Bible apps are relatively new. The first Kindle was released in 2007, the first iPhone also in 2007, and the first iPad in 2010. YouVersion, which has been described as the “world’s most popular Bible program for mobile phones,” was introduced in 2008. Today, digital versions of the Bible are almost ubiquitous in our society. Most people have a Bible app readily accessible on a digital device, and many people use it when they attend a worship service, Bible study, or Sunday school.

In some instances, it is convenient and helpful to use a Bible app. However, I want to suggest that using a “paper” Bible is better. Here are several reasons why a “paper” Bible is better than a Bible app.

First, it is easier to see the context of a passage in a “paper” Bible. It is easier to see what went before the passage and what follows the passage. Our eyes can scan two paper pages quickly, whereas a Bible app only allows a screen shot of the passage itself (depending upon the size of the device and the size of the font that is being used).

Second, it is easier to cross-reference Bible verses in a “paper” Bible. For example, Paul cited Psalm 68:18 in Ephesians 4:8. Suppose during a sermon on Ephesians 4:8 I ask you to turn in your Bible to Psalm 68:18, and then to keep that passage handy as I want to switch between Psalm 68:18 and Ephesians 4:8. It is much easier to do so in a “paper” Bible. This is particularly true if there is more than one cross-reference.

Third, it is easier to stay focused in a “paper” Bible. I recently attended a conference, and one of the sessions dealt with the distraction of living in a digital world. We are constantly checking email, texts, Facebook, etc. And, that even happens during a worship service, Bible study, or Sunday school! Using a “paper” Bible and not using a digital device during these times enables us to stay focused on the Bible.
Fourth, it is easier to learn God’s Word in a “paper” Bible. I know that we can memorize Scripture using a Bible app. In fact, I use it myself. However, I am referring to learning the flow of redemptive history and all of God’s Word fits together. In my “paper” Bible, Psalm 1 is always on the left page, Jesus’ Great Commandment in Matthew 22:34-40 is always near the top on the left page, and Jesus’ Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-21 is always in the middle of the left page, and so on. Every passage in a Bible app is always in the same place. And that is not nearly as helpful to enable me to learn God’s Word, the flow of redemptive history, and how all of God’s Word fits together.

And fifth, it is easier to treasure God’s Word in a “paper” Bible. If I were to lose a digital device, I would simply load the Bible app in a new digital device. However, if I were to lose my “paper” Bible, especially my study and preaching Bible with all its notes and markings, I would be very sad. I know you can make notes in a Bible app, but they are not the same as a “paper” Bible.

I want to encourage you to use your Bible. I am not opposed to a Bible app; indeed, I use a very powerful Bible program for my own study. However, there is something precious about using your own “paper” Bible for reading, studying, and meditating on God’s Word.

I suppose that what I really would like to see is every church member bringing a Bible to every meeting where the Bible is studied. Wouldn’t that be wonderful!

June Birthdays

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Landon Smith</td>
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<td>Ed Jordan</td>
<td>June 19</td>
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HAPPENING IN JUNE

REMINDER: IT’S SUMMER REFRESHMENT TIME
In 2016, TBPC decided to observe a break or hiatus from June through August from most of the weekly church activities, other than Worship, to allow a period of rest so that you can catch your breath from the busyness and be refreshed. Exodus 23:12 reads, “Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien may be refreshed.” So let us do again this summer as Pastor Freddy encouraged us last year: “It is good to take time off and be refreshed, not only one day a week, but also for a longer time . . . Spend time with the Lord in his Word and in prayer. Spend time in worship with God’s people. Spend time with family and friends in relaxed fun and laughter. And then come back after the summer refreshed and renewed to serve the Lord!” Please contact your activity leader if you have any questions about your next meeting date.

JOIN US IN WELCOMING EILEEN FRITZ AS THE NTCA ADMINISTRATOR
She will be in charge of the overall operation of NTCA. Eileen brings a wealth of Christian experience in teaching, counselling, and group management. We look forward to having her here as we continue to search for a permanent Director. We appreciate all the work and experience Heather Olsen has provided as well as her willingness to stay on through July and August to help Eileen get settled into this new position.

PRAYER TEAM FOR VBS
Do you have a heart for prayer and Vacation Bible School? If so, please join the VBS Prayer Team. We will pray for the needs of VBS, the volunteers, the children, and most importantly for God to be glorified through this ministry. To express your interest, please write “VBS Prayer Team” on your Welcome Card or contact Melissa Bayley (melbay4@gmail.com).

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATE MEREDITH GARTMAN
She has completed her classical homeschool high school curriculum and will begin studies in accounting at Grove City College in Pennsylvania this fall.

VBS PREPARATION ACTIVITIES
June will be a flurry of activity in preparation for the TBPC VBS Upward Bound Expedition to be held July 10-14 from 8:45 am-12:15 pm. The Backpacker Classes will be full as registration is now at waiting list status; however, we are still in need of volunteers to help in various areas before, during and after the Expedition and to provide craft materials and snack ingredients. Please visit the VBS display in the narthex to learn more and sign up to volunteer or provide requested supplies. You may also contact Senior Trail Guide Holly Hawkes at hollacej@gmail.com or 813-360-2077 to learn where YOU are most needed in Upward Bound.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 – 6:15 PM-7:15 PM: GUIDE AND PENNY WAR GUIDE TRAINING SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 – 7:15 PM-8:30 PM: CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 – 6:30 PM-8:00 PM: CRAFT & SNACK WORK PARTIES

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 – 9:00 AM-10:00 AM: GUIDE AND PENNY WAR GUIDE TRAINING SESSIONS

THURSDAY, JUNE 29 – 6:30 PM-8:30 PM: CRAFT & SNACK WORK PARTIES
What is the TBPC Women’s Ministry All About?

Our purpose is to encourage women in their spiritual growth by providing opportunities for prayer, fellowship, devotional experiences, and service. We are multi-generational and strive to enhance each woman’s gift, to glorify God, and to build harmony within Christ’s church. Our events that offer a pathway for accomplishing these goals include:

**Monthly WM15 Meetings:** These are held on the second Sunday of each month where we review our calendar and events, discuss issues, and finalize the activity. Our next meeting will be on June 11 right after worship service in the Youth Room. We will not meet in July but will start again in August.

**Sister-To-Sister:** Our next quarterly event will be at the home of Linda Childers in September. Join us for a potluck luncheon, devotional and prayer, followed by a craft project - making more of the Christian Christmas tree ornaments, chrismons, to decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree.

**Service and Support:** This fall we are planning a Diaper Drive to support the Assure Women’s Center. Their services include free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting classes and counseling (www.14-6.com).

**Hanging of the Greens:** On Saturday, November 25, we will decorate the church for Christmas. WM is also responsible for ordering and arranging the Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias.

**29th Annual Christmas Brunch:** This major tradition focuses on the start of the Advent season with a delicious brunch and program designed to prepare our hearts and minds for the true meaning of Christmas. We encourage our women to invite their women friends and family. Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 2.

**How can you get involved in the Women’s Ministry?** Join us at the WM15 meeting immediately following the worship service on the second Sunday of the month. We discuss plans and events of interest to our women of all ages. All of our events are advertised in the worship bulletin; postcard size handouts are available to share with friends and serve as a reminder. Notices are also posted on the WM bulletin board. And at this very moment we are in need of Coordinators for both Hanging of the Greens and Communications activities. As you can see, we both want you and need you. If you have questions, I may be reached at suzswenson@verizon.net. Blessings to all.
MEN’S SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

On April 29, 2017, the Men’s Ministry had their fourth annual Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church at Pebble Creek Golf Tournament. Those present in the picture from left to right were Todd Bayley, Pastor Freddy Fritz, Richard Thompson, Bill Neal, Brian Carrier and Wes Mollard.

It was a cooler day in the morning for golf, but later in the afternoon the temperature was around 90 degrees. We managed to have 2 teams for a 3 man best ball scramble. Team #1 included Todd Bayley, Richard Thompson and Bill Neal. Team #2 included Pastor Freddy Fritz, Brian Carrier, and Wes Mollard.

The teams fought for first place prize, but Team # 1 came up victorious, barely squeaking by with a score of 77. Team # 2 followed with a score of 78. It was a day of great fellowship for the men who have asked for another golf outing in the fall.

We also had individual winners for longest drive and closest to the pin. On the front nine, #6 was the hole closest to the pin and it was won by Pastor Freddy Fritz. #7 was the longest drive hole and it was won by Wes Mollard. On the back nine we had a closest to the pin on hole #12 and it was won by Richard Thompson. The final hole for a longest drive was #16 and it was won by Brian Carrier.

The Men’s Ministry would like to thank all the golfers that participated and made this a very successful event. The Men’s ministry continues to offer these events to bring Christian men together for a time of fun and fellowship.
Only 6 days later on May 5, the Men’s Ministry sponsored an evening at the ballpark for the Tampa Bay Rays baseball game. This is an annual event, usually held in the month of May, where the Men’s Ministry invites all TBPC members to attend and bring any family members or friends to enjoy fellowship together at a baseball game for the evening.

This year was well attended with 31 people watching the Rays take on the Toronto Blue Jays. We chartered a bus from Nemo Express Tours located in Apollo Beach. The bus was a very relaxing way to go to a Rays game: no worries about driving, fighting traffic or even eating in the car. On the trip over sub sandwiches were served from Wawa’s. It was a very hard fought game, but in the end the Rays lost 8-4. Even though the Rays did not win, we had a lot of winners who enjoyed themselves out for the evening with friends and family.

The Men’s Ministry appreciates the fun and fellowship we enjoy with our Christian brothers and sisters and looks forward to other events throughout the year.
"We are forbidden to abandon our station or post of life without the orders of our commander, that is of God”. That is, like soldiers, we are duty-bound to the life that God has assigned to us, and are not permitted to depart by taking our own lives.¹

Pythagoras, Greek Mathematician and Philosopher

The entertainment media is one of the key indicators of where our culture is trending towards and how fast it’s moving that way. That’s what’s so frightening about a Lifetime Movie Network drama that debuted in April. It’s called “Mary Kills People”. The matter-of-fact title is of sufficient concern on its own, but the summary of the first episode in the series (titled “Bloody Mary”) elevates that concern, not just for what it says, but for what it doesn’t:

²“In the series premiere, an ER doctor who secretly helps terminally-ill patients end their lives faces numerous obstacles after the assisted death of a famous football player goes awry. Meanwhile, her ex-husband introduces her to his new girlfriend; she discovers that her teenage daughter’s best friend is doing heavy drugs; and she seduces a patient who isn’t who he seems.”³

If your TV had been acting up such that you could only read the last sentence of the first episode’s summary, you probably wouldn’t bother watching it. After all, the rest of the events described are, sadly, somewhat common in modern life. Notice, though, how no moral judgments—or even references—are mentioned regarding the most uncommon aspect of Mary’s life. Instead, it’s introduced in a matter-of-fact manner as if it’s no more significant than the other naughty-girl bookend of the episode summary (that she’s a doctor who seduced a patient). It seems the creators are painting a picture of Mary as someone deserving our admiration because she not only faces down the realities of modern life, but still finds time to secretly ‘help’ her fellow man kill himself (albeit for a profit). How noble. Don’t you wish your daughters and sons could grow up to help people die like she does? Sadly, it’s very likely that there are many Americans who do.

Apparently, the ethical, legal and moral implications of this story line were of no interest to movie reviewers like The New York Times. Their review didn’t reference anything of the sort, even indirectly. Instead, it simply described “Mary” as “an unusual and fairly entertaining Canadian series” ... ‘with a twist of dark comedy’. The latter characteristic will make it easier for viewers on the assisted-suicide fence to lean toward embracing the once-taboo notion that it’s OK to help someone kill themselves. Truth is if you can laugh at something, it can’t be that sacred to you. Of course, the dark-comedy tidbit is still insufficient to deduce The Times’ position on the social and ethical issues
surrounding assisted suicide. No matter; the review’s title exposes precisely where they stand: “‘Mary Kills People,’ but It’s for a Good Reason” (emphasis added).

Or maybe the Times’ outlook on Mary’s moonlighting activities is not beyond the pale in the eyes of Americans at large. Indeed, a Gallup poll from May 2016 shows a solid majority of Americans (69%) answered yes to this simple question:

“When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient’s life by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it?”

Of greater concern, the numbers show a sustained upward trend over the last 68 years except for some small-scale wavering beginning in 1996. 1996 was just six years after Dr. Jack Kevorkian—perhaps the United States’ most prominent advocate of assisted suicide at the time—first assisted someone in taking their own life. Just two years later, Kevorkian assisted in the suicide of a man who had Lou Gehrig’s Disease live on CBS’ 60 Minutes. In short, there was a full-court press by advocates of helping people kill themselves in the year’s surrounding the spike in support for assisted suicide.

Even so, the survey may presage a near future with lots of Mary’s spending their leisure hours killing people for profit. Let’s hope not, but it’s not a far-fetched notion once you consider how enormous cultural shifts have taken hold here of late. If “Mary” and shows like it do well in the ratings, sympathy for assisted suicide will climb much higher than 69%. Utilizing entertainment media to humanize a practice that has long been considered immoral is a key facet of the process of normalizing something and is a tried and true recipe for social change.

Probably the best American example is the gradual acceptance and lionization of homosexuality here in America. It was a well-planned campaign that was clearly described in the 1989 book After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the ’90s. The first of three key steps in the campaign to “Desensitize the target audience: Subject the public to a “continuous flood of gay-related advertising, presented in the least offensive fashion possible. If [opponents] can’t shut off the shower, they may at least eventually get used to being wet.”

“Mary” fits this mold well and will likely be joined by many other droplets in the “death with dignity” shower as the campaign to end human lives marches on.

That’s not to say that interest in legalized assisted suicide is new in the United States. The issue was first addressed in the law when it was outlawed in the state of New York in 1828. On this side of the 20th Century, the Supreme Court ruled in Washington v. Glucksberg in 1997 that states could ban doctor-assisted suicides. One compelling
comment in Chief Justice William Rehnquist’s majority opinion affirmed the staggering precedent for that simple conclusion by emphasizing that “for over 700 years, the Anglo American common law tradition has punished or otherwise disapproved of both suicide and assisting suicide.”

Not so much anymore as the graphic below illustrates.

Note how the names of the assisted-suicide legislation imply that the laws enable the provision of a humanitarian service by allowing those suffering a measure of dignity. That too appears to be more propaganda than reality. Consider the stories you’ve heard of people facing certain death via a painful injury or illness. Did you ever respond by saying “how undignified!”? Not likely. Most people who press on valiantly in those situations are typically considered to be possessors of enormous dignity.

In the end, assisted suicide is simply a companion of abortion with respect to the concept of the sanctity of human life. One ends life before birth; the other snuffs life out before natural death. As Pythagoras explains above, ending life earlier than God planned is akin to a soldier disregarding his commanding officer’s orders. But it goes beyond that, doesn’t it? In truth, it signifies appropriating authorities that are His alone. Sounds a lot like Satan’s work, doesn’t it? Makes sense, then, to counter it by doing the Lord’s work. Stand up for life whenever and wherever you have the opportunity. If you hear people at work or anywhere discussing “Mary” or—other similar shows, books or activism—talk to them in a respectful, even winsome way about the moral aspects that support respect for life. You may be shunned for your views, but they could very well make a small difference in thwarting the killing of someone into whom God breathed life. Even if they don’t, He will be pleased you took action.

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1 http://tinyurl.com/ldhfw76
2 Photo: http://tinyurl.com/lvbcbb9x
3 Tivo Episode Description http://tinyurl.com/m7rulg4
4 http://tinyurl.com/h6cht28
5 http://tinyurl.com/kpquac4
6 http://tinyurl.com/knreeea
7 http://tinyurl.com/loxcl4d
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June Anniversaries

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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.