship will derive wise discipleship applications from musical, political, architectural and spiritual visionaries.

*The first three Sundays in October*— stewardship cards—as part of worship—are placed in model of Third Baptist Church.

*continued on page four*
The Stewardship Committee understands some are uncomfortable attending public worship due to coronavirus.

Therefore, Third will continue live broadcast of worship.

*If you are unable to attend worship, please use one of the following options:*

1. Mail stewardship commitment card to Third Baptist Church, 620 North Grand Blvd., Saint Louis, MO 63103 in care of Christine McCarthy.
2. Pledge online.
   Go to https://third-baptist.org/give/. Click on the “Make a Pledge” button.
3. A final option— take pic of stewardship card on your phone and email to info@third-baptist.org.

~

As a reminder:

**Third’s financial health is dependent on four foundations.**

One, rental income from Northside Community School.
Two, financial support from Third Baptist Foundation.
Three, Parking Lot funds (which will take a hit this year due to loss of parking revenue from Fox and Powell Theaters)
Four, tithes and offerings of Third Members and friends.

In the midst of pandemic—for those of us blessed with employment and steady income—let’s stand in the gap—and pledge from a place of blessing and joy.

And continue to serve into year 170—*In The City for Good!*

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

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**Music in Worship**

Even in the midst of COVID we are called upon to celebrate Third Baptist and to secure it for future generations. This annual reflection is termed ‘stewardship’, and though we are constrained by the pandemic from bringing together our choir, we are able to usher in this important time with a brand new piece that has been written specially for us at Third Baptist. It’s a setting of Psalm 93 – *The Lord Is King* – by the British composer, Sasha Johnson Manning, who has written for us before, and is currently at work creating something original for us this Christmas. Her new 'stewardship piece' is designed to be flexible (perfect in the time of COVID), and is scored for vocalist(s) and keyboard. We will first include it in worship on October 4, and as this will be streamed & then recorded on Facebook and YouTube, you should be able to hear it more than once.

This is another example of TBC taking the lead in promoting new church music, as well as championing women composers – something to be proud of!

Philip Barnes
Third family, I am going to state the obvious. You are a generous church. This is an unusual time requiring unusual efforts to carry on ministry with children, youth, and their families.

Your generosity has allowed us the opportunity to keep weekly happenings going, Sunday School lessons, weekly zoom Bible studies and Godly play, opportunities to serve, even a distanced VBS...our generous church makes all of this possible, especially in a strange time, to provide the gift of time.

This spring we realized we would need to consider how to celebrate graduates in a new way not realizing that within a few months we would be looking at how to honor our children and youth promoting in the same distanced way.

We could not get to Lake Springfield for camp as a group, we could go for a work day, we were not able together as much as I would have wished but were able to hang out at the Thiems’ house, we could not do our mission trip as planned, we could serve with our food pantry each month, we could not host VBS in person we could distribute bags and meet via zoom.

God continues to match our concerns with opportunities. Thank you for continuing to invest in our students.

I remain so thankful to serve with you and will honor, with good stewardship, the gifts Third Baptist continues to be to its community.

Thanks and Peace,
Drew
Some of TBC’s kids enjoying virtual Vacation Bible School.

TBC’s youth gathered for a social distanced fellowship at the Thiems’ home.

Some of TBC’s youth, accompanied by Drew Phillips and Natalie Thiems, participated in a work day at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp.

Each month, TBC’s youth volunteered at our Food Pantry.
Adult Discipleship in October
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).

Operation Christmas Child
Shoe boxes will be available the first Sunday in October. Instructions on how to fill the box will be included. You will have 6 weeks to fill your box and return to the church. You can also build a box online: https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/#main/.

Any questions please call LaVerne Graham at 314-849-3271.

October Birthdays
1 Bonnie McDaniel
3 Robert Donnelly, Luther Jackson
7 Paul Schmidt
9 Mona Harrison
12 Eliot Barnes
17 Jerry Bryan
19 Sondra Novell Lay
22 Alexandria Hamilton, Judy Parham
25 Mary Lynom
27 Ruby Whiteside
31 Jacquelyn Madey
Staff

Dr. Tommy Simons
PASTOR

Dr. Maria Stinnett
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR MISSIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Rev. Drew Phillips
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

Dr. Philip Barnes
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Ella Banks
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT

Michael Ellison
FACILITIES MANAGER

Timothy Harrison
CUSTODIAN

Karen Stewart & Linda Freiburghaus
CHURCH HISTORIANS

Brent Johnson
ORGANIST

Tom Kurtz
BUSINESS MANAGER

Lansin Lim Kimler
PIANIST

Christine McCarthy
FINANCE

Sally Stevenson
PARISH NURSE