Update on Ministry Staffing

Recently, some people have asked me, “What are we going to do now with so many of our ministry leaders moving away?” That is a good question, and I would like to answer it.

In 30 years of ministry I don’t ever recall so many people moving away at the same time. All churches have people moving away periodically, and we have also seen that over the years. However, right now we have an unusually high number of people moving away. Because God is in sovereign control over all things, it seems that he is relocating his people to other places where they will be able to continue worshiping, loving, and serving him.

Many members have stepped up to fill leadership roles in various ministries. Some of these members are already involved in other ministries, and so they will not be able to serve in more than one leadership role at the same time for a long period of time. Many members in our church family are already active in ministry. But, some of our members still need to find a ministry role. Let me encourage you to pray about how you might become active in serving in a ministry at this time. The Session has been discussing and praying about the best way to fill some key ministry areas. There are needs in outreach, missions, assimilation, youth, children, and family. (Continued page 2)
(There are also ministry needs at NTCA as they are looking for a Director, teachers, and assistant teachers, but the NTCA board is working to fill those ministry needs.) The Session is talking about full-time, part-time, ordained, non-ordained, and all sorts of combinations of these positions. I would ask you to pray that the Lord will grant wisdom about the best way to staff our church at the present time. Jesus is building his church here at the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church. Let us ask the Lord of the harvest to send us suitable laborers who will join us in fulfilling our mission of bringing people to Jesus and membership in his church family, developing them to Christlike maturity, equipping them for their ministry in the church and mission in the world, in order to magnify God.

New Tampa Christian Academy (NTCA)
By Cheryl Barber

Some of you have asked how things are going with the search for a new Preschool Director, so I would like to provide an update. New Tampa Christian Academy has a wonderful school board of TBPC members who provide spiritual guidance, business and educational expertise, and oversight of the school’s operations. The board is currently led by Deborah Donaldson who shares a long history with our preschool ministry (She started when Reid, currently home from college, was a student there). While we, the school board and I, would love to relax in the knowledge that the new director has been identified and that he/she is standing ready to assume the role, we are called to the work of a diligent search and a confident faith that God will provide. Would you join us in continuing to pray for the search and for God’s provision? Would you also be willing to ask the question, could God be calling me to this role? When I began this job six years ago, I did not feel that I was the perfect candidate for the job, but God has grown me into it and prospered the school under my leadership. A quick way to find out more information about this opportunity or to suggest it to someone you know, is to refer to the job description and application on the school’s web site at www.newtampachristianacademy.org. Also, I am in the school office through July (Monday-Thursday 9a.m.-1p.m.), and I will be happy to talk with anyone who would like the inside story on what it is like to be the director of New Tampa Christian Academy.
Our Women’s Ministry PWP Team was very pleased that we closed out our project with over 100 purses packed with products and His word of encouragement to the Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc. Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center. Our thanks to Linda Childers, and Wes and Mary Molland for delivering everything. In addition, we were also very pleasantly surprised that our project was noticed by the Malvern Hills Presbyterian Church in Asheville, NC and was included in their bulletin as part of their Summer in the City section. Our thanks to the Ed Jordan family who just happened to attend services at Malvern Hills PC while on vacation and saw the bulletin. How nice it was to have our project picked up by another church and hopefully carried on in North Carolina. Thank you Malvern Hills Presbyterian Church!

Thank you also to everyone who filled the crib to overflowing as part of the Father’s Day Diaper Drive. It is our way of celebrating fathers and mothers by giving back to the Assure Women’s Center. Holly Hawkes delivered the diapers, clothes, and other needed items to the Center on June 20th. Assure was very appreciative as these items will bless families in need.

Our July event will be a Sister-to-Sister gathering on July 30 at Linda Childers home. It will be a brunch from 10:00 – 1:30. Quiche, egg casserole, and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert. Linda will be showing us how to make the Chrismons for the church’s Christmas tree. (Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them.) All church women are invited. Contact Linda Childers if you have any questions at lwchilders@hotmail.com.

Who’s that girl?

1. This 1/4th Norwegian woman has attended Zumba classes for the last year.

2. This fitness loving woman used to be a director for what is now called ABC Action News.

3. This FSU fan happens to be coordinating this year's Vacation Bible School: Ocean Commotion. VBS is one of the easiest ways to help out in the church and contribute to outreach in the community!
Maybe it’s the process of leaving a job of almost 35 years, to start another equally challenging one that has caused me to reflect on Ephesians 2:10, which says “…we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Biblical “good works” seems to be a calling that does not have, as in a professional career, a term or point at which retirement is attained. I see that the imminent conclusion to my current job does not represent an end to my working life but, rather, involves a change in scope and focus, and new opportunities. The transition itself is quite a job. I am doing my best to finish strong in all areas of current responsibility as well as work at starting strong in a new set of tasks.

I am currently participating in interviews at work for my replacement. Cheryl, too, anticipates departing from her NTCA position in the not-too-distant future and is an active participant in the search for her replacement. Over the years we have both conducted or participated in interviews to hire personnel for various positions in our respective organizations; it’s an interesting twist to discuss with a candidate the responsibilities and opportunities of a position which happens to be the one you are currently occupying, and from which you are moving - not up - but out.

God has called us in the next chapter to an out-of-country move and an assignment with Mission to the World-Colombia. It is a job which requires a whole new set of skills, the preparation for which includes, among many other things, learning to utilize social media and electronic mail programs, working with an international organization, learning a foreign language, and developing a team of financial and prayer partners. It is good to be reminded that this is a “good work” that God has prepared beforehand and therefore has, and will provide what is needed. Please pray for God’s provision of wisdom, energy, and perseverance for Cheryl and me as we pursue God’s calling for us.

**The Good Work**

By Bert Barber

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

You can play an important role in Vacation Bible School (July 18 – 22) by praying for the ministry. Below are a few prayer requests:

VBS Kids: Prepared hearts, curious hearts, transformed hearts

VBS Families: Gracious interactions, meaningful friendships with unchurched families, opportunities to discern where we can encourage them in their spiritual journey.

VBS Team: Full staff, health and safety, lesson preparation, opportunities to share the gospel, mutual encouragement to grow in spiritual gifts

July Anniversaries

2 — Peter & Ling Wu  16 – Rene & Lili Palacio
5 — Jeremiah & Holly Hawkes  23 – Roy & Gertrude Hunter
5 — Tom & Sandra Justice  25 – Brian & Alisa Carrier
12 — Phil & Chris Lear  31 – Jerel & Heather Tomasello

July Birthdays

July 2  Cale Barber  July 17  Debbie Jordan
July 2  Lena Phillips  July 18  Bob Moore
July 6  Eve Thomas  July 19  Steve Wilbraham
July 6  Christine Todd  July 21  Eileen Fritz
July 6  Joey Weir  July 21  Kristine Wyss
July 9  Rick Hallstrand  July 22  Gertrude Wyss
July 11  Luke Smith  July 23  Pat Smith
July 14  Earl Myers  July 27  Joshua Barber
July 16  Barbara Hess  July 28  Luke Montoney

Missionaries Supported by TBPC

Mission to the World
Esaie & Natacha Etienne
Ken & Tammie Matlack
Carla Stevens

Reformed University Fellowship
Peter & Lauren Dishman
Jeff & Jenny Lee

New Harvest Missions International
Nathaniel & Cherita Adawonu

Serving In Missions
Rene & Lilli Palacio

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Don & Judy Vander Ploeg
Kevin & Gertrude Nicholas

PRCC
Chaplain Ted Hamm
Chaplain James Cochell