The Priority of Public Worship

The highest priority of a Christian is the public worship of God on the Lord’s Day. Nothing is more important or significant for the Christian. There is no higher calling for the Christian than to join together with other Christians to glorify God, and through faith to receive the benefits of his or her redemption in Christ.

The Westminster Larger Catechism Question 154 asks, “What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation?” The answer is, “The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation.” Reformed worship has an emphasis on the simple and ordinary means of grace: The Word, sacraments, and prayer. Acts 2:42 shows us that the first-century Christians “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Luke indicates that this was a worship service by using a definite article to precede each action. The first-century worship was committed to the simple and ordinary means of grace: The Word, sacraments, and prayer.

The faithful reading and preaching of God’s Word are essential to biblical worship. Paul writes to young Pastor Timothy, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching” (1...
Timothy 4:13). Later he wrote to Timothy to “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2). Pastors today are called to do the very same thing. It is by the Word of God that the Christian not only worships God but is built up in the faith, as the WLC 155 makes clear, “The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners; of driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ; of conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will; of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions; of building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.”

The sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper are also essential to biblical worship. They are signs and seals of God’s covenant promises that are fulfilled in Christ. Baptism points to the cleansing blood of Christ and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 22:16; Titus 3:5). The bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper point to the body and blood of Christ—the sinless Lamb of God who bore God’s wrath in our place (Matthew 26:26-28).

And third, prayer is essential to biblical worship. God creates and nourishes faith through the preaching of the Word, and confirms it in the sacraments. Prayer is the Christian’s grateful response to the good news of the gospel (Psalm 103:1-5). Prayer in the worship service is led by Teaching or Ruling Elders and it is the church’s heartfelt response to the glorious grace of God.

As I said at the beginning, the highest priority of a Christian is the public worship of God on the Lord’s Day. In a most extraordinary way, the public worship of God (through the simple and ordinary means of grace) both glorifies God and sanctifies the Christian. Let us gather together each Lord’s Day with other Christians to worship God with a prepared heart and an expectant faith.

Trumpet Staff
Rev. Freddy Fritz, Editor-in-Chief  Nancy Morrison, Editor

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, ministry reports and calendar items for the next edition of the Trumpet to morrison774@gmail.com by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

TBPC Ministries
Adult Christian Education & Fellowship
Ed Jordan

Children
Kristine Wyss

EmptyNesters
Sandy Neal

Greeters & Welcome Table
Brian Carrier

Growth Groups Session

Hospitality
Joan Kosanovich

Men’s Bible Study
Jeff Beams

Men’s Ministry
Brian Carrier

Missions
Rich Thompson

Music
Millie Myers

NTCA
Eileen Fritz

Nursery
Marianne Cali

Outreach
Vacant

Pastoral Care
Rev. Freddy Fritz

Ushers
Lenny Chew

Women’s Bible Study
Eileen Fritz & Debbie Jordan

Women’s Ministry
Suzanne Swenson

Youth
Richard Hunter
On Saturday, February 3, TBPC held its second annual Chili Cook-Off and Missions Weekend. The missionaries who joined us for the weekend were: Nathaniel & Cherita Adawonu and family, Esaie & Natacha Etienne, Andrew, Meghen & Knox Newman, and Carla Stevens.

The Chili Cooks were: Brian & Alisa Carrier, Jason Skopp, Tim Smith, Ted Jefferies, and Karis Harrell. Jason Skopp won first place, Karis Harrell placed second, and Tim Smith was awarded third place. Thank you to our Honorable Judges: Andrew Newman, Martine Extermann, and Tom Justice.

Our Keynote speaker for the conference was Nathaniel Adawonu. His theme for the conference was "On Mission All the Time." His text was from Acts 3:1-10. As believers, he said, we are called to mission, to spread the gospel. He challenged us as believers: Have we identified the mission God has given us? And, are we spreading the gospel in that mission?

I thought the conference was a wonderful time of fun and fellowship as a church family. Our missionaries are truly a wonderful extension of our ministry and outreach both in our community and abroad.
HAPPENING IN MARCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 7:00 P.M.: PRAYER GATHERING -- Jason and Rebekah Skopp invite everyone to join them in their home for a time of fellowship and prayer for our dear pastor Freddy as he plans to begin his cancer treatment in the upcoming weeks. Their address is 1652 Ludington Ave, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543. For questions please call or text Rebekah Skopp at 412-735-0601.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4: EASTER LILIES -- Orders may be placed for Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary for our Easter celebration from March 4-18. See the insert in the bulletins on March 4, 11 and 18 to place the order; cost will be $7.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 8 - 10: LIGONIER CONFERENCE -- This year’s conference will be held at First Baptist Church Orlando and will be centered on the theme of “Awakening.” Their goal will be to help believers understand the importance of awakening and the way the Lord brings it about so that we might be used by God to be the means of a new awakening today. Rosaria Butterfield, Kevin DeYoung, Sinclair Ferguson, W. Robert Godfrey, Tim Keese, Steven Lawson, Albert Mohler, Stephen Nichols, Miguel Núñez, Burk Parsons, Joni Eareckson Tada, and Derek Thomas will teach on subjects including awakening in Scripture and history, the means of awakening, the signs of an awakened church, and several others. To register, call 800-435-4343 or online https://www.ligonier.org/events/2018-national-conference/register.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 6:00 P.M.: SUNDAY SECONDS -- Please join us for our 2nd Worship Service on the 2nd Sunday of each month to take advantage of the means of grace. Childcare will be available.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 12:15 P.M.: EMPTYNESTERS LUNCHEON -- Please join us for lunch at Bonefish Grill, 1640 Bruce B. Downs Blvd, Wesley Chapel. Looking forward to a wonderful time of sharing together! Contact Sandy Neal (813-973-7814 or sandybill1941@gmail.com) to reserve or for questions.

MARCH 18 – APRIL 1: VBS EARLY ONLINE REGISTRATION -- This summer TBPC will host a week-long Vacation Bible School called “Space Probe.” This spectacular VBS odyssey focuses on Genesis 1–9 in the Bible. During VBS, your young "Astronauts" will meet the Lord of the Universe and engage the truths of His Word through: Bible lessons, memory work, games, snacks, crafts and songs. Church and NTCA families will receive a link to register by email to ensure a spot. This program is for children ages 4 years (by June 18) to rising 5th grade; $20 suggested donation.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 7:00 P.M.: MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE -- The English name Maundy Thursday comes from Latin “mandatum novum,” which means “a new commandment.” We will celebrate communion as instituted by Jesus when he spoke these words to his disciples as he washed their feet: “A new command I give you: Love one another” (John 13:34).

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 7:00 P.M.: GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRÆ SERVICE -- In this service of Tenebrae, meaning “shadows” or “darkness,” we aim to experience the loss of light at the death of Christ. If you would like to be a reader for the Good Friday Service, please write “Reader” on your Welcome Card. All questions should be directed to Pastor Freddy.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 8:45-9:45 A.M.: EASTER SUNDAY BUFFET BREAKFAST – Please join us. Choose an item (bring enough for 15 people) from the tear-off sheet in the narthex. Disposable containers are preferred, or label them with your name and collect them afterwards. Please have food at the church by 8:45 am. To sign up write “EBB” on your Welcome Card and “Set-up” or “Clean-up” if you can help. It is important that you register so we can make sure there is enough food. Individuals will be available to help get food for those who have difficulty walking or need assistance.
Women’s Ministry is pleased to announce that Coleen Knecht has accepted the position of Sister-to-Sister Coordinator.

Coleen and her husband, Jason, moved to Tampa from West Palm Beach in October 2017. Previously they had lived in Sarasota County where they became partial to Gulf Coast sunshine so Tampa became their home. They are looking forward to becoming part of the TBPC family and building community with us. They are attending the new member’s class and have applied to become TBPC members. Welcome to you both!!

The Sister-to-Sister gatherings are held quarterly in January, April, July, and October. We gather in small group fellowship to learn more about each other. We pray collectively for each other at the meetings and individually through the selection of prayer partners. All women are invited to join us at these events. Details are provided in the worship bulletin.

BY HIS GRACE*FOR HIS GLORY II UPDATE

Praise the Lord for his provision! We were recently able to make an additional $25,000 payment on the principal of our mortgage reducing the balance to $113,236.70. This was the application of the funds received in our special 2017 end of year giving campaign. Keep your eyes on the Trumpet for future announcements and programs as we work to discharge this debt.
NTCA Call for Teachers  If you have a personal saving relationship with Christ, and a heart to share Christ with preschool children, Eileen Fritz would like to chat with you! We need substitute staff immediately, as well as teachers, assistants, and substitutes for next year. Call or text Eileen at (813) 731-0457. Email her at NTCA@newtampachristianacademy.org. Prayers for this need are appreciated!

March Birthdays

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Burns</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Jena Barber</td>
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<td>Suzanne Bainbridge</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>James Barber</td>
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<td>Isaac Montoney</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Coleen Knecht</td>
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<td>Jennifer Bayley</td>
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<td>David Mickler</td>
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<td>Linda Hallstrand</td>
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March Anniversaries

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<td>Javier &amp; Patty Lugo</td>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>18 years</td>
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