In the Beginning

For the next year or so, I plan to preach short series of sermons, alternating between Ephesians and Genesis. I just concluded preaching through Ephesians 1 in a series I called “God’s Supreme Purpose.” On the First Sunday in Lent, March 5, I plan to start a new series of sermons on the first eleven chapters of Genesis. These chapters deal with the beginning of all things, and so I am calling this series of messages, “In the Beginning.”

My intention for “In the Beginning” is to preach 5 or 6 messages on Genesis 1–11. Naturally, this will be more of an overview rather than a verse-by-verse exposition of the text. Expounding a narrative will give us a view of the flow of redemptive history and what God was doing in the beginning in the salvation of sinners.

My series on Genesis 1–11, “In the Beginning,” will conclude the Sunday before Easter. Of course, there will be a message about the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. And then I will begin a series on Ephesians 2 after Easter. Ephesians 2 will deal with “God’s Way of Reconciliation.”

Hopefully, alternating short series of sermons between Ephesians and Genesis will help us all to stay engaged in worship, learning, and growing in the knowledge and grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Also, if we need to address something different, it will be easy to do so.

So, please pray that the Lord will help me as I prepare messages each week that will help all of us to grow in our walk with Christ.
Adult Christian Education & Fellowship

We currently have two Adult Christian Education & Fellowship classes. These classes run from 8:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings until 10:00 a.m.

The first Adult CE&F class is on “The Letters of 1, 2, and 3 John.” Richard Thompson is teaching that class. It is a wonderful opportunity to dive into three small, but very important, books of the New Testament.

The second Adult CE&F class is called, “Resolving Everyday Conflict.” This is a video series by Peacemaker about resolving everyday conflict. It is an outstanding resource, and we will certainly offer this course again in about a year or so. The last class for “Resolving Everyday Conflict” is on Sunday, March 5.

Beginning on Sunday, March 12, we will offer another Adult CE&F class. This will be a video series by R. C. Sproul called “What Is Reformed Theology?” The Protestant Reformation started 500 years ago in 1517. There is something healthy about returning to one’s roots. When it comes to evangelical Christianity, its roots are found in the soil of the Protestant Reformation. In “What Is Reformed Theology?,” R. C. Sproul offers a comprehensive introduction to Reformed Theology. We will examine topics such as Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, Perseverance of the Saints, and more. Join us on Sundays at 8:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church is looking for musicians! We would like to enhance our worship with church members who are able to sing and play musical instruments, especially the keyboard.

Earlier this year the Session met with a young lady about assisting our Music Ministry with her playing and directing of choirs. After several meetings, she decided not to accept our offer to assist us. We were, of course, disappointed. However, we trust that the Lord is in control and that he will raise up musicians who are able to help us with our Music Ministry.

So, if you would like to sing or if you play a musical instrument, will you please talk with Millie Myers about joining the Music Ministry.
Welcome to the first TBPRES KIDS Newsletter! My hope is that this newsletter will help parents, visitors, and the general church body know more about what our Children’s Ministry has to offer and to get to know some of the wonderful volunteers that make it all happen! If you have questions or suggestions, we would love to hear them!

Ministry Spotlight

Every Sunday just before the sermon, our children follow the flag out of the sanctuary. Aren’t they cute? But what do they do when the leave us? Well, they head off to learn about Jesus of course!

Our Children’s Church program is for all children ages 3 to Grade 2. The curriculum we are currently using is called Jesus, What a Savior! Here is the summary from Children Desiring God’s website:

“Our children (like us) are helpless sinners, deserving of God’s eternal wrath. Children need to hear this truth so that they, like us, can turn to the perfect and only remedy – the free gift of salvation through Jesus the Savior! Each lesson in Jesus, What a Savior! is designed to present material, including Bible stories, in a way that proclaims the centrality of the greatness and worth of God. This chronological study on redemption focuses on God’s revelation of His Son, Jesus, as the one and only hope for desperate sinners – the good news of the Gospel!”

Each child gets to take home a worksheet that they worked on in Children’s Church as part of the lesson. Parents can use this worksheet to reinforce what was learned at home.

One recent change that parents should be aware of is that we are no longer giving a snack as part of Children’s Church. Parents may take their child to the Café after picking them up from Children’s Church to get a snack. Please be sure to accompany your child to the Café and remain with them at all times. Please have your child take an appropriate snack and be courteous to our senior church members.

Volunteer!

Did you know that:

• **1 out of 2 people** who will ever accept Jesus as Savior will do so by age 12?
• By the age of 9, a person’s **basic moral foundation** has been formed.
• By 13, they have formed their beliefs about:
  • The nature of God
  • The existence of Satan
  • The reliability of the Bible
  • The holiness of Jesus Christ
  • Being saved by grace
  • And the importance of the spirit in our lives
• **4 out of every 5 leaders in the church today grew up in church.**

Our children are not only the future of the body of Christ. They are our prime responsibility now! God’s plans for our children include you! **Now is the time to get involved!**

Children’s Ministry Contacts

Coordinator: Kristine Wyss
(Kristine_Wyss@yahoo.com or 615-642-9968)

Sunday School: Jo & Bill Campbell
Children’s Church: {your name here!}
Pioneer Clubs: Kristine Wyss
VBS: Holly Hawkes
Upward Bound!

By Holly Hawkes

We are Upward Bound this summer! Mark your calendars for July 10-14, 2017 for our morning Vacation Bible School. The unique VBS Expedition will fill kids' hearts and minds with Jesus. The program is produced by Reachout Adventures which is a change from last year. It will have the crafts, snacks, games, Bible time and assemblies.

One of the changes you will notice is the emphasis on Bible memory work. Our kids, ages 4-5th grade as well as the little ones (children of volunteers), will be learning portions of Philippians Chapter 2.

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place...that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow (Philippians 2:9,10)."

Upward Bound includes a daily gospel presentation during the assemblies. This is an encouragement for our covenant children to see the big picture. It is also an opportunity to present the Good News to guests. All "backpackers" will bring and use their Bible at VBS. They will be encouraged to complete a short reading and acts of service. This content is included in the VBS journals the kids will take home and bring back daily. Responsibility for their journals, participation, memory work, the offering and service are promoted through a fun Scale the Peak competition.

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, your service makes this week possible. Thank you in advance. I imagine our Lord looking down with such pleasure on children reading his word, singing his praise and delighting in his presence. I pray July 10-14 brings him glory.

Please contact me to volunteer.

Holly Hawkes 813-360-2077 or hollacej@gmail.com.

Kids of the King

While not directly a part of Children’s Ministry, Kids of the King is an important children’s program. Our children not only have fun learning songs about God but they also are exposed to singing in front of an audience. They are also learning about praying to God and to trust in God through songs like “A Little Talk with Jesus”.

We would like to thank Rebekah Skopp for stepping up to lead this children’s program and Josiah Massie for volunteering his time to help her!

JOIN A GROWTH GROUP

Looking for fellowship? James Barber is leading a growth group every other Sunday evening. The group is studying “Leading a Gospel-Centered Life”. The group meets for a potluck dinner at the church at 5pm. Childcare is provided.

For more information, contact James at james.r.barber@outlook.com.

Upcoming Dates

- Every Wednesday: Kids of the King—6:30 pm; Pioneer Clubs—7:00 pm
- March 12th, 12:00 pm—Children’s Ministry Volunteer and Parent Meeting
- July 10 — 14th — VBS
She nudges her husband in the chair beside her and leans to whisper, “That lady is up there all by herself, but the bulletin lists the names of two people joining our membership. Where’s her husband?”

“Honey, does it really matter? Maybe he’s just sick.” He straightens his tie, flicks a piece of lint off his pants leg, and returns his focus to the platform, convinced the discrepancy is insignificant.

But it does matter. She stands alone for a reason. She’s made several appearances around the church at this function and that, while a few pieces of her story float among various circles, but it simply doesn't add up. She wears a ring. Two names are added to the church roster. Same last name. One person represented. She stands alone.

Holly Mickler may stand alone on the platform to be accepted into membership, but she walks through life - hand in hand, as often as possible - with her husband of almost 11 years. David is a Florida DOC inmate currently serving a life sentence for murder at Hardee Correctional Institution in Bowling Green, Florida. No, Pastor Fritz and Ruling Elder Ed Jordan didn't make a mistake. They didn’t miss the mug shot, the crime, or the sentence. Pretty certain they caught all that as they walked through the metal detector, endured a pat down search, and walked into a prison visitation park to sit among rapists, drug dealers, thieves, and murderers - one in particular.

As a teen, Holly earned the nickname “Princess of the Church” from a few well-meaning (albeit, misinformed) ladies after growing up in Pressly Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Statesville, North Carolina her whole life. Years before her birth, David ran the hallways of a few Tampa area churches and Spencer Memorial Baptist School, earning some nicknames of his own. Fast forward. The very day Holly graduated high school, hundreds of miles away, the David she didn’t even know existed, stood alone before a judge, who sentenced him to mandatory life in prison. One life just beginning. One, seemingly, ending.

When her beloved childhood pastor accepted a call to Trinity Presbyterian (ARP) in Tampa, Florida, the heartache over his departure was palpable, but to Holly’s delight, he invited her to leave NC and intern with his new church’s youth group during one of her college summers. Meanwhile, the Micklers, a family in his church were adjusting to a new “normal,” one that included having a son in prison. It just so happened that Elder Mickler volunteered himself and his wife to host Holly for the summer as she worked with the youth, a decision that changed the course of all their lives forever. Long story short, three years, several hundred phone calls and letters, and thousands of prayers later, David and Holly stood before their parents and a preacher wearing a Hawaiian shirt in the middle of a prison office to be joined in marriage.

Barbed wire and prison cell doors seem impenetrable, but they are no match for the grace of God. David made a profession of faith early in life, but drugs, alcohol, relationships, and a sense of worthlessness sent him into a downward spiral that landed him in prison. Holly, too, made a profession of faith as a young girl and set her sights on a life of ministry. Little did David know God would use prison to save his life. Little did Holly know God would use prison as the setting for His grace to be on display through her marriage and testimony. To see David is to see God's redemption and understand His mercy. To see Holly is to see
God’s provision and understand His faithfulness. To see them together is to see hope and understand love. All pictures of God’s artistry in their lives.

Obviously there is more to their story – HIStory in the making. Both David and Holly seek to grow in faith and to understand the character of God in the midst of their struggles. They also welcome questions as an opportunity for you, their recently acquired church family, to learn a new “world,” to hear how grace truly covers a multitude of sins, and to know what ministry to the suffering looks like. Break outside your view of the traditional, of the normal. Take a risk to trust God’s purpose in their situation. Catch a glimpse of your own destitution and need for redemption in David’s story. Understand sufficient grace given to you when you think of Holly’s story. Delight in His love for you when you consider His hand in their story. Allow them the chance to point you towards Him.

So, yes, it seems that lady stands alone. But she isn’t. She is one-third of a spectacular union. The other two thirds won’t be seen, but they are there. They are part of her everywhere she goes.

More of David and Holly’s story can be read at www.hollymickler.com

More information about the PCA’s prison ministry can be found at https://pcamna.org/metanoia-ministries/

David’s Address (plain cards/stamps only):
David Mickler – 166408
Hardee Correctional Institution
6901 St Rd 62
Bowling Green, FL 33834

March Anniversaries

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert &amp; Christy Almonte</td>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>9 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Javier &amp; Patty Lugo</td>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>17 years</td>
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The Women’s Ministry needs a **Sister to Sister Coordinator** to plan and work with other TBPC women to organize the four Sister to Sister gatherings each year. Planning occurs at the monthly WM15 Meetings on the second Sunday of each month following worship. There is not a lot of work or time involved. Please contact me at 703-402-3567 or suzswenson@verizon.net for additional information and to sign up for the position. Our next event is in April so I hope to hear from **YOU** very soon!

### March Birthdays

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Burns</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>James Barber</td>
<td>March 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzanne Bainbridge</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Deborah Donaldson</td>
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<td>Isaac Montoney</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Hannah Montoney</td>
<td>March 20</td>
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<td>Millie Myers</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Jeff Beams</td>
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<td>Ida Mitchell</td>
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<td>Craig Tyler</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Nancy Kirkpatrick</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>Rebekah Skopp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Egbert</td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Julia Todd</td>
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<td>Nolan Becker</td>
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<td>Gary Smith</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Roger Kaiser</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
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<td>Jennifer Bayley</td>
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<td>Wendy McLeod</td>
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<td>Joe Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>David Mickler</td>
<td>March 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jena Barber</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Linda Hallstrand</td>
<td>March 31</td>
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HAPPENING IN MARCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 8:45 AM - CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING (CPT) We are offering this training session for anyone who is involved or would like to become involved in Children’s Ministries and has not yet been through CPT or wants a refresher. This training is a mandatory part of the application process for volunteers or staff who work with children or youth. Contact Todd Bayley (toddbay4@gmail.com, 813-215-9005) or Debbie Jordan (debbiejordan1@gmail.com, 813-368-7513) to sign up.

JOB OPPORTUNITY Join the staff of Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church as a weekday preschool director. Ideal candidates should have a bachelor’s degree in an education related field, be credentialed or capable of obtaining a Florida Director’s credential, and have experience in teaching and administration. To obtain a job application, find out more information, and/or view a job description visit http://newtampachristianacademy.org/?page_id=201, or contact the school at 813-973-2443. Application deadline March 15, 2017, duties to be assumed on or before June 1, 2017. Applications with attached resume may be submitted to ntca@newtampachristianacademy.org, attention of NTCA Board.

OFFICER NOMINATION If you want to nominate someone for the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon, there are Nomination forms available at the Welcome Center. Please fill one out and turn it in to the church office, a Deacon, or an Elder.

LOST & FOUND Are you missing a jacket, jewelry, toys, etc.? Please check our lost & found basket in the Narthex on the bottom shelf.