From the Pastor’s Desk
By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Read and Memorize the Bible in 2019

As we approach each New Year, many people resolve to make changes in the upcoming year. According to one website (https://www.goskills.com/Soft-Skills/Academic/Top-10-New-Year’s-Resolutions), the top ten New Year’s resolutions for 2019 are the following: exercise more, lose weight, get organized, learn a new skill or hobby, live life to the fullest, save more money/spend less money, quit smoking, spend more time with family and friends, travel more, and read more. I would not be surprised if you have one or two of these resolutions on your list for 2019!

I would like to suggest that you consider spiritual resolutions for the New Year as well. In particular, I would like to suggest two New Year’s resolutions for 2019: Bible reading and Bible memorizing.

First, read the Bible in 2019. The Session has agreed that we would like to encourage our church family to read the Bible through in 2019. We want to use Faithlife’s “Read the Bible in a Year” plan. This is a sequential reading plan that will take you through the entire Bible in one year. You may begin at any time (although the church plan will begin on January 1, 2019) and catch up (if you fall behind) or read ahead (if you prefer). You may access the plan at https://faithlife.com/tb pca/activity. I am hoping that we will be able to use
the community notes feature to add notes, post insights, ask questions, and so on. You will be able to follow along on your computers, tablets, or phones by using one of Faithlife’s free apps. (I use Logos, and have used it for many years to help me read through the Bible. I have also used the feature Logos has to keep track of my prayer list.)

Recently, Crossway posted an article titled “Infographic: You Have More Time for Bible Reading than You Think” (https://www.crossway.org/articles/infographic-you-can-read-more-of-the-bible-than-you-think/?fbclid=IwAR06MSHJMMz-Ojy1nzKasizwqGQi1-zO8XA4gwSdd5ur6Q9Z8sUK7xKII4). It is a fascinating article, and I encourage you to read it. However, for the purpose of this article, I want to mention that they noted that it would take the average person just 12 minutes a day to read through the entire Bible in one year. They also noted that 70% of people spend 30 minutes or more each day engaged in email, for example. Every one of us could find 12 minutes a day to read through the Bible in one year.

A few weeks ago, a member called me and said that he had just finished reading the entire Bible. I believe he said that this was the second time through in the past three years. He had never read the Bible through until I challenged the congregation to do so several years ago. I thank God that this member has done so and, according to his own testimony, he found it very helpful.

And second, memorize the Bible in 2019. Well, not the whole Bible but, rather, selected verses from the Bible! We will use BibleMemory.com’s “Top 100 Verses” plan. We will work on 1 Bible verse per week. Over the course of two years you will memorize the 100 Bible verses. We will list the Bible verses each week in the church bulletin. You may also join the “TBPC Bible Memory Group” at: https://biblememory.com/group/view/fb854ff686/. There is also an app, although there may be a small fee to purchase it.

I do hope that as we approach the New Year that you will set spiritual New Year’s resolutions for this coming year. Whatever other resolutions you may set for yourself, let me encourage you to set these two for 2019:

- To read the Bible in 2019, and
- To memorize the Bible in 2019.

These are two worthy goals for every Christian. I pray that you will join me as I read the Bible and memorize the Bible in 2019.
Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church

2019 MISSIONS CONFERENCE
February 15 – 17, 2019

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Andrew S. Lamb, Vice President of Global Opportunities, Third Millennium Ministries

Theme: “KINGDOM DNA”
A Message from TBPC’s Missions Committee
By Karen Guest

Please mark your calendars for next year’s Missions Conference weekend, February 15-17, 2019. You will have opportunities to meet some of our missionaries and hear from our speaker, Rev. Andrew S. Lamb, from Third Millennium Ministries. Our tentative schedule for the congregational events is the same as in previous years:

- Saturday night fellowship dinner with childcare and program for young children;
- Sunday morning Adult Bible Study and Fellowship hour with our missionaries;
- Sunday worship sermon featuring Rev. Lamb;
- Sunday lunch at Asian Buffet.

Third Millennium Ministries recently celebrated its first 20 years. You may recall that several years ago, its President, Dr. Richard Pratt, was our Missions Conference keynote speaker. To find out more about Third Mill, you can visit its website (www.thirdmill.org). In a nutshell, here’s a summary:

The mission of Third Millennium Ministries is to prepare Christian leaders to lead a transformation of the world into God’s Kingdom by providing Biblical education for the world for free. Its top priority is to spread the will of God to every corner of the earth through the Gospel of Christ. This mission is being fulfilled at this very moment through DVD, online streaming, radio, satellite, TV broadcast, smart phone apps, USB flash drives, and SD cards. Amazingly, it is now able to provide 2 years of seminary on a micro SD card! Third Mill’s network covers 16 languages over 6 continents, with 300 professors, and has 90 million users.
Mission Field

Our Missions Conference each year prepares us to kick off the fiscal year for TBPC’s Missions Fund (March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020). Why does TBPC have a missions fund? It’s Biblical! The foundational passage containing the pattern and principle for a promise to faithfully support the missions ministry is found in 2 Corinthians, chapters 8-9:

• Paul explains what the right attitude in giving should be (8:1-2, 4, 6-7; 9:14);

• Paul describes how the Macedonians gave (8:2-4, 10, 14; 9:5);

• Paul says the Macedonians were giving based upon a commitment they had made a year before (8:6, 10-12; 9:2-5, 7);

• Paul reminds the Corinthians of the harvest principle: “sow sparingly, reap sparingly; and sow generously, reap generously (9:6);

• Paul states the purpose of giving: to the glory and praise of God (8:10; 9:6, 11 -13); and,

• Paul wraps it all up by reminding the Corinthians of God’s promise: “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (9:8).

“In over 35 years of ministry, I have never seen a church’s operating budget or building program hindered by a thrust for world missions. However, I have frequently watched churches stagnate when the opposite approach is taken.”

Dr. Paul Kooistra, Coordinator – Mission to the World (2008)
In 1988, Marianne Cali wanted to give back to the TBPC by hosting a women’s brunch to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. She referred to this effort as her “selfish blessing.” This was a time when the Women in the Church (WIC) were just beginning to come together and getting to know each other. In 1990, Marianne was approached by the church and asked if they could sponsor the event so it could become part of the WIC budget. On September 8, 1990, 37 women attended a brunch planning meeting. The theme for the first church-sponsored brunch was “Encouraging One Another” and was held on Saturday, December 1, 1990. It was initiated and coordinated by Marianne. This was just the beginning. The themes for the next brunches included “Friendship Evangelism,” “the Christmas Story,” “The Mother of Mary,” and “Gift of the Magi,” to name a few. More recently, the themes have centered around the women of the Bible with “Rahab, Part of the Christmas Story” as the 2018 focus. The Christmas brunch grew from having one person doing the hosting, planning, and cooking with 37 attendees in 1988 to 104 attendees, 15 Legacy Home School Choir members, 14 hostesses, 20 servers and drink stewards, and all the volunteers who helped make the ornaments in 2018.

December 1, 2018 was a glorious day! Thanks be to God! It was a beautiful day for our brunch with Marianne providing the opening prayer followed by lots of music from the Legacy Home School Choir; a video of Rhonda Louise, a Canadian recording artist and songwriter, singing the Rahab song; and lots of Christmas carols compliments of our very own Millie Myers. We enjoyed a lovely brunch catered by Mission BBQ.

Our speaker for our 30th anniversary event was Betty Combee, a former TBPC member, who told us about “Rahab, Part of the Christmas Story.” Betty used props as she spoke to show how Rahab hung a red rope from her window to mark her house. All family members that she could gather in her home would be spared. Betty also used two stacks of gift boxes that when displayed, spelled the words grace and faith. Our resident artist, Nancy Kirkpatrick, designed this ornament showing the house with the red rope hanging from the window and several WM volunteers made 120 of them to distribute.
By Suzanne Swenson

In Appreciation

It truly takes a village that comes together to coordinate the various elements of this event. We are so grateful for those who stepped forward to volunteer their time and talents to make it the success that it was.

Coordinators:
Randi Mallary (prayer); Barbara Hess (registration and tickets); Nancy Kirkpatrick (speaker); LeeAnn DeStefano (soundboard); Millie Myers and Kim Semeniuk (music); Marsha Otto, Sandy Carruth, Sage and Skye Campbell (favor distribution); Lesley Schmidt and Marianne Cali (food), and Lesley Schmidt (servers).

Hostesses:
Kim Semeniuk, Marianne Cali, Cathy Diaz, Julianna Diaz, Karen Cross, Nancy Kirkpatrick and Debbie Jordan (co-hosted), Rebekah Skopp and Jo Campbell (co-hosted), Karen Guest, Christy Almonte, Lee Ann DeStefano and Kristine Wyss (co-hosted), Michelle Hunter, Kris Harrell, Rachel Contrata, and Suzanne Swenson.

Servers:
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Deuteronomy, with its re-giving of the Law and eloquent farewell words of Moses, enables us to see our roots as believers in the person and work of Christ.

Please plan to participate Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, beginning January 7, or Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:15 am, beginning January 8.

The donation for the term is $10 and includes the study guide which will be available in the narthex after the Worship service.

For questions or reservations for complimentary child care, contact Debbie Jordan at 813-368-7513 or Debbiejordan1@gmail.com, or Eileen Fritz at 813-731-0457 or EileenMFritz@icloud.com.
Join us the first Friday of every month at Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church for a meal, prayer, family focused devotional activities, and fun! Open to all church members and attendees! Families with children are highly encouraged to attend. Great opportunities for volunteers are available for games, crafts, and food setup.

**Dates: Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, April 5, May 3**

**What to expect...**

- **6:30 - 7:00 p.m.:** Meal time and opening prayer
- **7:10 - 7:45 p.m.:** Family devotional Activity
- **7:45 - 8:25 p.m.:** Fellowship and board games
- **8:30 p.m.:** Closing

Please RSVP so we can prepare appropriately.

If you are interested in helping please contact:

Christy Almonte 813-484-9771.
Happening in January

Friday, January 4, 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Friday Family Fun Night
See page 9 for details.

January 7, Women’s Bible Study begins
See page 8 for details.

January 13, 12:30 P.M. Welcome Lunch
More information to follow in future bulletins.

Sunday, January 13, 5:00 P.M. Simple Soup Supper for Sunday Seconds
Join us for soup, bread, and dessert prior to the evening worship service. Please RSVP in advance by sending an email to Lesley Schmidt at jrsiks92@yahoo.com, or completing a pew card, by January 6. Please let us know the number of adults and children in your party.

Sunday, January 13, 6:00 P.M. Evening Worship Service
Please plan to attend. We would love to see you there. Childcare is provided.

Thursday, January 17, Tampa Bay Lightning Game
Everyone is invited to join the Men’s Ministry at the Lightning game on Tickets will be $60 per person. If you would like to attend, please write “Hockey” on your Welcome Card with the number of tickets desired. Please contact Brian Carrier with any questions (brian@bcaflorida.com or (813) 841-9146).

Saturday, January 19, 11:00 A.M.: SISTER TO SISTER SOUP’S ON!
All women are encouraged to join us for soup and fellowship at the church. Three different soups will be available, please bring a side dish to share.
January Birthdays

Jeremiah Hawkes  January 03
Cheryl Barber    January 06
Ruth Anne Jeffries January 09
Rene Palacio     January 09
Todd Gartman     January 11
Lois Gainer      January 13
Robert Almonte   January 17
Richard Gainer   January 18
Karen Guest      January 20
John McNulty     January 20
Andrea Proctor   January 22
Lili Palacio     January 23
Bill Campbell    January 27
Natacha Etienne  January 28
Caroline Becker  January 31
Melissa McNulty  January 31
Steve Niles      January 31

January Anniversaries

Lenny & Cheryl Chew January 01 31 Years
Jeff & Lindsay Montoney January 14 13 Years
Luke & Wicke Egbert    January 26 11 Years