Shepherding the Flock at TBPC

Last month the Officers had our annual Church Officers’ Retreat. It was held on a Monday afternoon and evening in a cabin at Crews Lake Wilderness Park. I think it was one of our most productive retreats ever.

Over the previous few months the Officers read through Tim Witmer’s book titled The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church. At the retreat we worked through the “Action Plan” section of the book. Witmer argues that an effective shepherding plan must (1) be biblical, (2) be systematic, (3) be comprehensive, (4) be relational, (5) include the four shepherding functions (which are knowing, feeding, leading, and protecting the flock), (6) include accountability, and (7) include prayer.

As you know, as part of our retreat, the Officers divided up the congregation into three Shepherding Groups. In addition, we were able to team an Elder and a Deacon together. So, our Shepherding Group leaders are: (1) Ruling Elder Ed Jordan and Deacon Bill Jeffries, (2) Ruling Elder Rich Thompson and Deacon Jonathan Massie, and (3) Teaching Elder Freddy Fritz and Deacon Todd Bayley. Every communicant member was selected to be in one of these three Shepherding Groups.
The Officers in each Shepherding Group hope that one of them they will be able to contact each communicant member every two months. We would like to know how members are doing spiritually, and how we may pray for you. If any member has a particular concern, they should feel free to call any Officer, but their Shepherding Group Officer will be especially happy to receive the call and do what he can to help.

Over the course of the summer, we hope to share with some more plans that we would like to implement in order to achieve an effective shepherding ministry at that Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church. Please do return the call to your Shepherding Elder or Deacon. Share specific prayer requests with them so that they may pray for you in an informed way. And pray that God will enable our Officers to shepherd the flock well here at the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church.

Health Update

I thought that I give a brief update on my health. I am currently receiving the first of three treatment protocols for my prostate cancer. I have just had my second three-month injection to reduce my testosterone. Hopefully, it will be the last such injection I receive. The purpose of reducing the testosterone is to stop feeding the cancer. Apparently, prostate cancer feeds on testosterone, and so by reducing the testosterone, the prostate cancer does not grow.
The second treatment I shall receive is External Beam Radiation Therapy. This will be five weeks of daily external radiation directed toward my prostate. (I won’t have to go weekends.) I have already been measured and marked for the radiation treatment, and that treatment should begin on Monday, June 18.

The third treatment I shall receive is Brachytherapy, which is the implantation of up to 128 radioactive seeds into my prostate gland. These seeds are highly radioactive and should kill any cancer in the prostate gland as well as any cancer up to 3/8 of an inch outside of the prostate gland. These seeds should be implanted about a month after the end of external radiation, and so I expect to have this procedure done around August 20.

I am happy to report that I don’t feel ill. I don’t have a fever, or a sore throat, or anything like. I am, however, experiencing at this point the side effects of the testosterone-reduction injection, which are primarily hot flashes and insomnia. Really, they are more of a nuisance than any suffering or misery.

I am told that I can expect fatigue to kick in toward the end of the external radiation, along with bowel movement issues (which is why I am glad that my study is right next to the Men’s Bathroom!). That should happen around the middle of July.

Dr. Clark has agreed to preach several times throughout the summer. I have tried to anticipate when I might need to rest, and he will preach on several occasions (and more, if needed.)

I am so grateful for the many expressions of concern, support, and prayer. For thirty-two years I have visited patients, and now I am a patient. You have all been a great blessing to me. And I am especially grateful to my family for their love and support, particularly Eileen. She is the excellent wife of Proverbs 31, and she is far more precious to me than jewels.

Thank you again for your love and support. I shall keep you updated as we go through the summer.

Sincerely,

[Dedication]
On May 4th, the Men’s Ministry sponsored a day at the ballpark with the Tampa Bay Rays, at Tropicana Field, with a game against the Toronto Blue Jays. This is an annual event usually held in the month of May and it was well attended with 38 people visiting the ballpark. 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 without worry about driving, fighting traffic or even eating in the car. On the trip over, BBQ pork sandwiches were served from Hungry Harry’s BBQ and the people who went really enjoyed themselves. We unfortunately had two accidents located on the Howard Franklin Bridge that delayed our arrival. That didn’t matter as people were excited to attend this special night for the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church for a day at the ballpark.
This event, sponsored by the Men’s Ministry each year, invites anyone to attend and bring any family member or friends together to enjoy fellowship at a baseball game for the evening. We always have a good time no matter what the outcome is to share a special evening together with our family and friends. Sometimes this special time can only help with a picture of our event.

Haley & Dr. Jeff Beams (Men’s Bible study leader) enjoy a special time together as they have a special day at the ballpark and watch a victorious Tampa Bay Rays team.

It was a very good game as the Rays had several innings where they scored a few runs, and in the end the Rays were victorious 6-2. This was also a very special time for Brian Carrier who has picked the Rays games for years only to lose. This year, a win made it a little special at the ballpark.
The best part of Tropicana Field is that it is in air conditioning and never a rain out day when you come to the Trop for baseball. We returned victorious back to the church at around 11:30 PM relaxed as we were chauffeured back to the church in a 55-passenger bus. The ride back was relaxing and some people were able to get a little rest before heading home. This is always a special event for the church and we will continue to do this event each year.

The Men’s Ministry appreciates the fun and fellowship we enjoy with our Christian brothers and sisters and look forward to other events throughout the year.

Grace and Peace
Brian S. Carrier
Men’s Ministry Leader
We were entertained by our Men’s Quartet singing patriotic songs as we assembled for our picnic.

Pastor Freddy thanked the Lord for our blessings and the picnic began.

Members from the Men’s Ministry did a terrific job grilling hamburgers and hotdogs and the Women’s Ministry organized many wonderful covered dishes and desserts. Everything was exceptional.

The Women’s Ministry organized games for us to enjoy. The youth helped out by running the children’s fishing and beanbag games. The three-legged race was won by the Skopp family children. As always, all of the children in attendance were adorable and had a great time.

The children were not the only ones having fun; Pastor Freddy and Nathaniel Barquin won the run-off for corn hole games, which Ted Jeffries provided. Corn hole was very exciting because of the number of church members who participated; 16 of the 76 in attendance.

The majority of our attendees simply enjoyed conversation with each other and acted as spectators to the games.

All enjoyed the delicious covered dishes and the excellently grilled hamburgers and hotdogs.
The Music Ministry concluded the event. Kim Semeniuk sang a beautiful solo and then she and Millie Myers lead the community singing of two more patriotic songs.

The church fellowship was greatly appreciated with a request from most attendees that we continue the tradition of a church-wide annual picnic.

Special thanks to: Millie Myers, Earl Myers, Peter Wu, Ted Jeffries, Waldo Kemp, Brian and Alise Carrier, Jack Sr and Cathy Diaz, Jack Diaz, Jr., Juliana Diaz, Jonathan Massie, Josiah Massie, Nancy Kirkpatrick, Bill Campbell, Barbara Hess, Peter and Laura Rotollo, Leslie Schmidt, Janice Thompson, Genny Bremer, Allen Polasky, Coleen Knecht, Chris and Brenda Christopher and many others-

Blessings,
Nancy Kirkpatrick
Vacation Bible School is here again. June 18-22, will be a noisy hectic week in the life of Tampa Bay Presbyterian. We hope it is a week that will bring glory and joy to our Father. Ultimately, it is his program.

**Would You Pray?**

**Preparation & Needs**
- Financial gifts to cover costs
- Volunteers for remaining needs: memory work, Bible teacher, guide

**100 Boys & Girls**
- God would use VBS to bring salvation to his little ones
- The faith of the littlest believers would be strengthened

**Unchurched**
- Ears to hear and eyes to see
- Families to be attached to the gospel

**Congregant Members**
- Grow in wisdom
- Be good hosts

**Staff**
- Good health
- Spirit of truth
- Heart for kids

### ADDITIONAL WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT VBS

**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. Please write “VBS Prayer Team” on your Welcome Card or contact Melissa Bayley at melbay4@gmail.com.

**ATTEND THE VBS WORK PARTY:** Sunday, June 17, 1:00-5:00 pm. Work parties are a mix of crafts and preparation with a party vibe. If you cannot join us the week of VBS, this is a great way to help. Childcare will be provided.

**DONATE:** Your dollars help offset the cost of VBS. Each dollar helps us purchase Bibles, beads, graham crackers, etc. for our campers. Donations are accepted from the TBPC VBS webpage or by check and cash. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex and can be placed in the offering plate or left with the church office.

**QUESTIONS?** Email Holly at vbs@tampabaypresbyterian.org or call 813-360-2077
**Happening in June**

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 9:00 A.M.: TBPC member and psychiatrist, Dr. Joseph Markowitz will be speaking on, **THE SAME-SEX SEDUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY: RESPONDING TO THE MAJOR PROONENTS OF “GAY CHRISTIANITY”**. Childcare will be available. Please arrive at 8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 7:00 P.M.: CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING. This training is required for all new volunteers or anyone interested in serving with children at TBPC.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 12:30 P.M.: WELCOME LUNCH for all new attendees to TBPC. Please indicate your wish to attend on the welcome card in front of your seat and place the card in the offering plate.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 6:00 P.M.: SUNDAY SECONDS. MESSAGE: “IS IT OKAY TO PLAY THE LOTTERY”? All are encouraged to attend this monthly evening service.

EMPTY NESTERS LUNCHEON is on Summer break for June, July, and August.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 1:00 TO 5:00 P.M. VBS WORK PARTY. Childcare is provided.

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**CONGRATS TO GRADS!**

**Becky Jordan** from West University Charter High School (high school diploma with honor)

**Victorea Morea**, granddaughter of Stephanie and Roy Riley, from University of South Florida (Psychology degree)

**Cecelia Schmidt** from UNF (B.S. in Mathematics)

**Cade Darbyshire** (high school diploma)

**Joseph Cozzolino** (high school diploma).
### June Birthdays

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<td>Art Vanderbrug</td>
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### June Anniversaries

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<td>Greg &amp; Judy Finch</td>
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