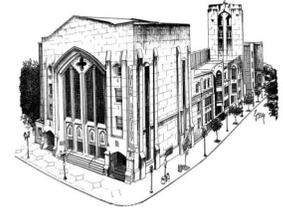




Third Base

A publication of Third Baptist Church
Saint Louis, MO



Volume 78, Issue 3

March 2014

On the Way

I want to highlight 3 things as we greet the month of March:

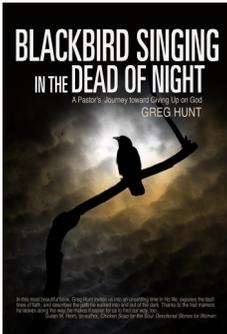
- Adult Sunday School study of *Blackbird Singing in the Dead of Night*
- Lenten sermon series: "God Has Questions for Us"
- Church-wide Interim Event, Sunday, March 30



Dr. Greg Hunt
INTERIM PASTOR

Adult Study of *Blackbird Singing in the Dead of Night*

We're going to be using my book, *Blackbird Singing in the Dead of Night*, during Adult Sunday School in Lent (Sundays, March 2 – April 13). The book weaves together the story of a faith-challenging time in my life and devotional reflections on the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Raw, honest, and ultimately hopeful, the book speaks to the spiritual longings of the human heart. It offers, not a tidy spiritual prescription, but a ragged record of the quest for God and the pursuit of a purposeful life. It's not just about answers; it's about questions, too, giving us permission to open up about our doubts and fears as well as our highest hopes. In the end, it's about the life change that takes place when we open ourselves to the wisdom and grace of the Man from Nazareth.



Copies of the book are now available. You can pick one up in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights or in the Church Office during the week. During the study, we will meet together in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour for discussion. If your Sunday morning commitments keep you from participating in our Fellowship Hall sessions, the good news is that you will be able to go to the website during the weeks of the study for resources that support your personal study of the book. (See page three for more information on the associated website.)

Lenten Sermon Series: "God Has Questions for Us"

Blackbird Singing in the Dead of Night, doesn't hold back when it comes to tough questions many of us have about God and faith. As a valuable counterpoint to this, it's worth noting that the Bible has stories in which God is the one asking the questions. During worship, Sundays, March 2 – Easter Sunday, April 20, I'm going to take us back to some of these stories so that God's questions can challenge the way we think and the way we live.

- March 2 "Where Are You?" (Genesis 3:1-21)
- March 9 "Where Is Your Brother?" (Genesis 4:1-16)
- March 16 "What Is That in Your Hands?" (Exodus 4:1-5)
- March 23 "Who Will Go for Us?" (Isaiah 6:1-13)
- March 30 "Do You Want to Be Well?" (John 5:1-9)
- April 6 "What Is Your Name?" (Mark 5:1-13)
- April 13 "What Do You Want Me to Do for You?" (Mark 10:35-45)
- April 20 "Who Do You Say that I Am?" (Matthew 16:13-23)

Continued on page two

Inside

Suggestions for personal reading and reflection	2
What is Lent?	3
Friday Pipes	4
Annual Dinner Photos	5
What do you like about TBC?	6
Nashville?! Can anything good happen there?!	6
Church Calendar	7

**An Intentional Interim Event:
Table Talk about Our Past
Sunday, March 30 after Worship**

If we're going to maximize the potential of the interim between pastors, one of the important things we need to do is come to terms with our past. We need to celebrate the heritage of Third Baptist, grieve the departures of pastor and other staff, and let go of old expectations, wounds, patterns, and baggage. This happens best in conversation with one another. We've got memories that inspire. We've got grief that gets better when it's shared. We've got baggage that's easier to let go of once it's honestly acknowledged. At a luncheon gathering after worship on Sunday, March 30, that's exactly what we're going to do. The Church Council has asked me to serve as facilitator of what I think will be a powerful and liberating time of conversation around tables.

Sunday, March 30 after worship - Mark the date on your calendar. Don't let anything keep you from participating. You'll be glad you made time for this formative moment in our life together.

Here are 3 questions you can be pondering in preparation for discussion that day:

1. There is much to celebrate in TBC's recent and not-so-recent past. About what and whom are you most grateful?
2. People you care about are no longer with us. Things about TBC have changed. What losses are you grieving?
3. Sometimes the past leaves a negative residue. Being honest about these things and calling on the grace of God makes it easier to put the past behind us and move on. What baggage from the past are you most aware of, and what can we learn from our experience for the sake of a better future?

Suggestions for Personal Reading and Reflection

***Blackbird Singing in the Dead of Night:
What to Do When God Won't Answer***
By Gregory L. Hunt

Blackbird Singing in the Dead of Night was conceived not only to let you eavesdrop on Greg Hunt's experience during a transformative time in his life, but also to invite you into deepened reflection about your own life and relationship with God. Here are some suggestions for getting the most out of your experience with the book.

1. Choose a time for reading when your energy and attention is at its best.
2. Find a place where you can read quietly and without distractions.
3. Have a Bible handy so that you can refer to biblical references that appear throughout the book.
4. Consider using a journal to record responses and prayers that grow out of your reading.
5. Read and reflect on one chapter per day.
6. Before each reading, ask God's Spirit to enliven your reading, prompting you toward awareness and response as God sees fit. One way to do this is to precede each reading with the prayer of Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10): "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."
7. Open your Bible to the focal text in Matthew that begins each chapter. This will give you ready access to the full biblical story within which the focal text appears.
8. Follow the train of Greg's thought with a willing spirit, but pay attention to your own impressions as well.
9. Flag words and phrases that strike a responsive chord. Write in the margins of your book, if you're so inclined.
10. Pause between chapters and ask: What questions does this chapter raise for me? What thoughts, feelings, or wants does this chapter evoke in me?
11. As you feel led by God's Spirit, make inward commitments to do what that day's scripture or book chapter prompts you to do.
12. In your closing prayer, invite God's ongoing work in you in light of that day's reading.

What is Lent?

The liturgical year is a pattern of worship celebrating the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Many Christian denominations follow the liturgical year as do we here at TBC.

Lent is the season we are preparing to observe. You will notice that beginning March 5 (Ash Wednesday) the ministers will begin wearing purple stoles. Purple symbolizes both penitence and royalty and is used both in Advent and Lent.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (March 5) and lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays). The forty days of Lent remember the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by the devil (Matt. 4:1-11, Mark 1:2-13, or Luke 4:1-13). In the early church Lent was a season of fasting and preparation for baptism for converts. Now, in most churches, Lent is a season of seeking God's forgiveness and reconciliation.

We will have two significant opportunities during Lent to worship together. We will observe Ash Wednesday on March 5 with a service of music, prayer, scripture, and the imposition of ashes. The service will be in Memorial Chapel on the fourth floor at 6:00 pm. The west elevator will be available to take you to the fourth floor.

On Friday, April 18, we will meet in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm to remember Christ's death and burial. This service of scripture, music, prayer, and Lord's Supper will help us remember Christ's sacrifice so that we might have the opportunity to be reconciled to God.



Nancy Furgerson
INTERIM
MINISTER
OF MUSIC &
WORSHIP

Wednesday Evening Bible Studies During Lent



Dr. Terrell Carter
MINISTER OF
ADMINISTRATION

During the Lenten season, Dr. Joe Gore and I will be presenting a study on Wed nights that will parallel some of the discussions that will occur on Sunday mornings as the church explores Dr. Hunt's book *Blackbird Singing in the Dead of Night*. Our Wednesday night study will seek to explore other Old Testament and New Testament characters as they experienced God's silence and attempted to discern God's voice in those moments.

TBC Blog Provides Additional Opportunities for Study & Reflection

As the church enters the Lenten season and many in the congregation begin to study Dr. Hunt's bestselling book, *Blackbird Singing in the Dead of Night*, a blog has been created as forum for church members to engage in further study and reflection. Each week, an excerpt of Dr. Hunt's Sunday morning presentation will be posted to the blog, as well as questions for reflection. This forum will allow those who are not able to participate in the weekly presentations to participate in the church-wide study.

The blog can be found at tbcblog.weebly.com. A link to the blog will also be available on the church's website: www.third-baptist.org.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5
6:00 PM
Memorial Chapel
Fourth Floor

Childcare will be
provided for preschoolers.

Elementary aged children will
meet Rev. Stinnett outside the
chapel at 5:45 PM
for an introduction
to the service and
then join their families
for worship.



Friday Pipes

Third Baptist presents Friday Pipes



Brent Johnson
ORGANIST

I'm happy to announce that **Friday Pipes**, Third Baptist's weekly organ recital series will be starting back up in March. Each Friday at 12:30pm we'll have a different organist performing a free half-hour recital of classical, sacred, and maybe even some theatre organ music on the sanctuary's restored pipe organ. This is an opportunity to experience the full grandeur of the instrument in a little different style than the usual Sunday morning. Many artists take the opportunity to present music that might not be heard in a church service, or might not have been heard entirely. It's always interesting to see how different musicians approach this resourceful pipe organ. I'm happy not only that artists I've asked to perform have said yes without hesitation, but news of our series has spread far, and we didn't have enough weeks in the spring schedule to accommodate every artist that asked to be part of the series!

Our first recital is on **Friday, March 14**, and features Nicole Keller, Professor of Music at the Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio. Ms. Keller's has performed in New York, Kansas, Boston, Cleveland, Lexington, Atlanta, Chicago, Germany, France, Kazakhstan, and now, St. Louis. She'll be performing music of Craig Phillips, a contemporary composer whose music you may have heard on a Sunday morning at Third Baptist, Mozart, and the entire 4th Sonata of Felix Mendelssohn.

March 21 is the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach, and also of Dr. William Sullivan, organist of Laclede Groves Chapel in Webster Groves. Dr. Sullivan brought us the entire 7th Sonata of Felix-Alexandre Guilmant last fall, one of the most notable performances in the series. This time he'll be performing the music of Bach and an far-too-infrequently heard Italian composer, Marco Enrico Bossi.

March 28's recital will be performed by Dr. Barbara Harbach, Professor of Music at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. Dr. Harbach has also performed around the world, in North America, Asia, Europe, even in Siberia. She is the founder of Vivace Press, a music publishing company specializing in works by women and other traditionally under-represented composers, co-founded and still edits the journal *Women of Note Quarterly*, and founded *Women in the Arts-St. Louis*, devoted to creating more opportunities for audiences to see and hear women composers and other artists, as well as encouraging education and recognition of women artists. Her program promises to be exciting and interesting.

And this is just the first three in the series. We'll have eight more weeks of music coming throughout the spring, so mark your calendar for these join us each Friday at 12:30. Bring a friend or two, and come help celebrate the restoration of one of the largest pipe organs in St. Louis!

Friday Pipes

Friday, March 14
Noon

Nicole Keller
Professor of Music at
Baldwin Wallace
University Conservatory
of Music in Berea, Ohio
performing

Community Ministries

Join a Dinner Group!

Would you like to get to know some of your fellow church members better over a quiet informal dinner in someone's home? In the next month, the Community Ministries team will be forming groups for just that purpose. Watch for a sign-up sheet and consider being a dinner host/hostess. We hope to announce the groups on March 30 so that the informal dinners would take place sometime between April 1 and May 15.

Annual Dinner 2014



Expressions of Gratitude

Dear Third Baptist Church,

Thanks for the lovely flowers sent to mother's memorial service. We also were grateful for the calls. Our parents dearly loved TBC!

Nancy Fischer Cole
(Daughter of Ann Fischer)

Dear Third Baptist Church,

Thank you for your kindness and overwhelming generosity!
In addition to 35 donors, \$445.00 was given anonymously. Wow!

Thank you for participating in God's circle of provision
and care in this season.

Blessings,
Rev. R. Leslie Limbaugh

Third Baptist Family,

Thank you for the lovely flowers,
many kind and warm cards
and notes at the time
of Howard's death.

Howard was very fond of Third.
He truly felt like a member of
our church and even had a
"Certificate for a Non-voting
Member of Third Baptist Church."
This was given to him by Pastor
Anderson for all the various
carpentry jobs he had done
around the church.

Thanks again,
Mary Anderson

Children's & Youth Ministries

What do you like best about Third Baptist?

Recently, I asked some of TBC's kids, "What do you like best about Third Baptist Church?" One answer stood out to me. **"It is a place where I always feel welcome."** What a beautiful testimony to the commitment this congregation has made to the children of this congregation! Throughout our conversation, the children of this church re-iterated the idea of welcome. Another child said they liked our church because they know *"The people here are nice and care about us."* Our children appreciate not only the nurture of the soul, but they also appreciate the nurture of the body. One child said his favorite thing about our church is that *"We have really good doughnuts on Sunday morning."*



Rev. Maria Stinnett
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
FOR CHILDREN &
COMMUNICATIONS

I agree with our children. Third Baptist Church is a place where children are welcomed and loved. We see this welcome in tangible ways: the newly remodeled second floor Sunday School space that welcomes children on Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings. We see this welcome in intangible ways: the loving commitment of Sunday School teachers and extended session volunteers who week after week care for our children and tell them the stories of God's love for them. As continue to seek ways to welcome children and fully involve them in the worship and ministry of the church, let us be inspired by Jesus, who welcomed children when he said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Nashville?! Can Anything Good Happen THERE?!



Allyn Harris Dault
INTERIM
MINISTER
OF YOUTH

"We've always done it that way, and it was always good enough!" "The times, they are a-changin'!" "Anything from before the year 2000 is dumb!"

One is a stereotype of church folks we joke about, one is a Bob Dylan album, and one is a paraphrase of something a Third Baptist Youth said to me one day. (Can you figure out which is which?) Taken together, the three remind us that some of us prefer to hold fast to the important traditions we've learned from those we love, and some of us prefer to dream about how we will live into our future.

Do you ever struggle with that tension? Do you wonder about how different the world seems now and whether we might need to change how we live out our faith? Do you want to help teach a new generation of people what Christianity means to you?

I'm planning to attend a conference that addresses these issues (and so many more), and I'd love to bring a handful of TBC friends with me. The conference is called "Faith Forward" and hopes to inspire attendees to creatively envision what ministry with Children and Youth looks like in today's contexts. If you'd like to come along, if you're a dreamer, if you love people younger than you, if you would like some time to think about how we can help them develop in faith and discipleship, if you're a detail-oriented administrator, if you like structure and flowcharts, if you might like a "not-average" conference – if any of these things connect to your hopes for Third Baptist and our Children and Youth Ministries, talk to me about how we might make this work together.

What: Faith Forward Conference
Who: Allyn, some TBC folks, and a few hundred others who love Jesus and people younger than Jesus
When: May 19-22, 2014
Where: Nashville, TN
Why: To be inspired and equipped for a kind of ministry with Children, Youth, Families, and Church Folk that is faithful, innovative, creative, honest, thoughtful, exciting

More information: faith-forward.net

This month at TBC

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Upward Basketball
Deacon Meeting</p> <p>2 Combined SS Class
Worship
Lord's Supper
Sasser Offering
Family Lent Luncheon</p> <p>3 Staff Meetings
Tutoring</p> <p>4 WMS Meetings</p> <p>5 ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday Schedule
Friendship International
Tutoring
Tae Kwon Do
<i>No Upward Practice</i>
<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i></p> <p>7 GLOBAL WOMEN SUMMIT</p> <p>8 GLOBAL WOMEN SUMMIT
<i>Upward Basketball Games cancelled</i></p> <p>9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
Combined SS Class
Worship
Children's Message
Children's Church
Special Business Meeting</p> <p>10 CBTS Class
Staff Meetings
Tutoring
PMA Board Meeting
Council/Transition Team meeting</p> <p>11 CBTS Class
WMS Mission Projects</p> <p>12 CBTS Class
Wednesday Schedule
Friendship International
Tutoring
Tae Kwon Do
Upward Practice</p> <p>13 CBTS Class</p> <p>14 PMA Teacher Work Day –
No students
Friday Pipes</p> <p>15 Food Pantry
Upward Basketball Games</p> <p>16 Combined SS Class
Worship
Church Council Meeting</p> | <p>17 PMA Spring Break
Staff Meetings
Tutoring</p> <p>18 PMA Spring Break</p> <p>19 PMA Spring Break
Wednesday Schedule
Friendship International
Tutoring
Tae Kwon Do
Upward Practice</p> <p>20 PMA Spring Break</p> <p>21 PMA Spring Break
CBTS Foundations Class
Friday Pipes</p> <p>22 Upward Basketball Games
CBTS Foundations Class</p> <p>23 Combined SS Class
Worship
Coffee Fellowship
Children's Church</p> <p>24 Staff Meetings
Tutoring</p> <p>25 WMS Mission Projects
PMA – Strategic Plan Meeting</p> <p>26 Wednesday Schedule
Friendship International
Tutoring
Tae Kwon Do</p> <p>28 Area V Board Meeting
Friday Pipes</p> <p>29 PMA Conferences
Upward Celebration</p> <p>30 Combined SS Class
Worship
Intentional Interim Event</p> <p>31 Staff Meeting
Tutoring</p> |
|---|--|

January Financial Report

Unified Budget – January

Received:	\$19,907
Budgeted:	\$22,501
Under:	\$2,594

January Income/Expense

Income:	\$36,223
Expense:	\$81,258
Over:	\$45,035

Recurring TBC Events

- Sunday's schedule is outlined below.
- Staff meetings are held each Monday at noon.
- The Women's Mission Society meets each Tuesday.
- Wednesday's schedule is outlined below.

Sunday Schedule

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 9:00 | Doughnut Fellowship
Prayer
Library Open |
| 9:30 | Sunday School |
| 10:40 | Worship Service |

Wednesday Schedule

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 4:30 | Library Open |
| 5:15 | Fellowship Dinner |
| 6:00 | Children & Youth Activities |
| 6:00 | Tae Kwon Do |
| 6:00 | Upward Basketball Practice |
| 6:00 | Bible Study |
| 7:00 | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:00 | WMS Missions |

Articles for the next issue of
Third Base are due

March 20

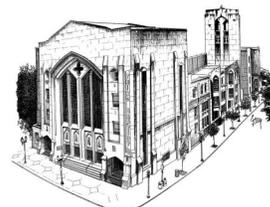
Please submit articles to the
church office
or e-mail to Maria Stinnett
at mstinnett@third-baptist.org.



Third Baptist Church

In the city for good!

620 North Grand Blvd.
Saint Louis, MO 630103



Third Baptist Church Staff

Dr. Greg Hunt
INTERIM PASTOR

Dr. Terrell Carter
MINISTER OF
ADMINISTRATION

Nancy Furgerson
INTERIM MINISTER OF MUSIC &
WORSHIP

Allyn Harris Dault
INTERIM MINISTER TO YOUTH

Rev. Maria Stinnett
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
CHILDREN & COMMUNICATIONS

Ella Banks
RECEPTIONIST

Fran Blake
BUSINESS AFFAIRS &
OFFICE MANAGER

Byron Greer
BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Arris Harris
DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES

Timothy Harrison
CUSTODIAN

Betty James
CHURCH HISTORIAN

Brent Johnson
ORGANIST

Lansin Lim Kimler
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

Tom Kurtz
BUSINESS MANAGER

Bonnie McDaniel
CHURCH HOSTESS

Monica McDaniel-Collins
CHURCH HOSTESS

Raymond Murphy
CUSTODIAN

Lynda Sharpe
SECRETARY

Sally Stevenson
PARISH NURSE

THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH

620 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103
(314) 533-7340
FAX (314) 533-7310
www.third-baptist.org