



Pieter Bruegel : *The Census at Bethlehem*, 1566

## FROM THE PASTOR

Thursday afternoon, 72 degrees on November 3rd... *Looking out my office window...*

Children are dressed as Elsa, Anna and Olaf— dancing across fallen leaves in Strauss Park—preparing to enter a 2 p.m. matinee of *Frozen*.

And reviewing administrative items, while I watch all the joy across the way...

I received word: total pledges exceeded 327,000—you all responded with generosity and faithfulness. I am sending this good report to *Stewardship Committee* later today.

The *Missions Committee* has finalized Third's Christmas offering (see details on page six).

The *Urban Ministries Committee* is reviewing final applications of those seeking to bring grace and love to our city.

The *Nominating Committee* has completed several weeks of communication and contact—all positions are filled and ready to serve another year.

For the first time since 2019, your Third Staff is able to enjoy Christmas Celebration and fellowship at the Simons' home early this month. The fruits of the Spirit are not present during ornament exchange.

Drew and *Family Ministries* continue to plan solid fellowship, discipleship, and missions experience.

The *Third Readers* program (reading literacy for children) is meeting for the first time since Covid visited in February 2020.

The Food Pantry team is working hard, preparing for the annual Christmas Food Basket giveaway.

Third's Music ministry continues to meet faithfully each Wednesday night, preparing and guiding exceptional worship offerings each Sunday.

Connie is working with volunteers and facility staff—decorating and preparing our Sanctuary for Advent.

*Third Deacons* are facilitating care boxes for home and away college students.

Rob and Tammy Lamb continue to facilitate the adult discipleship group on Wednesday nights. The size of our group will necessitate a return to Johnson Hall. It has developed into an excellent source of education, support, and prayer.

Each Sunday, volunteers teach the Bible for all ages in a variety of classes.

Fellowship times are prepared and served with love—beginning with donuts before Bible Study and cookies after worship.

Adults serve infants and preschoolers during Sunday school and during worship.

And God continues to write a good stream of new faces into our story at Third.

I say all that to say this:

*Take Heart.*

Jesus used this phrase to calm those battered by storms on the sea and commenting on acts of faith—***Take Heart!***

Unpacking its meaning echoes Advent's message—

***Be of good courage, be of good cheer.***

Friends and family, look out your window, in the midst of it all, I believe you'll find a reason to ***Take Heart!***

Walk around Third's campus, connect with those written into our story—***Take Heart!***

The painting on page one was created by Pieter Brueghel the Elder after a very harsh winter; Bethlehem is transformed into a Flemish city at sunset.

All are following prescribed directions by the State—arriving at a government building to participate in a census. There is nothing special about the day; children continue to play, and the drama of daily life unfolds.

However, two figures are discovered in mid-foreground: a man is pulling his pregnant wife on a donkey.



Amidst *ordinary days*, God is writing the birth of the Son into humanity's story, whose message is soon unveiled to all people—

*Take Heart!*

Dear ones, Caren, Colton, Carson and I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas!

Blessings all,  
Tommy



# Family Ministries

Rev. Drew Phillips  
Minister to Families

Our youth have been to Ryze Amusement Park (see photos), assisted with Food Pantry, having lively Restorative Justice Circles in Sunday School, and gathering for Bible Study on Wednesdays.

I'm thankful for this group as we play and pray together.

As we enter Advent keep these items on your calendar!

During Advent, our Children will be participating in Godly Play on Sunday Mornings—an active participation in this ancient story of waiting and hope.

Our students continue to make meaningful art that enhances our worship and worshipping space. Know children of all ages are invited to participate at the art table during worship!

By the time you read this, I will have been to a Godly Play leader training hosted at the Episcopal Church of Holy Communion. I am so grateful for Innovation Funds to participate in this training and get the invaluable Godly Play resources to share with our students.

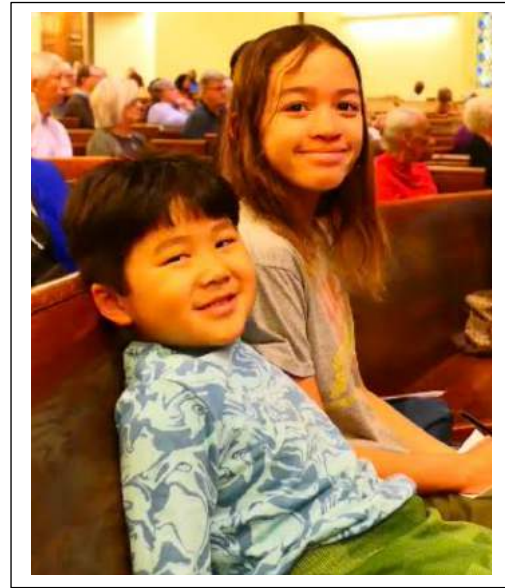
I look forward to meaningful worship this Advent season and am thrilled to be able to fellowship and serve with our group this month!

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** Lunch and Advent Activity  
Family get-together at Third  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**December 9<sup>th</sup>** Youth move night at the Brooks' house, food provided, 6:00 p.m.

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** Help Food Pantry  
distribute Christmas Baskets  
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.





A very special December Food Pantry event...

Third's annual Christmas Baskets giveaway ***needs Your Help!***



**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>:** Help unload the food truck ~noon.  
Please contact Monica McDaniel-Collins for details.

**Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Basket Prep Day! Starting at 11 a.m.

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:** Assembled baskets giveaway – the fun part!  
Volunteers arrive around 8 a.m. Guests will get invitations to come during an appointed time between 9 – 10:30 a.m. Many hands make quick work, plan to stay after for a quick clean-up.

There will be snacks, music, and a festive atmosphere as we share this advent season with our community.



# Welcome New Members!

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



**Lakisha Spain**

Third also welcomes  
**Jayne Mansfield** to  
our beloved  
community.

Jane,  
welcome to Third!

## Adult Discipleship

Traditional Christmas Meal  
**Wednesday, December 7**

**5:15pm**- Dinner is served  
by Arris Harris

**5:45pm**- Discipleship Study

Reservations? Please email  
[tsimons@third-baptist.org](mailto:tsimons@third-baptist.org)  
by Tuesday, December 6th



Note:  
*Adult Discipleship returns to Third  
in the new year on  
Wednesday, January 11, 2023*



**Commit to  
helping  
Third  
Baptist  
Church  
support two  
ministries**

**Total  
Offering  
Goal  
\$9,600.00**

Opportunities to  
give during  
worship or online



### **Scarlette Jasper's Ministry with Together with Hope**

Scarlette is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel serving with Together for Hope, CBF's rural poverty initiative, in the Appalachian foothills of Southern and South Central Kentucky.

**More Info on each ministry:**

### **Kathy and Tim Rice serve in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

The Rice's are ABC missionaries from Saint Louis, Missouri, where Tim is a doctor on the faculty of the School of Medicine at Saint Louis University.

Kathy is a registered nurse. Our offering will go to providing housing for a residential physician working at the hospital where they serve

[Scarlette Jasper's Ministry](#) or Give online via TBC's  
[The Rice's Ministry](#) [Giving page](#)



# Quarterly Business Meeting

Sunday, December 11

*Following Morning worship  
in the Sanctuary*

- Review and vote on 2023 Unified Budget
- Review and vote on Nominating Committee Recommendations



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10 🎁 Candace Owen-Thomas
- 11 🎁 Karen King
- 14 🎁 Kelly King
- 17 🎁 Tisha Brooks
- 20 🎁 Carson Wright
- 21 🎁 James Robins
- 23 🎁 Timothy Harrison
- 29 🎁 Gabi Moore  
& Bill Pearson
- 30 🎁 Connie Vohsen



**In the city for good!**

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## 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