



## FROM THE PASTOR

Aaron Judge is an instant celebrity. He is a 6-foot, 7-inch slugger - breaking Roger Maris' American League home run record last month, an American League Rookie of the Year, and a four time All-Star.

Judge is a celebrity in a city that worships its sports heroes.

But he has no interest in exploring the night life of New York City.

The introduction to his twitter account reads:

*Christian. Faith. Family, then Baseball. If what you did yesterday still seems big today, then you haven't done anything today!*

And the top of his banner quotes Paul's letter to 2 Corinthians—  
“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Judge was adopted at birth by two middle age educators in Linden, California—Wayne and Patty Judge.

At the age of 10—they informed Aaron he was adopted—which he began to suspect— “I just didn't look the same as my parents.”

Judge has always seemed larger than life—setting a school record for touchdowns, leading scorer in basketball and a pitcher with an 0.65 ERA and .500 batting average.

And throughout these accomplishments, Judge has maintained humility and a spirit of gratefulness.

Judge's high school coach said, "the kind of person Aaron is now, that's exactly who he was in high school. He hasn't changed."

Patty told the New York Post, "Wayne and I are more blessed than he is, words can't describe how proud of him we are."

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The Apostle Paul spent 3 years in Ephesus—planting and nurturing the church. And the first part of Paul's *Letter to Ephesians* reads like a theological treatise—containing an overview of God's plan and purpose.

Paul, after a brief salutation, searches for a metaphor to describe spiritual blessings in Christ:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ, with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ Jesus, before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for **adoption** as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

Paul urges Christians to remember the source of their spiritual blessing—adoption as His children—because of the saving work of Jesus Christ. It is a relationship so intimate—adopted sons and daughters can say "Abba" (father, daddy).

And the values of adoption are impressed upon us by the Holy Spirit—guiding you to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit and form yourself into the image of Jesus.

Aaron Judge's trajectory in life was changed because of adoption and values instilled by Wayne and Patty Judge.

The direction of your life is forever influenced by "your adoption as His children through Jesus Christ."

And as you turn to this season of Thanksgiving, you are joined by all adopted children—sitting around an abundant table of grace, enjoying spiritual blessings in Christ.

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As an aside, I am emailing this article to Deanna on Thursday, October 13. With all due respect to my brother in Christ, Aaron Judge, I do wish him an early vacation as my Houston Astros are destined to World Series victory.

Yep, I just couldn't help myself. I walk by faith, not by sight.

Blessings all,  
Tommy



# Family Ministries

Rev. Drew Phillips  
Minister to Families

Parents and families,

I will be attending a Godly Play training early in this month. This is something I had calendared in the Spring of 2020 and am now able to attend, as the trainings are happening in person again. I am eager to share my experience with you as well as being grateful for the generous support of Third Baptist. We have a deep commitment to engaging the spiritual lives of our children and I am thankful to both enhance my own learning and be able to share it.

*"This invitation to come and play is based on what Jesus said about welcoming children and becoming like them. This is a way to know God and to enter God's kingdom."*

~Jerome Berryman, Godly Play Founder

Our young people have continued opportunities to serve and are doing so with grateful hearts, and joy, and (most importantly) strong backs! As we prepare for Christmas Baskets and continue our good and needed Food Pantry work, I remain impressed by our youth and their willingness to show up and do the work.

Families, I will continue sharing "Faith Family Talks," a ministry of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Children's Ministry Network as you talk, listen, read, and pray together at home and as we prepare ourselves for Advent.

In reflecting on the year, as we near Advent, I encourage you to practice a daily examen prayer.

## Daily Examen Prayer

End each day remembering moments that gave you hope and happiness.

Express thanks.

Ask for the Spirit's guidance to see your days honestly and fully reflecting on the entirety of the day.

Remember the faces you saw today, the places you were, the things you thought, said, felt, and think about when you experienced joy. When did your heart grow bigger and lighter?

When did you experience anxiety and fear? When did your heart grow smaller and heavier?

Ask for forgiveness for what was done that shouldn't have been, and for what should have been that wasn't.

Pray for tomorrow with hope and confidence in what will be God's gift of a new day.

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

*(Adapted from SLU's Office of Mission and Identity)*



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.



This year's Samaritan's Purse *Christmas Child* shoeboxes are available for pickup! (No cost for boxes.)

Look for them in Room 2 near the ramp entrance on the Ground Floor or see LaVerne Graham for more information.

For details about Operation Christmas Child, visit:  
<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Instructions on how to fill a box and help light up a child's life this December are included with each box.

**Return filled boxes by  
Sunday, November 13th!**



# Welcome New Members!

Join us in extending a warm TBC welcome to...



Kenneth Okomokudo



Eisha Taylor

## Missions Moment

Pastor,

Keith and I want to thank you all for making our visit with Third Baptist such a welcoming and rewarding experience. People were open and interested in missions during the Sunday school hour. The worship service was well planned and the message meaningful as well as challenging. One-on-one time after the service provided additional opportunities to get to know individuals in the church, to ask and answer questions.

Our Lord and Savior has given us all a powerful message to tell. You all are sharing it well. We appreciate opportunities to partner with you, to be encouraged by you, and to encourage you in your role in the Kingdom.

Prayerfully and gratefully,  
Mary & Keith  
Romany Ministries, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

## Third's Youth Welcome Families to the Newly Refreshed Children's Department



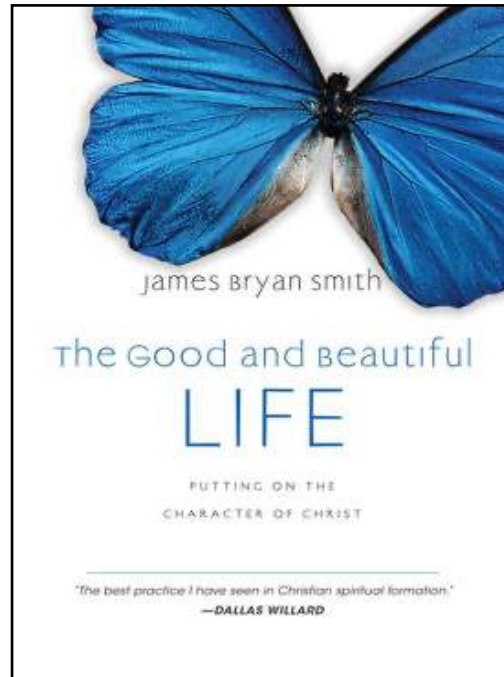


# Adult Discipleship

Wednesdays: November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>

**5:15 p.m.** Dinner served  
by Arris Harris

**5:45 p.m.**  
Discipleship  
reflection and  
discussion  
of James Bryan  
Smith's *The  
Good and  
Beautiful Life*



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 03 🎁 Timothy Miller
- 06 🎁 Clayton Smithers
- 10 🎁 J.B. Richman  
& Arleta Thurman
- 15 🎁 Monica McDaniel-Collins
- 16 🎁 Greg Martin  
& Isaiah Collins
- 17 🎁 Christine McCarthy
- 18 🎁 Nancy King
- 20 🎁 Mary Anderson
- 22 🎁 Gene Stewart
- 23 🎁 Carla Jackson



**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**  
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**Brent Johnson**  
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**Dr. Garik Pederson**  
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**Christine McCarthy**  
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**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE