

## Birth/ Adoption Celebration of a New Family Member

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:13-14*

One of the most joyful events in a family's life is the arrival of a new child. Birth is a time to marvel over the creativity of the God we love and serve. It is just as exciting when an adoption occurs for a family. At Third we celebrate with our members during these special events.

Once word is received that a baby is born, a rose is displayed during all services to celebrate the birth. Cards and a first Bible are mailed to the family from the Deacons' New Arrivals committee. Small groups already surrounding each family often help set up meals. The Associate Director of Family Ministry comes to visit about a month later when things have settled down. A meal and a booklet about Third's nursery are brought at that time, and prayer is offered for the newest member of the family.

Upon adoption of a child, the church will also display a rose during the services in recognition of this new family member. A card and a first Bible will be sent by the Deacons' New Arrivals committee. The Associate Director of Family Ministry comes about a month later to bring a meal and a booklet about Third's nursery if the adopted child is young. Prayer is offered for this special new member of the family.

Parents of all new children are also introduced to Third's Faith Milestones. The goal of Faith Milestones is to equip and celebrate with parents as they raise their child to love and serve God. The first Faith Milestone that parents of infants are invited to participate in is baptism. They can expect an invitation to a baptism class to come in the few months after their baby's arrival.

Third's Family Ministry team also plans way to connect families with small children through various activities during the year. Play groups, picnics and even pool get-togethers are some of the activities we have planned in the past. We want Third Church to be a place where everyone feels connected. This is especially true during the early family years when there can be feelings of isolation.

Let us celebrate with you the joy of parenthood and family. What a special time it is for the entire church body!

**Resources:**

*My First Hands-On Bible* by Tyndale House – presented to families by Third's deacons at the time a child is born/adopted.

*Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide* by Dr. James Dobson (Tyndale House Publishers)

*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp (Shepherd Press)

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