“My, How You Have Grown!”

“My, how you have grown!” I can still hear uncles and aunts saying these words to me when I saw them after a long period of time.

The question I would like to ask you is this: “Will anyone be able to say these words of us a year from now, ‘My, how you have grown!’ ” I don’t of course mean growing in size but, rather, growing in spiritual maturity. I would like to invite each one of us to make a commitment to grow spiritually in the coming year.

In Luke’s Gospel, we read the following words, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

These words are given to us by Luke just after Jesus had been found by his parents in the Temple. When Jesus was about twelve years old, his parents took him to Jerusalem, as they did every year, for the Feast of the Passover. When the feast was ended, Joseph and Mary started their journey back to Nazareth. After the first day’s journey, they discovered that Jesus was not in the group traveling Nazareth. So, back to Jerusalem went the concerned parents. They found Jesus in the temple on the third day. He was dialoguing with the teachers, and they were all amazed at Jesus’ understanding. After expressing her concern to Jesus, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. And it is then that Luke tells that “Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”

There are four dimensions to Jesus’ growth. First, Jesus grew in wisdom. He grew mentally. His intellectual grasp of biblical truth deepened. Second, Jesus grew in stature. That is, he grew physically. Third, Jesus grew in favor with God. His personal relationship with his heavenly Father deepened. And finally, Jesus grew in favor with man, meaning that his social maturity increased, and he commanded greater respect from people.

Let me encourage you to commit yourself to growing mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially this year. May it be that at the end of this year God will say of us, “My, how you have grown!”
Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz,  
Pastor

Melissa Bayley,  
Office Administrator

LeeAnn DeStefano,  
Office Assistant

Joanne Campbell,  
Bookkeeper

Morgan Uhl,  
NTCA Administrator

Marianne Cali,  
Nursery

Millie Myers,  
Music Director and Pianist

Chris Christopher,  
Custodian

TBPC Ministries

Adult Bible Fellowship  
Ed Jordan

Children  
Christy Almonte

Empty Nesters  
Sandy Neal

Greeters & Welcome Table  
Brian Carrier

Hospitality  
Lesley Schmidt

Men’s Bible Study  
Jeff Beams

Men’s Ministry  
Brian Carrier

Missions  
Karen Guest

Music  
Millie Myers

NTCA  
Morgan Uhl

Nursery  
Marianne Cali

Outreach  
Vacant

Pastoral Care  
Rev. Freddy Fritz

Usbers  
Lenny Chew

Women’s Bible Study  
Eileen Fritz &  
Debbie Jordan

Women’s Ministry  
Suzanne Swenson

Youth  
Mike Cacioppo
From the Files…

T. B. Sherlock, P. I.

What’s Datz? Who’s That?

Sunday. 12.08.19. Datz. What’s Datz? (Fingers drumming on the desk…) Seems to be connected with some Christmas event. Someone in the church narthex (“vestibule” where I grew up) said she wanted to hear the Messiah. Who’s that? Overheard talk about leaving tomorrow from five different points in the community for Datz tomorrow. How to follow five vehicles at once? That red 2010 Toyota Corolla (I know my cars) always parked in the church lot, driven by that guy who always wears black, would be the easiest to track. Will pretend to drop off load after load at the Salvation Army nearby until he rolls out, then follow.

Monday. 12.09.19. 3:30 p.m. Only took eighteen SA drop-offs. It worked. Finally saw three women get in the red 2010 Toyota Corolla with the guy in black. (Note to self: Find out why he always wears black.) Following in traffic is tricky. (So am I.) Drove about 45 minutes.

Monday 12.09.19. 4:15 p.m. Arrived early at a restaurant kind of place. Just piped in jive. No live music Datz person. Kept seeing that name Datz all over. Some guy, also in black, led them up the steps. Took the little-known elevator to remain undetected. Hid under the bar in the adjoining room. In a flash, thirteen people surrounding a long table were staring at what appeared to be menus. Hmm… Datz must be the chef. (Nailed that mystery.) Killer night for a foodie P.I. hiding out without food. The people described incredible dishes they were tasting in minute detail. (Torture.) One guy said he had “stuffed meatloaf.” Said it had macaroni and beef brisket in it. (I digress.)

And, they all talked about the Messiah. One lady, “The Blonde,” said, “My interest in attending my first Messiah concert began shortly after I read the book The Spiritual Lives of Great Composers over 20 years ago. At that time, I was intrigued that George F. Handel, a devout Christian, wrote this magnificent piece in just 3 weeks. If ever there was an example of divine intervention, the Messiah is it. In my opinion, no one has been able to set the Scriptures to music so pleasingly as Handel. Standing during the Hallelujah Chorus always brings tears of joy to me. I guess we have to wait for an Easter presentation of the Messiah to hear Part Three that opens with “I know that my Redeemer liveth.” So…, is “the Messiah” a person, or a piece of music?

Monday 12.09.19. 5:45 p.m. Had to wait my turn to go down the recently-discovered-once-little-known elevator. Managed to trail the red 2010 Toyota Corolla. Maybe this stop will solve the music part of the mystery.

Monday. 12.09.19. 6:00 p.m. Good hunch. Stopped at a church a half mile away. (Wow!) From rustic to exquisite. Covered walkways. High ceilings inside. White, white walls and woodwork. Orchestra tuning up. (Wow!) Everyone waiting the hear the Messiah…

Monday. 12.09.19. 9:00 p.m. Wondered what those kids that came in that big white van thought. Dad turned around to pick up the little girl. Snuck into the van. Climbed over the seats. Hid in the back. (Nimble as Nick.)
From the Files…
T. B. Sherlock, P. I.

Wow! They could talk! Heard them use each other’s names. Guessed ages.

“It was beautiful. I want it for Christmas.” - Elinor, 2.

“I thought it was nice and the building was beautiful.” - Miles, 5. (That one could be heading to be an architect rather than a musician.)

“I think it was really good, it was awesome.” - August, 8.

“I think it was really well done and it was beautiful. I want to go next year.” - Liberty, 10.

“A ravishing rendition of highly trained people singing one of the most beautiful songs in history.” - Charlotte, 13.

“It was a wonderful concert. The sound when everyone sang together was so beautiful and majestic that I’m left wondering just how amazing it will sound in Heaven when all the saints sing together the praises of God. Left in awe!” - Beatrix, 15.

“All the singers were wonderful. And the overall effect was lovely.” - Marika, 16.

“Handel is the greatest. The Good News set to the most beautiful music, what could be better?” - (Called him, “Dad”).

Tuesday, 12.10.19. 12:00 a.m. I met THE MESSIAH! He said, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Irresistible!) CASE CLOSED.
By Suzanne Swenson

The Women’s Ministry held its thirty-first annual Christmas Brunch to celebrate the beginning of Advent on December 7, 2019. We had ninety-four in attendance. Our speaker Jan Brubaker is the Clinical Manager at A Women’s Place Medical Clinic (AWPMC). This is a position she has held for the last ten years.

AWPMC is an integral part of New Life Solutions, Inc. which offers physical, emotional, and spiritual care for its clients. They are a Christ-centered ministry offering hope, help and healing for women, teens, and families by promoting healthy lifestyle choices and relationships. Their website is http:www.newlifesolutions.org. Bob Brubaker, Jan’s husband of forty-five years, is a Pastor of Christ Community Church (PCA). Jan’s topic was “Tamar – A Message of Hope.”

I am so grateful for the church members who volunteer their time to make the brunch a success each year, and 2019 was no exception. The following are the various committees and committee members:

- Prayer Team: Randi Mallory, Chairman; Chris Lear; Laura Rotolo; Lilly Porter; Betty Pothoven; and Chris Probes.
- Ticket sales and Senior Advisor: Barbara Hess.
- IT and Soundboard: LeeAnn DeStefano.
- Hostesses: Karen Guest; Stephanie Smoot and Rachel Contrata; Nancy Kirkpatrick and Debbie Jordan; Beatrix and Abigail Taverne; Kristin Wyss and LeeAnn DeStefano; Marsha Otto and Sandy Carruth; Jennifer Schumm and Kelly Rogers; Karen Cross; Coleen Knecht; Cathi Diaz; Eileen Fritz; Marianne Cali; and Suzanne Swenson.
- Food: Lesley Schmidt.
Drink Steward: James Destefano.

Servers: Ken Smoot; Richard Thompson; Richard Hunter; John Schmidt; John Otto; Robert Almonte; David Cross; John Hutton; Ken Pothoven; Lenny Chew; Pete Rotolo; and Mark Snow.

Greeters: Charlotte and Liberty Taverne.

WM Senior Advisory Group: Nancy Kirkpatrick; Eileen Fritz; Mary Mallard; Lilly Porter; Karen Guest; Marianne Cali; Karen Cross; LeeAnn Destefano; and Betty Pothoven.

The Workshop Ministry: Special thanks to Melissa Bayley and Lesley Schmidt whose workshop ministry helped us finish our ornament favors. We appreciated the efforts of the ten who joined in to help. Additionally, thanks to Charlotte Taverne for making one-hundred crocheted wreaths as additional favors for the attendees.

As many of you know, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Chairman of the Women’s Christmas Brunch event, in addition to serving as the Coordinator for the Women’s Ministry, for the past five years. I am very excited about Stephanie Smoot stepping forward and wanting to take on the role of Brunch Chairman. I will take a step back and work with her as she becomes familiar with her new role. I am excited to see what God has planned for me as I continue to serve as the Coordinator for Women’s Ministry. It is my pleasure to introduce Stephanie Smoot as the incoming WM Christmas Brunch Chairman.

Hello! My name is Stephanie Smoot. I am a wife and mother to two beautiful boys. My family started attending TBPC in November of 2018 and became members this past spring. The Women’s Brunch was one of the first events that I attended and right away I knew that I wanted to be more involved. For the 2019 brunch, I co-hosted a table with Rachel Contrata and loved it! When Suzanne mentioned that there were vacancies and that she was serving in two capacities, I knew I wanted to be considered for the role of Brunch Chairman. I felt that this was a great opportunity for me to serve the women of TBPC and to be involved in an event that means a lot to me. I look forward to the planning, serving the church, and getting to know the women better.
Looking Back... Looking Forward

Looking Back... Pursuing God through Joy.

The *Desiring God* study with John Piper for this fall came to a climax just before Thanksgiving. What a surprise to find how beautifully and frequently God encourages us, even expects and enables us, to find our fullest joy and most satisfying delight in him rather than in his creation or his creatures.

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

John Piper

Will we ever forget? Let’s pray not!

Looking Forward... Pursuing God through Pain

*The Book of Job*, a teaching series by Derek Thomas, was the pick by the WBS Teaching Team as a complement to our study of pursing God through pain.

In this series, Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas "walks us through the book of Job and considers what the Bible says about our darkest moments. He addresses the difficult question of the relationship between God's sovereignty and the existence of evil, sin, and suffering."

This study should prove to benefit all of us, whether we need perspective on past pain, current pain, future pain, or constant pain. We are comforted by the promise of the Holy Spirit to teach us. We are helped by Derek Thomas to lead us. We are blessed to have each other to share with.

Want a sneak preview? The video for the first lesson is free, click on [https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/the-book-of-job/](https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/the-book-of-job/).

The suggested donation to cover the cost of the study guide and the expense of resource materials is $15.00. Choose either study group, or alternate to fit your scheduling needs: Monday, 6:30 p.m., beginning January 6, or Tuesday 1:15 p.m., beginning January 7. Childcare is provided by advance request. Both groups meet in the Youth Room. Each group has a time to worship God and to pray.
Merry Christmas from ESL! We finished up our fall schedule with our last class prior to the New Year on December 18. We had a fun time together sharing our favorite Christmas traditions, stories and memories. We had some excellent treats to share, some of them original to Columbia and Peru.

Our Bible Study between Thanksgiving and Christmas focused on the Advent Wreath and the meaning behind the individual candles that are lit during the season of Advent. We read many Scriptures foretelling the birth of Christ from the Old Testament. We also read many scriptures from the New Testament about the birth of Jesus.

The ESL Program is taking a holiday break and will return to class on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, for our next semester of classes.
MISSIONS NEWS
By Karen Guest

Connecting TBPC to the mission field, both locally and globally, through prayer, sending, and support

Missions Committee – The Committee welcomed two new members: David Cross and Kristine Wyss. Our meetings are held at the church on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Cards for Missionaries – During our Thanksgiving dinner at church and the following Sunday many of you wrote Christmas cards to our missionaries. We collected all the cards and they were sent in bulk to each missionary family. Thank you for taking the time to write blessings to them.

“Adopt a Missionary for Prayer” – As of our December meeting, most of our missionaries have been adopted by one or more ministry groups. We have also asked our missionaries to communicate with us, at a minimum, four times a year, and any time they have a prayer request. Our goals are to bring immediate prayer requests to the respective ministry that has adopted the missionary for prayer; and incorporate these prayer needs into the “Missionary of the Week” section of the weekly Intercessor prayer list. Thank you to Christine Probes who has coordinated this effort, and Melissa Bayley for her continuing work to make the weekly Intercessor current. Our missionaries covet your prayers. Here is a summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missionary</th>
<th>Ministry/Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carla Stevens - MTW</td>
<td>Adult Bible Fellowship – Ed Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT (US Army) Ted Hamm – MNA Chaplain</td>
<td>Adult Bible Fellowship – Rich Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPT (US Army) James Cochell – MNA Chaplain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Andrew &amp; Meghan Newman – MTW RUF</td>
<td>Children’s Ministry – Christy Almonte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norman &amp; Julie Beck – MTW Cherokee, NC</td>
<td>English as a Second Language – Karen Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Peter &amp; Lauren Dishman – MTW Global, Bogota, Colombia</td>
<td>Women’s Ministry – Suzanne Swenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert &amp; Cheryl Barber – MTW Global, Bogota, Colombia</td>
<td>Hospitality – Leslie Schmidt</td>
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<tr>
<td>All missionaries</td>
<td>Pastoral Care – Pastor Freddy Fritz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Missions – Karen Guest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rene &amp; Lilli Palacio – SIM, Charlotte, NC</td>
<td>Music – Millie Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Esaie &amp; Natacha Etienne – MTW Haiti</td>
<td>NTCA – Morgan Uhl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don &amp; Leah Vander Ploeg – JAARS/Wycliff Bible Translators, Waxhaw, NC</td>
<td>Women’s Bible Study – Eileen Fritz &amp; Debbie Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Nathaniel &amp; Cherita Adawonu – NHMI, Togo, West Africa</td>
<td>Youth – Mike Cacioppi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Ken &amp; Tammie Matlack -- MTW</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MISSIONS NEWS

By Karen Guest

Connecting TBPC to the mission field, both locally and globally, through prayer, sending, and support

Jamaica 2020 Mission Trip – We are pleased to announce approval by the Session for our church to participate in a mission trip next summer that is being led by two pastors of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Riverview, Florida – Rev. Craig Schwartz and Rev. Josh Gilman. Our short-term mission trip coordinator is Martine Extermann. This is an international mission trip to support Christian Fellowship Church in evangelism and training. The team will help with Vacation Bible School and construction on a manse for a local pastor. This will be a 10-day trip, July 24-August 3, 2020, for anyone age 14 and above. Cost estimate is $1,500 per person, which includes airfare, housing, food, transportation and miscellaneous expenses. Prerequisites are shots (hepatitis A/B and typhoid), and valid U.S. passport. Please prayerfully consider joining the team. To volunteer or request more information, please contact Martine Extermann, Pastor Freddy Fritz or Karen Guest.

Operation Christmas Child – Please continue to pray for the children who received the shoebox gifts and are participating in the 12-week discipleship program.

Missions Conference – February 21-23, 2020 – Our keynote speaker is Rev. Brett Carl, Missions Pastor at Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church, Suffolk, Virginia. His topic is “Adversity in Missions.” Please mark your calendars now for the weekend activities.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Commitment to participate in Jamaica mission trip – January 15, 2020

Missions Conference Weekend – February 21-23, 2020

Jamaica Mission Trip – July 24-August 3, 2020
**Happening in January**

**Saturday, January 4, 9:00 a.m. Taking Down the Greens.** You are invited to join us as we will be taking the tree and garlands down. We would appreciate help, especially from the "ladder climbers." Please write “Greens down” on your Welcome Card if you are able to help.

**Sunday, January 12, 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 jrslnks92@yahoo.com, or completing a pew card, by January 5. Please let us know the number of adults and children in your party (kid-friendly options can be made available.)

**Sunday, January 12, 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service.** Please plan to attend. We would love to see you there. Childcare is provided.
January Birthdays

Cheryl Barber January 06
Vern Yu January 08
Rene Palacio January 09
Lois Gainer January 13
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
Christopher Powe January 29
Melissa McNulty January 31
Steve Nies January 31

January Anniversaries

Lenny & Cheryl Chew January 01, 1988 31 Years
Luke & Wicke Egbert January 26, 2008 11 Years
It is the goal of the Trumpet staff to provide articles for learning and growing, news for connecting with our church family, and information on opportunities for service and participation. The views and opinions expressed in the Trumpet have not been reviewed or endorsed by the Session.

Please forward articles, pictures, ministry reports, and calendar items for the next edition of the Trumpet to andreaproctor@tcforce.com by the 20th of the month preceding publication.