A Report on the 45th General Assembly of the PCA

The 45th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America met June 12-15, 2017 in Greensboro, NC. The following is my brief report of the General Assembly.

First, I am grateful to the Lord for the Presbyterian Church in America. The PCA broke away from the southern branch of the Presbyterian Church (PCUS) because they wanted to be “Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed faith, Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.” Though the PCA is not a perfect Church (there is no such Church!), I am glad to be in a denomination that is committed to the Word of God, and has for its constitution The Westminster Standards and the Book of Church Order.

Second, the General Assembly elected a Korean-American to serve as Moderator. Ruling Elder Alexander Jun was elected to serve as Moderator for the 45th General Assembly. This is the first time in our 45-year history that a non-Anglo has served as Moderator. There is a widespread desire that the PCA reflect the diversity of ethnic groups in our country.

Third, the Women’s Study Committee brought a report to the General Assembly. There are some in the PCA who want the PCA to become more egalitarian, particularly with respect to women serving as Deaconesses. One of the recommendations of the Study Committee adopted by the General Assembly affirmed, “That Session, if possible, establish a Diaconate of qualified ordained men.” The reason for the words “if possible” is because sometimes small churches do not have qualified men to be ordained to the Diaconate. The recommendations of any Study Committee are only the actions of a particular General Assembly, and they do not become part of the constitution of the PCA. In other words, the recommendations of a Study Committee are pious advice of a General Assembly to the denomination. My concern with this Study Committee is that it seems to be part of the agenda of those who wish to see the denomination move in a more egalitarian direction. (continued next page)
And finally, the Racial Reconciliation Study Committee will bring a report to the next General Assembly. This Study Committee was also approved last year. Funding was approved this year so that a survey may be done to “assess the current situation in the PCA concerning racial and ethnic reconciliation.” I believe the PCA will continue to grow in this significant and important area.

Let us continue to pray that the Lord will bless this branch of his Church.

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### July Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cale Barber</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Debbie Jordan</td>
<td>July 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliott Dixon</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Eileen Fritz</td>
<td>July 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carla Stevens</td>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Kristine Wyss</td>
<td>July 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eve Thomas</td>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Gertrude Hunter</td>
<td>July 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joey Weir</td>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Pat Smith</td>
<td>July 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Hallstrand</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Norma Gayle</td>
<td>July 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Smith</td>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Joshua Barber</td>
<td>July 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl Myers</td>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>Luke Montoney</td>
<td>July 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Hess</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>Joan Kosanovich</td>
<td>July 29</td>
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### July Anniversaries

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter &amp; Ling Wu</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>40 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah &amp; Holly Hawkes</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom &amp; Sandra Justice</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil &amp; Chris Lear</td>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>48 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rene &amp; Lili Palacio</td>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>42 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy &amp; Gertrude Hunter</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>51 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian &amp; Alisa Carrier</td>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>30 years</td>
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### TBPC Ministries

**Adult Christian Education & Fellowship**
- Ed Jordan

**Children**
- Kristine Wyss

**Emptynesters**
- Sandy Neal

**Greeters & Welcome Table**
- Brian Carrier

**Growth Groups Session**
- Joan Kosanovich

**Hospitality**
- Rich Thompson

**Men’s Bible Study**
- Jeff Beams

**Men’s Ministry**
- Brian Carrier

**Missions**
- Men’s Ministry
- Brian Carrier

**Music**
- Millie Myers

**NTCA**
- Eileen Fritz

**Nursery**
- Marianne Cali

**Outreach**
- Vacant

**Pacesetters**
- Randi Mallary

**Pastoral Care**
- Rev. Freddy Fritz

**Ushers**
- Lenny Chew

**Women’s Bible Study**
- Eileen Fritz & Debbie Jordan

**Women’s Ministry**
- Suzanne Swenson

**Youth**
- Richard Hunter
HAPPENING IN JULY

VBS Preparation Activities
TBPC 2017 VBS -- Upward Bound Expedition will be held Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14 from 8:45 am-12:15 pm. Registration for the Backpacker Classes is full; HOWEVER, we are still in need of VOLUNTEERS to pray for the program, to provide supplies and to physically help on site. Please contact Melissa Bayley (melbay4@gmail.com) to join the VBS Prayer team in their prayers for the needs of VBS, the volunteers, the children, and most importantly for God to be glorified through this ministry. Next visit the VBS display in the narthex where you can sign up to provide or to financially sponsor (very easy option—no shopping, no traffic) any of the supplies that are still needed for crafts and snacks. Then please contact Senior Trail Guide Holly Hawkes at hollacej@gmail.com or 813-360-2077 to learn where YOU are most needed in Upward Bound before, during and after the Expedition as a volunteer: set-up, take-down and direct traffic flow are a few of the needs which will not require much time.

Music Sight Reading Workshops
If you have an interest in learning how to sight-read music, Millie Myers is offering two workshops this summer. Join her on Wednesday, July 19 and August 23, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and concluding at 8:30 p.m. Please write “SR Workshop” on your Welcome Card or contact Millie Myers at milliemusic2@yahoo.com.

Women’s Bible Study Begins Fall Term
Mark your calendar now to join the Women’s Bible Study’s (WBS) 12-week study of the Gospel of John. From John’s first sentences revealing Jesus’ cosmic identity as being with the Father “in the beginning,” to the record of Jesus’s resurrection, John portrays Jesus in breath-taking dimensions, encouraging us to worship Jesus as Lord. The study is offered at two times beginning the week of August 28th. You may choose to attend Monday evenings at 6:30 PM or Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM. For more information, contact WBS Coordinators: Debbie Jordan at (813) 368-7513 or Debbiejordan1@gmail.com; or Eileen Fritz at (813) 731-0457 or EileenFritz@verizon.net.

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.
A Stewardship Moment from Earl Myers:

BHG/FHG and the New Family Car in the Driveway

Remember that new car that the family purchased and they admired it as it sat in the driveway? Neighbors came to look it over and congratulate the family for such a beautiful choice in style, make and color. Yes, it was a welcome addition and was greatly admired for some time.

Nevertheless, as time went by, the weather began to oxidize the car’s finish; scratches began to appear on the body; a few dings and dents began to show up in unexpected places from parking lot mishaps; and, the initial excitement and elation began to fade as the car’s age became apparent.

The one thing that did not change, however, were the car payments that were required to retire the loan from the finance company. In spite of the car’s depreciation and the family’s now take-it-for-granted attitude, the finance company still expected that payments be made on time and in the expected amount.

As with the aforementioned family car, so it is with our West Wing Expansion Project begun five years ago. We all remember the enthusiasm that prevailed at the dedication ceremony held outside the new building; the anxious anticipation of enlarged storage, added classrooms, expanded offices and foyers. We greeted this addition with a show of pledged support and offerings. We gave in large measure to fulfill, in part, the church’s mission statement to bring the Gospel to any and all of the Pasco/New Tampa community. This outreach we felt necessitated expansion of our then present facilities. ESL, TBCA, Men’s Bible Class, the youth, Korean School, and others have richly benefited from the enlargement of our facilities.

However, our declined contributions have reflected and overshadowed our initial keenness related to the outset of the By His Grace/For His Glory building campaign. One can point to the varied reasons for the diminished finances: many who pledged support have left the church, interest has waned over the years, and little has been done to highlight the program, among other sundry reasons. After all is considered, the fact remains that we have incurred a debt that must be repaid. Unlike other budgetary categories that can be modified and adjusted, we have incurred an obligation that must be satisfied.

My hope is that everyone will prayerfully consider or reconsider their personal obligation as communicant members to assist in retiring this outstanding debt within the next two years. The weekly church bulletin and the chart adjacent to the new wing will continue to apprise us of the progress being made. May God abundantly bless each of us as we take this matter to him for prayerful consideration.