



## FROM THE PASTOR

Within a ten month period (1997-1998) Neil Peart's\* only child (Selena, 19) was killed in a traffic accident and Jackie (spouse of 23 years) passed away from terminal cancer.

Peart reflected: *How does someone survive something like this? And if they do—what kind of person comes out on the other end?*

He decided to find comfort in *motion*—riding his BMW R1100GS motorcycle 55,000 miles over fourteen months—searching for a reason to carry on.

*Ghost Rider: Travels On The Healing Road* records Peart's pilgrimage.

The first leg of journey brought no relief:

“I didn’t have much interest in the world around me. I didn’t like anything, didn’t care about anything, and didn’t want to do anything.”

Peart was sitting on a dock and reviewing familiar scenery on the other side of a lake.

Two triangular rocks were sticking out of the water, near one of the islands.

Saying to no-one in particular:

“Those two rocks always reminded me of baby ducks staring at one another—and I still *like* those rocks.”

This gift of “simple” grace gave birth to hope. He was astonished to actually *like* something.

A moment of clarity:

“From that pair of rocks, I’ll begin to build a whole new world.” Peart’s life began to resonate: “*I’m curious about what the next line in the map might look like.*”

The travels on the healing road caused Peart to change his “callous, shallow world-view”.

He enjoyed family and friends but others written into his story were interruptions and annoyance—everyone *wants* something from you.

Peart was unable to cope and deal with everyday issues of life—forced to accept assistance from friends and family. The interactions with strangers encountered on the road—instead of irritation—was transformed into an occasional healing balm.

He quotes Steinbeck:

“Sometimes the nicest thing you can do for someone is to allow them to do something for you.”

Are you traveling on the healing road?

God will reveal to you, at most unexpected moments, glimpses of hope—enough fuel to carry on.

And God will also write weary, worn out pilgrims into your story.

The gift of your time and listening ear—can re-awake and re-energize another to discover *what the next line in the map might look like.*

The Apostle Paul established communities of Jesus-followers in Corinth—and all arrived at faith in Christ—from a *wide variety* of destinations.

Paul continued an extensive and contentious correspondence with Christians in Corinth—brothers and sisters—*no matter how you arrived—you must travel down a healing road of love.*

I pray Paul’s note of encouragement to Corinth’s beloved community will guide you in a directionally accurate manner:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who **comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction**, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

Grace and Peace,  
Tommy

*\*Neal Peart was the lyricist and Hall of Fame drummer for the rock group, Rush. For their achievements in music, Rush received the Order of Canada, the country’s highest civilian award. He eventually remarried, “joined the local YMCA, stopped smoking and cut down consumption of alcohol”. His final years were spent happily married to Carrie and daughter, Olivia, whom he grew to adore and the feeling was mutual. Peart passed away from brain cancer in January 2020. He was 67.*

# Family Ministries

Rev. Drew Phillips  
Minister to Families

Seven youth and three chaperones spent a weekend with other youth from the surrounding area at The Gathering, a fall retreat for youth at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp.

We played, worshipped, made new friends, and did a mission project (some of which helped Gateway 180 here in St. Louis).

Thank you for your continued support of our young people and the opportunities they get to go and grow together.

Our youth have spent Sundays in September practicing Restorative Justice by telling and listening to one another's stories, setting goals, listening to values, and talking community.

Thank you, Dani Phillips, for facilitating this practice with our youth!



October 16-21 our children and their families will participate in the week of prayer for Global Missions through CBF, "A Place at the Table for Everyone."

We will continue Godly Play in worship the second and fourth Sundays of the month through October.

We celebrate with Isaac Britt, a candidate for baptism and are thankful for his life and decision to share it with us!

## A Prayer of Blessing: For Belonging

(from John O'Donohue's To Bless the Space Between Us)

*May you listen to your longing to be free.*

*May the frames of your belonging be generous enough for your dreams.*

*May you arise each day with a voice of blessing whispering in your heart.*

*May you find a harmony between your soul and your life.*

*May the sanctuary of your soul never become haunted.*



*May you know the eternal longing that lives at the heart of time.*

*May there be kindness in your gaze when you look within.*

*May you never place walls between the light and yourself.*

*May you allow the wild beauty of the invisible world to gather you, mind you, and embrace you in belonging.*



Thinking about a way to get more involved at Third? Join other Food Pantry volunteers in serving the needs of our community – we'd love to have you!



Just a few hours, on the third Saturday morning of each month, means a great deal to some families. Volunteers arrive at 8 a.m. for set up. All ages and abilities welcome.

## Third Readers Needs *You!*

**Students at Jefferson Elementary are coming to Third on Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. for tutoring during the school year. Interested in signing up? Contact Drew Phillips or Caren Simons for more details.**



This year's Samaritan's Purse *Christmas Child* shoeboxes will be available for pickup starting on October 2nd. Look for them in Room 2 near the ramp entrance on the Ground Floor, or see LaVerne Graham for more information.

Details about how to fill a box and help light up a child's life this December are included with the box. Return filled boxes anytime through the 2nd Sunday in November.



# Welcome Members!

Join us in extending a warm TBC membership welcome to some familiar faces and some new...

Rajeane Mitchell



Isaac  
Britt



New member (!) Tim Harrison  
and his wife, Mona

Chidi Okafor



Parents Jordan Huddlen and Tammy  
Harrison, holding Josiah, and Jordan, Jr.

*Join us for a long-awaited...  
dedication of the renovated  
Infant and Preschool Rooms!*



*Sunday, October 9th  
following Morning Worship*

# Musical Notes

Dr. Philip Barnes

Director of Music

During the month in which we consider stewardship, much of the music enhancing our worship will explore the concepts of legacy: what have artists bequeathed us, how are we to honor their gifts, and in what ways can they enhance and enrich worship?

Two of the greatest Christian classical musicians of history are Mendelssohn and Handel. Both actively wrote for the Church, and Mendelssohn even served the Berlin Cathedral as its director of music. So, on **October 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>** much of our musical offerings will be taken from their output. By contrast, **the first two Sundays of October** will feature Contemporary Christian music by two very familiar names, Ken Medema and Andrae Crouch, while our commitment to women composers will remain firm through piano works from Dobrinka Tabakova and Sasha Johnson Manning.

Most notable in October will be our service on **October 22<sup>nd</sup>**, which sees the culmination of the annual conference of the Midwest Kodaly Music Educators of America. Following their concert at TBC the night before, on Sunday morning a number of these teachers will join with our musicians to present works by Zoltán Kodály for our worship, while Brent Johnson and Gary Pedersen will play some of his keyboard works.

Kodály is one of the most important composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With his fellow countryman, Bela Bartók, he collected thousands of folksongs from his native Hungary, arranging many for orchestral and choral ensembles. Yet even more significant was his creation of a national curriculum for schools that trained children to read and create music; this ‘method’ was so successful that it has been adopted around the globe, and thousands of American teachers employ its techniques in their classrooms. Kodály may be mentioned in the same breath as other educational pioneers like Maria Montessori and John Dewey, and Third is honored to play a part in this year’s MKEA gathering.

All members of Third are invited to attend the concert of the Midwest Kodaly Music Educators of America that will be presented in the Sanctuary on Saturday, **October 1st**, at 7:30 pm. Performers will include a 100-strong choir, some of whom will join our choir the following morning for worship.

On **October 2<sup>nd</sup>** the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus opens its 67<sup>th</sup> season with a performance at the St. Louis Abbey, located in West County. This year’s theme is ‘Progressions’ and the first concert is titled ‘Darkness to Light’. Notable works on the program include the world premiere of a new Mass setting by the Anglo-Bulgarian composer, Dobrinka Tabakova, whose piano music we will hear at Third that same day. Several of TBC’s musicians, including Philip Barnes, are members of the Chamber Chorus.

**So, plan on attending this musical highlight of the fall: tickets are available online, or by calling (636) 458-4343.**





**“THIRD TO HOME” IS OUR 2023 STEWARDSHIP THEME  
PLEASE RETURN YOUR STEWARDSHIP CARD DURING AN OCTOBER  
MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Good and  
Beautiful Life:  
Putting on the  
Character of Christ  
Each Wednesday  
Evening at 6 P.M.

Dinner served at  
5 p.m. in Johnson  
Fellowship Hall.  
To reserve, email:  
tsimons@third-  
baptist.org by  
Wednesday at  
noon each week.

Discipleship is  
offered in person  
and via Zoom.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 🎁 Bonnie McDaniel
- 03 🎁 Luther Jackson
- 07 🎁 Paul Schmidt
- 09 🎁 Mona Harrison
- 12 🎁 Eliot Barnes
- 17 🎁 Jerry Bryan
- 19 🎁 Sondra Novell-Lay
- 22 🎁 Alexandria Hamilton &  
Judith Parham
- 25 🎁 Mary Lynom &  
Julius Phillips
- 27 🎁 Ruby Whiteside
- 31 🎁 Jacqueline Madey



**In the city for good!**

620 North Grand Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
Office 314.533.7340  
[third-baptist.org](http://third-baptist.org)

## Third Baptist Church Staff

**Dr. Tommy Simons**  
PASTOR

**Rev. Drew Phillips**  
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

**Dr. Philip Barnes**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Ella Banks**  
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE  
ASSISTANT

**Rasheed Smith**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Timothy Harrison**  
CUSTODIAN

**Brent Johnson**  
ORGANIST

**Tom Kurtz**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**Dr. Garik Pederson**  
PIANIST

**Christine McCarthy**  
FINANCE

**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE