Some Comments about Church Discipline

Last month, following the Lord’s Supper, the Session of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church reported that a Communicant Member of our church has been placed under the Censure of Indefinite Suspension from the Sacraments.

I have received a few questions about it. And so I would like to try and answer some of the questions.

Among its various responsibilities the Session is charged with maintaining the spiritual government of the church, for which purpose it has power to inquire into the knowledge, principles and Christian conduct of the church members under its care; and to censure those found delinquent (BCO 12-5.a).

BCO 27-3 states that “the exercise of discipline is highly important and necessary. In its proper usage discipline maintains:

a. The Glory of God,

b. The purity of his church,

c. The keeping and reclaiming of disobedient sinners. Discipline is for the purpose of godliness (1 Timothy 4:7); therefore, it demands a self-examination under Scripture. “Its ends, so far as it involves judicial action, are the rebuke of offenses, the removal of scandal, the vindication of the honor of Christ, the promotion of the purity and general edification of the Church, and the spiritual good of offenders themselves.”

Furthermore, BCO 27-4 states, in part, that “the power which Christ has given the Church is for building up, and not for destruction. It is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy and not of wrath….By discipline [the Church] acts the part of a tender mother, correcting her children for their good, that every one of
The Session is keenly aware of our own propensity to sin. Each elder can testify to his own great and constant struggle with sin. We recognize that it is only by the grace of God that we ourselves are not under censure.

And so it is with great care that the Session engages in formal church discipline. There are a number of censures that are available to the courts. BCO 30-1 states that “the censures, which may be inflicted by church courts, are admonition, suspension from the Sacraments, excommunication, suspension from office, and deposition from office.” Furthermore, “The censures of indefinite suspension or excommunication shall be administered to an accused who, upon conviction, remains impenitent.”

In the particular case last month, the Session imposed the Censure of Indefinite Suspension from the Sacraments upon the Communicant Member. The action taken by the Session means that the Communicant Member is not permitted to participate in the Sacraments until there is sufficient and credible evidence of repentance.

One question that came to me was: “If the person is not named and the complaint is not specified, what’s the purpose of sharing it with the congregation?” First Timothy 5:20 (NIV) states, “Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.” The purpose of announcing it publicly is to serve in part as a warning to all of us. And it also shows that our Session takes the biblical responsibility of discipline seriously.

Another question had to do with what the Communicant Member under church discipline was allowed to do in the church. First, we would encourage Communicant Members under church discipline to attend the Worship Services of the church. We would also encourage such members to attend Bible studies and prayer meetings. If the Communicant Member is under the discipline of Suspension from the Sacraments (as it is in this case), the member may not participate in the Lord’s Supper, nor may the member bring his or children for baptism. Regarding participation in other ministries of the church, then those will be handled on a case by case basis as to the extent of ministry involvement a person may have. It usually depends upon how well the member is submitting to the church discipline.

If you have other questions, please ask me (or any one of the Ruling Elders). Pray that the Lord will help each one of us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling we have received.
On Saturday, March 30, 2019 the Women’s Ministry held its spring Sister-to-Sister event at the home of Judy Weir. Thank you, Judy, for sharing your beautiful home with us for the event. Our theme was a recurring favorite, a tea party with lots of fellowship, friendship, and food. Everyone brought their favorite finger food to go with our cup of tea.

Rachel Contrata, our Sister-to-Sister Coordinator, selected Proverbs 31:10-31 for the devotional message. Rachel reminded us that Proverbs 31 was not written to instruct Christian wives on how to measure up. It was, however, an oracle that King Lemuel’s mother taught him. Versus 10-31 are called Eshet Hayil (woman of valor). Verses 10-31 are considered a chiastic poem that cycles through repeated thoughts in a particular order. The chapter speaks of the worth of a good wife to her husband, the manual labor that she does, her fulfillment of responsibilities to those who need her, her ability to provide for her family, and her wisdom in caring for herself so she can share her strength with others.

In her presentation, Rachel shared with us the various verses within this Proverbs chapter that Brent A. Strawn, Professor of Old Testament, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., had outlined. He talks about the attributes of a “hardworking woman” and also a woman as a “woman wisdom.”

Not all of the hard work of this hardworking woman is adequately or accurately described as woman's work. The wife in Proverbs 31 is not in the kitchen scrubbing dishes and biting her tongue! While she clearly takes care of her husband (verses 11-12), and household (verses 15, 21, 27), and excels at domestic activities (verses 13, 15, 19, 22), she is quite active outside the home as well. She is a successful businesswoman: considering a field and buying it (verse 16a), and is a viticulturist (verse 16b). She is an entrepreneur who works late into the evening (verse 18), who plans ahead (verse 21), and who is not idle (verse 27). She knows how to dress for success (verse 22) and how to sell goods for a profit (verse 24). Her work compares favorably to merchant marines (verse14), and one suspects that the reason her husband is well known (verse 23) is because of her, not vice versa!

But this woman does more than simply succeed in business or at domestic duties. She is no uncaring tycoon. Instead she \"opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy\" (verse 20 in Hebrew, the last phrase is the same used in verse 19a, thereby linking her provision for the poor to her other skills). This woman is also far from silent. She speaks with wisdom and the \"teaching of kindness\" is on her tongue (verse 26). Her strength, that is, appears to be as much moral as it is physical (cf. 8:14).

The last observation leads directly to the second important item. Within the world of Proverbs, the capable wife looks quite like Woman Wisdom. She too is strong (8:14 with 31:17, 25) and opens her mouth with wisdom (1:20-21, 24; cf. 31:26). She too "laughs at the time to come" (31:25; cf. 1:26). Indeed, the opening nine chapters of Proverbs present the student of wisdom as a son listening to the instructions of his father (1:8; 2:1; etc.). Peppered throughout are speeches by Woman Wisdom (e.g., 1:20-33) who is to be desired rather than the temptations presented by the Strange Woman/Dame Folly (see 2:16-19; 7:10-20; 9:13-18).
With this as a background, Rachael opened the meeting for discussion. The ladies had an opportunity to share their views and experiences. It was quite a lively discussion.

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Ladies, on behalf of Women’s Ministry, I would like to invite you to our monthly WM15 meetings held on the second Sunday right after worship service. That is where we discuss upcoming events and make decisions. We would like to thank Rachel for being our Sister-to-Sister Coordinator and wish her well as she and Anthony look forward to becoming parents in August.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Women’s Ministry activities, please do not hesitate to attend our 15 minute meetings and learn more about what is planned for 2019.

Blessings to all.
New Director Appointed

I am very pleased to announce that Morgan Uhl has been appointed as Administrator of NTCA. Morgan has a Bachelors in Elementary Education from USF. She has taught first grade at Dale Mabry Elementary, and she has been the Director and also tutored for the Classical Conversations homeschooling group. She has also volunteered and taught at the Tampa Christian Community School.

Morgan’s love for the Lord and desire to serve him by using her gifts in the educational field is evident when you speak with her, and I am very excited that Morgan will be leading NTCA going forward. Morgan will be starting in May so you will have an opportunity to meet her. We thank the Lord for his provision of Morgan to NTCA and we look forward to her being part of the NTCA family!

2019/20 Enrollment update

Enrollment remains steady for the upcoming school year. We have accepted 46 applications out of the 92 vacancies, (i.e. we are half full). We only have a couple of vacancies left in our 3-day Pre-K3 program and only 4 vacancies in our 5-day Pre-K4 program.

Easter Centers

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped at the Easter Centers. Your contribution is so important to the success of the Easter Centers and we really appreciate that you offered up your time to assist us. Once again the students had a wonderful experience and we pray that many seeds were planted in their hearts.

Teaching / Assistant Teaching opportunities

We are looking for a Pre-K2 teacher for our 3-day class. Please contact the NTCA office (director@ntcafamily.org) if you would like further information. If you are interested in joining the substitute teacher list for the 2019/20 school year, please contact the NTCA office. Substitutes normally only have to act in an assistant-teacher capacity.

Prayer requests:

- Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Ms. Laurie’s grandchild, Walt.
- For the healing and wisdom for the doctors treating Ms. Michelle.
- For Ms. Patty who still mourns the loss of her mother, but is thankful that she is now with her Savior.
- Thanks for Morgan Uhl and prayer for a smooth transition.
"Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God" (Romans 7:4).

Summer Picnic: Party time! Mark your calendars for June 15 at 11:30 a.m. at TBPC we’ll share BBQ (plus whatever covered dishes you all bring) games, music, and each other’s company. Ted Jeffries will smoke us some meat and RSVP’s for the rest of the menu will be on the board in the Narthex. Contact Lesley with questions.

***Musicians needed***Games’ referees needed***

Hospitality Sub-Committee for Sanctuary Décor: Have you ever thought, “Hmm, what color paint would look best on the wall behind the pulpit,” or, “We should put some new valances on the sanctuary windows,” or, “It sure would be nice to have some flowers up front for worship services.” If so, we have a deal for you! More work! And some fun. And free food. See Lesley Schmidt, Lillian Ordahl, or Eileen Fritz to throw your name in the hat for our new “sprucing up the sanctuary” committee.

Simple Soup Supper for Sunday Seconds: April 14’s SSS4SS had attendance in the upper 20’s, again. Let’s see if we can top 30 in May. Thanks to Chris, Randi, Mia, and LeeAnn for a lovely April meal.

Please plan on joining us at 5:00 p.m. on May 12 for the next episode of SSS4SS. Please RSVP on the pew cards with the number of adults and children who will be eating (kid-friendly options can be made available) by May 5.

For last minute additions to the roster, or if you feel led to contribute soup, bread, or dessert to the festivities, contact Lesley Schmidt. She may be reached at 904-687-7710 or jrsiks92@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted: The Café Crew is in need of a few more volunteers for clean up duty after Sunday fellowship time. The job entails washing a few dishes, storing leftovers, and general straightening up. A well-qualified applicant will have opposable thumbs, the ability to place things in a garbage can, and experience with running water.

Kitchen Renovations: In the near future, the Hospitality Committee, and its many friends and fellow eaters, will have a kitchen renovation plan to submit to the diaconate for review. We’ll keep you posted. In the meantime, if you have any spare commercial kitchen parts in your attic, let us know.
It has come to our attention that some church members and friends would like to share recipes and hosting tips, so welcome to a new column in the newsletter!

Our inaugural contribution is brought to us by Karen Guest. Karen recently blessed the Women’s Bible Study morning group with the following breakfast casserole recipe. Feel free to email your frequently-requested recipes or ideas to Lesley Schmidt at jrsllks92@yahoo.com for inclusion in future columns.

**TRIPLE CHEESE PUDDING**

Serves 6-8

- 6 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ pound butter, melted
- 10 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, grated
- 3 ounces cream cheese with chives
- 12 ounces cottage cheese
- ½ tsp salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Beat eggs; add remaining ingredients and mix well.
Pour mixture into a 13 x 9-inch buttered pan.
Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love” (John 15:8-9).
The following new members were introduced during the worship service on Sunday, April 28:

By Certificate of Transfer
Ken and Stephanie Smoot, from Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church

By Reaffirmation of Faith
Michael and Antoinette (Toni) Cacioppo
Laura Highfill
Deborah Osibodu

By Profession of Faith
Thom and Ximena (Violet) Tigley

As Associate Members
Sandra Carruth
John and Marsha Otto

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. Ephesians 2:19-21 (NKJV)

Taken from “Discovering Church Membership, Class 101” by Rev. Freddy Fritz -

Key truths:
The Church is a family;
God expects us to be members of a family;
A Christian without a family is an orphan.
Richard Smoot
  Covenant child of Ken and Stephanie Smoot

Alessandro Tigley, Gabriella Tigley, and Isabella Tigley
  Covenant children of Thom and Ximena (Violet) Tigley

Mason Highfill and Rylan Highfill
  Covenant children of Laura Highfill
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:** 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.*
TAMPA BAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS!

JOIN US THIS FRIDAY!

6:30-8:30
Happening in May

Friday, May 3, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday Family Fun Night
See page 10 for details.

Saturday, May 4, 1:00 p.m. Baby Shower for Stephanie Smoot
Please RSVP to Kristine Wyss at 615-642-9968

Sunday, May 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, jrlks92@yahoo.com, or completing a pew card by May 5. Please let us know the number of adults and children in your party. Kid-friendly options can be made available.

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

Sunday, May 26, 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
Following the worship service for the purpose of electing an Officer. All members are asked to attend. Ted Jeffries is eligible to be elected to the Office of Deacon.
## May Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason &amp; Rebekah Skopp</td>
<td>May 01, 2009</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Todd &amp; Cathy Gartman,</td>
<td>May 08, 1993</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe &amp; Nancy Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>May 08, 1953</td>
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<td>Brett &amp; Eve Thomas</td>
<td>May 15, 1982</td>
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<td>David &amp; Holly Mickler</td>
<td>May 21, 2006</td>
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<td>Jack &amp; Cathi Diaz</td>
<td>May 22, 1988</td>
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<td>Richard &amp; Michelle Hunter</td>
<td>May 25, 1991</td>
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<td>Thom &amp; Violet Tigley</td>
<td>May 26, 2007</td>
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<td>Rick &amp; Linda Hallstrand</td>
<td>May 28, 1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>John &amp; Lesley Schmidt</td>
<td>May 30, 1992</td>
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## May Birthdays

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Cole Darbyshire</td>
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<td>Jane Tyler</td>
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<td>Jaxon Skopp</td>
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<td>Anthony Cozzolino</td>
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<td>Roy Hunter</td>
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<td>Zoe Almonte</td>
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<td>Richard Hunter</td>
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<td>Larry Hess</td>
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<td>Josh Jeffries</td>
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<td>Nancy Morrison</td>
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<td>Cathy Turpen</td>
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<td>Robert Morrison</td>
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<td>Vera Nickoloff</td>
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<td>Mike Cacioppo</td>
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<td>Judith Weir</td>
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<td>Daniel Kemp</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
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<td>Amelia Cozzolino</td>
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<td>Toni Cacioppo</td>
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<td>Joey Cozzolino</td>
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<td>James Turpen</td>
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Please join us in congratulations to our spring graduates:

Juliana Diaz,
Thomas Edison State University (Bachelor’s Degree in Humanities);

Jessica Hunter,
Wiregrass Ranch High School (high school diploma);

Rachel Bailey,
Sanders Memorial Elementary School (5th grade);

Jeremiah Osibodu, Deborah Osibodu’s son,
University of South Florida (B.S. in Civil Engineering); and

Alexa Morea, granddaughter of Stephanie and Roy Riley,
University of South Florida (B.S. in Nursing).