Getting the Most Out of Every Sermon

I recently saw a blog post titled, “7 Ways to Get the Most Out of Every Sermon.” It was a helpful reminder to me about how to listen to the Word of God preached, and I thought I would share some of it with you. Christians listen to a lot of sermons. It is important to listen in such a way as to get the most out of every sermon. So, here are seven ways to get the most out of every sermon.

First, listen prayerfully. Pray for the preacher as he prepares and as he preaches the sermon. Pray for yourself to be affected by the Word of God by the power of the Spirit. And pray the same for the rest of the congregation, as well as for visitors.

Second, listen to obey. James says in James 1:23-24, “For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.” Our aim should not be simply to listen to a sermon; it should be to “do” the sermon!

Third, listen critically but without being critical. We should listen to a sermon like the Berean Jews, of whom it was said in Acts 17:11, “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” Listen to the sermon to make sure that it conforms to the Scriptures.

Fourth, listen for you and not for someone else. Sometimes we hear a sermon and think how it would help someone else. That may be true. Nevertheless, you are there and that person is not there. So, listen for what God wants to say to you!

Fifth, listen to encourage others. When you hear something helpful in a sermon, thank your pastor. Also, use what you learn to build up others so that they might be encouraged by the Word of God.

Sixth, listen in a local church. Because of the internet, it is so easy to listen to great preaching today. However, it is important to join with other believers and hear sermons in a local church. Internet preachers don’t know you personally. However, your local pastor does. And he will preach his sermon with you in mind.

And finally, listen to hear Jesus speaking. Jesus said in John 10:27a, “My sheep hear my voice.” When you listen to a sermon, although you hear the voice of the pastor, you are also hearing the voice of Jesus speaking to you. That is the glory of listening to a sermon.

I pray that you will get the most out of every sermon that you hear.
HAPPENING IN MAY

FRIDAY, MAY 5 – 5:30 P.M.: RAYS GAME

The Men’s Ministry extends an invitation to everyone to invite their friends and family to join them for a Ray’s game! The Tampa Bay Rays battle against the Toronto Blue Jays, which begins at 7:10 PM. We have 40 tickets for people to attend. The cost of the trip will be $40.00 and includes a game ticket, bus ride to/from game, and food and drinks on the bus on our way to the game. Please respond to Brian Carrier via email at brian@bcaflorida.com or call 813- 841-9146. Please arrive by 5:15 p.m. as the bus will pick us up at the church and leave at 5:30 p.m. sharp and we will return sometime around 11:00 p.m. after the game. You may write “Rays” on your Welcome Card if you would like to attend.

THURSDAY, MAY 4- 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.: THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The theme this year is For Your Great Name’s Sake! Hear Us ...Forgive Us ...Heal Us! which is inspired by Daniel 9:19. The National Day of Prayer Washington DC Observance will be moving to an evening event. You can tune in by live stream on our National Day of Prayer website. As soon as it’s available, the link for the web stream will be provided at the bottom of the home page under 2017 Media. http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 - 12:00 P.M.: THE PACESSETTERS’ LUNCH

Please check future Sunday bulletins for the location of the May lunch. Please join us for fun and food with good fellowship. RSVP Randi Mallary (813-513-4400, randimallary@gmail.com).

FRIDAY, MAY 19 – 7:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M.: GIRLS’ NIGHT OUT—DABBLING IN ART

For our next Girls’ Night we are going to go to Pinot’s Palette in Wesley Chapel to paint our own canvas. If you are not a pro like Mrs. Kirkpatrick, fear not! This class is designed for amateurs, and it includes a canvas, brushes, paints, and step-by-step instructions for completing the painting for that evening. The cost is $35, and there are refreshments available for purchase. The studio is located at 1718 Bruce B Downs Blvd, Wesley Chapel 33544. To see the painting we will complete and register for the class, please click here: https://www.pinotspalette.com/wesleychapel/event/164485. If you plan to attend, please register and then let me know: Amber Dixon [mailto:amberdutch@gmail.com]. If we get 12 people or more we can have the place to ourselves.

SUNDAY, MAY 21 – NOON: CHILDREN’S MINISTRY VOLUNTEER THANK YOU AND FUN DAY

Save the Date! Following worship, the Children’s Ministry will host a volunteer thank you and fun day for the kids! We’ll have a bounce house, snow cones, hot dogs, and more! This is also a great opportunity to learn more about the Children’s Ministry and how you can get involved! Please write “CM” and the number attending on your Welcome Card so we can get a count for food! We hope to see everyone there!

SUNDAY, MAY 21 - 12:15 P.M.: EMPTYNESTERS’ LUNCH

Please join the Emptynesters for lunch at Vuelo Mexican Grill, 17641 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. Please RSVP to Sandy Neal, 813-973-7814 or sandybill1941@gmail.com by Friday, May 19.

SUNDAY, MAY 21- 3:00 P.M.: NEW MEMBER’S CLASS

Anyone interested in learning more about TBPC is welcome to attend the New Member’s Class from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., which includes dinner and childcare. Please write “NMC” on your Welcome Card, contact the Church Office or see Pastor Freddy.

SUNDAY, MAY 28 – 8:45 A.M.: SESSION INFORMATION MEETING

All members are asked to please join us for our Bi-Annual Session Information Meeting preceding the Sunday worship service. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about what is happening at TBPC and to ask questions.
MEET OUR NEWEST MISSIONARY FAMILY:

NORMAN & JULIE BECK

The TBPC Session recently approved the Missions Committee recommendation that we add Norman & Julie Beck to our family of supported missionaries. They are serving under Mission to the World in Cherokee, NC alongside a new church being planted there. They have also welcomed a new addition to their family—Ivy Grace who is about 8 months old.

Norman Beck spent most of his youth on the streets, first hearing about Jesus through a children’s shelter. He testifies that, “I got to know him more and more through missionary teams, church, and my family that later adopted me. God adopted me, and changed my life, and eventually I was able to leave my drug addictions and start growing in my walk with Him.” Some of you may remember Julie Welzien Beck from when TBPC was her home church. Additional information about their work in Cherokee can be read in their prayer and support request letter from 2016 which is included below.

Lavished by Grace

Dear family and friends,

"God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose." – John Piper

We hope that each of you are doing well in your ministry and your walk with our Lord. It is my great pleasure to greet each of you in the name of our holy Lord and Savior. Many of you know us personally and you know the work God has done in our lives and the work he is continuing in many areas of our lives that still need his transformation.

These past years we have prayed and thought about Cherokee and believe God has been directing us towards there again, by answering our prayers, keeping in contact with the young people we met a few summer ago and other friends that God brought into our lives. We have decided to answer his calling to missions. God was
so merciful to use us in the lives of those young people and we are praying that he will continue using us as his tools since we will have many more open doors than previous years since we have made those friendships.

We are excited about the work that God will do in us and through us. Our goals are to start discipleship relationships with many young adults and youth and connect them with the future church plant. We desire to build trust and rapport through planning and implementing various events which will bring the young adults and youth together. We envision that this will be through recreation and sports ministry, arts and crafts, game nights, and various other activities. There is also a possibility of implementing an Alpine tower and ropes course. Besides meeting with individuals one on one, we would like to start a Bible study to help the Cherokee youth learn more about Christianity.

We cannot do this in our own strength. Would you be willing to partner with us, either in prayer or by financially supporting this ministry? If you have any questions or would like us to further explain what God is calling us to do . . . email us at Normanbeck3@gmail.com. By supporting us you will be supporting the ministry of Mission to the World in Cherokee. While we are all called to the Great Commission, not all are called to go.

Sincerely In Christ,

Norman & Julie Beck

IN OTHER MISSIONARY NEWS

Lauren and Peter Dishman, serving in Bogota, Colombia, are praising God for the healthy arrival of their son, Isaac Nicolas Dishman, on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 2:18 p.m. He weighed in at 7 lb, 2 oz and measured 19.6” long. Pastor Freddy and Eileen are the thankful-and-ready-to-fly grandparents.
Some thoughts on Marriage, Childbearing and Parenting

Last Saturday a group of church friends gathered to celebrate the coming arrival of Baby Girl Almonte to Christy and Robert; she is expected sometime in June. Lindsay Montoney hosted the event that included friends coming together, a thoughtful devotional given by Cheryl Chew, delicious refreshments including a decorated cake compliments of Barb Hess, and fun activities and games led by Kristine Wyss.

In her devotional, Cheryl shared three points regarding marriage, children and parenting. Marriage is a holy, permanent bond between a man and a woman which depicts Christ’s union with the church. The Apostle Paul taught us that one of women’s primary roles is that of Childbearing, not only the act of giving birth, but also the domestic role of child rearing and managing the home. Psalm 127:3–5 tells us, “Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward, like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them.” Parenting. Psalm 78:1–4, “Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the word of my mouth, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation. The glorious deeds of the Lord and His might and the wonders he has done...He commanded our fathers to teach their children, that the next generation might know them. The children yet unborn and arise and tell them to their children so that they should set their hope in God.”

Praise be to God for the life he is giving to the Almonte family. And praise to Him for the life he gives each of us and our families. With love and blessings to all.
Welcome to the 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 offers 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!

May brings the end of the year for two of our Children’s Ministry Programs—Sunday School and Pioneer Clubs. Both programs will resume after Labor Day.

This year, Pioneer Clubs had between 30 and 45 children, age 4 to 14 on any given Wednesday night. Many of the kids that attend are not regular attenders of our church. This program would not have been the success it is without our wonderful volunteer teachers.

**Bill and Jo Campbell** led our youngest group, the Scooters. This group of Pre-K4 and Kindergartners spent the year learning about living. They learned about following God’s Word, how to be friends, the gifts God gives them, and how to grow as children of God.

**Lindsay Montoney and Michelle Hunter** led our 1st and 2nd Graders, the Voyagers. They learned to use their Bible, to pray, and to be a good friend. They also learned that God loves them, they are special to God, and how to honor their family. They also earned badges for sewing, safety, fitness, and manners.

**Ginny and Richard Becker** led our 3rd and 4th Graders, the Pathfinders, in learning about God’s goodness. They learned about using the Bible, about getting along with others, how to handle conflict, how to be part of God’s family, and how to honor and obey their parents.

**Averil Massie and Richard Hunter** led our oldest group, the Trailblazers which are Grades 5 to 8. They did a study of Genesis.

Pioneer Clubs will end with a closing program on May 10th.

(continued on next page)
Our Sunday School program teaches between 10 and 20 kids each Sunday morning. Again, this program would not be possible without our wonderful volunteer teachers. (See April Newsletter for a description of the Sunday School program).

- **Kristine and Alan Wyss** and **Bill and Jo Campbell** alternated weeks teaching the 3 and 4 year olds.
- **Judy Weir** along with helpers, **Lee Ann DeStefano** and **Jessica Hunter**, taught the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders.
- **Christy and Robert Almonte** and **Bill and Jo Campbell** alternated weeks teaching the 3rd and 4th graders.

May 21st will be the last day of Sunday School.

We thank our volunteers for their time and commitment to teaching our children! To close out the year, we will be having a **Children’s Ministry Volunteer Thank You and Fun Day on May 21st**. Everyone is invited to attend. This will be a great time to learn about our Children’s Ministry, volunteer opportunities, and most importantly, to thank our wonderful volunteers. For the kids, this will be a time to reward all the hard work they put in learning their memory verses! Hot dogs, chips, and watermelon will be served. There will also be snow cones for both young and old! For the kids, there will be a WET bounce house! Please be sure to bring clothes for your kids to change into as well as towels and sunscreen!

---

**Ministry Spotlight**

**Suggested Reading**

As a parent, I’m always reading blogs and books about parenting. For about a month now, I have been reading *Parenting by Design Daily Devotional*. It can be found in the in the YouVersion app (which is a great app that I highly recommend!). The description is as follows:

*The purpose of this devotional is to see what God’s Word has to say about the parenting challenges every parent faces. Each day includes a passage of Scripture and an application of that passage to the trials and triumphs of leading families to maturity in Christ. The devotionals are created by Parenting by Design, a Fort Worth ministry devoted to teaching parents to lead their children the way God led His children.*

I have found a lot of comfort and wisdom in this daily devotional and I recommend it to all parents!
May Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason &amp; Rebekah Skopp</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>8 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe &amp; Nancy Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>64 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd &amp; Cathy Gartman</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>24 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark &amp; Wendy McLeod</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>26 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett &amp; Eve Thomas</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>35 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David &amp; Holly Mickler</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>11 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard &amp; Michelle Hunter</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>26 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cris &amp; Caroline Coffey</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>22 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick &amp; Linda Hallstrand</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>29 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John &amp; Amber Dixon</td>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>9 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cole Darbyshire</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Cathy Turpen</td>
<td>May 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Tyler</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Bob Morrison</td>
<td>May 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaxon Skopp</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Judith Weir</td>
<td>May 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Cozzolino</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Daniel Kemp</td>
<td>May 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy Hunter</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Eileen Kociela</td>
<td>May 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoe Almonte</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Christy Almonte</td>
<td>May 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Hunter</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Amelia Cozzolino</td>
<td>May 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Hess</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Tom Justice</td>
<td>May 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Jeffries</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Joey Cozzolino</td>
<td>May 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Morrison</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>James Turpen</td>
<td>May 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 morrisson774@gmail.com by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church
19911 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33647
Phone: (813) 973-2484
Email: office@tampabaypresbyterian.org