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 an African-American to serve as Moderator. Teaching Elder Irwin Ince was elected to serve as Moderator for the 46th General Assembly. This is the second time in our 46-year history that a non-Anglo has served as Moderator. (Last year, Ruling Elder Alexander Jun, a Korean American served as Moderator of the 45th General Assembly in Greensboro, NC). There is a widespread desire that the PCA reflect the diversity of ethnic groups in our country.
Third, I was delighted that Ruling Elder Ed Jordan was a commissioner at this year’s General Assembly. The Presbyterian Church in America started (in 1973) with the intention of having both Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders attend the General Assembly. In the early years of the denomination, Ruling Elder attendance exceeded that of Teaching Elders. However, for several years now the attendance of Teaching Elders has far exceeded that of Ruling Elders. I believe that this year only about 30% of the commissioners were Ruling Elders. Therefore, I was so glad that RE Ed Jordan (and his wife, Debbie!) could attend this year’s General Assembly.

Fourth, the Racial Reconciliation Study Committee brought their final report to the General Assembly. Their 67-page report included 40 pages of survey data results. The Committee’s recommendations were approved by the General Assembly: (1) to distribute the Report to our Presbyteries and congregations, (2) to direct the Discipleship Ministries Committee to publish the report for sale and distribution, along with previous actions of the General Assemblies related to reconciliation, and (3) to have another survey done in time for the 51st General Assembly in order to establish a longitudinal study of our denomination regarding racial reconciliation.

And finally, the PCA continues to grow, although slowly. There are 1,568 organized churches in the PCA, along with 344 mission churches, for a total of 1,912 churches. Twenty churches were added last year; however, 13 churches left the PCA. There are 292,450 communicant members, plus 77,404 non-communicant members, for a total of 374,736 members in our denomination. The PCA has 4,882 ministers, 474 candidates for ministry, and 125 licentiates. Last year, there were 5,204 adult professions of faith and 4,529 professions by children.

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

Freddy
A Sermon in a Sentence: WSC Scripture Reference Game

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) becomes even more helpful to our Christian walk when we pay attention to the Scripture references – it’s like hearing a sermon packed into just a sentence or two. One of my favorites is number 90:

Q. 90. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?
A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

The Scripture references given by the WSC for this question are attached to the following clauses, which I’m going to number 1 through 6:

1. Attend thereunto with diligence.
3. Attend thereunto with … prayer.
4. Receive it with faith and love.
5. Lay it up in our hearts.
6. Practice it in our lives.

To facilitate meditating on the accompanying Scriptures, why don’t we play a little game?

Below are the Scriptures attached to the clauses, but in random order. Can you tell which Scripture belongs with each clause? In each case, why do you think the Westminster divines selected it?

A. I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Ps 119:11).
B. “Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors” (Pr 8:34).
C. “So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—” (1 Pe 2:1-2).
D. “As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience” (Lk 8:15). “But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing” (Ja 1:25).
E. “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Ps 119:18).
F. “For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened” (He 4:2). “...and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved” (2 Th 2:10).

Also in each case, how do you think that your mind, heart, and life would be affected if your diligence, preparation, prayer, faith and love, Scriptural knowledge, and practice reflected these Scriptures to a greater degree? I am convicted! Let’s pray that, for each of us, in our attitudes toward God’s Word, our reception of it, our belief of it, our heart for it, our treasury of it, and our lives in light of it, we would grow more like Jesus!

(You can find the answers to this quiz on the bottom of page 8)
The following new members were introduced during the worship service on Sunday, June 17:

By Certificate of Transfer
Craig and Meghann Nickoloff
   From Grace OPC, Columbus, OH

As Associate Members
Fred and Diane Cunningham
Tim Smith

By Reaffirmation of Faith
Rosa Majica
Rod and Andrea Proctor
John and Lesley Schmitt
Ed Sellers

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.

Thank you Nancy Kirkpatrick for the picture.
Looking forward to the second half of the year, here is what is happening:

July is vacation month so there will not be a WM15. Next meeting will be August 12, right after worship service. Meetings are held in the youth room.

**Sister to sister:**

**Saturday, August 4, 2018, Sister to Sister Women’s Fellowship Event-Italian themed**

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**At Karen Guest’s Home:** 1924 Rensselaer Dr., Wesley Chapel FL 33543.

The code for the Wrencrest gate on Mansfield is #0280

- $10 Lunch Donations
- Bring bibles for devotional time
- Lunch will be catered by Olive Garden

**RSVP** by July 29 to Coleen Knecht 941-809-4828 ReKnechted@gmail.com. (Coleen will also sit at an info table at church on Sundays to collect donations: July 8, July 15, July 22, and July 29).

In August, our focus will be on getting ready for our big event of the year our annual Christmas brunch which will be held the first Saturday in December. We have had 100 attend to enjoy the beginning of Advent. Come to our August meeting and hear about how you can help.

Have a wonderful, safe summer.

Blessings to all,
Suzanne Swenson

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**Women's Bible Study~**

**Learning to Love the Psalms with Dr. Robert Godfrey**

Our study this fall will touch not only our minds, but our hearts. We are encouraging all TBPC women to prayerfully consider joining us for this 12-week study. Please feel free to invite someone else as well! The two WBS sessions will begin meeting on Monday, August 20, from 6:30pm until 8:30pm, and on Tuesday, August 21, from 9:00am until 11:15am, except for Labor Day week.

Please write WBS on the Welcome card to let us know you plan to attend.

For more information, call or text Debbie Jordan at (813)368-7513 or Eileen Fritz at (813)731-0457. The fee for the course is $10. Babysitting is free with reservation.

If you would like a sneak preview, here is the link. Just remember to scroll down...


Blessings!

Debbie & Eileen
Do you have a Cain heart or an Abel heart? One trusting in the work of Jesus or one that does not pursue God’s goodness?

Vacation Bible School centered around Genesis 1-9. I’ve heard the old, old story. But this week did give me chills and warmed my heart again. I was ministered to by the Word as the VBS team and it does take a team ministered to 100plus kids under our care.

Our church uses Reachout Adventures. The theme, Space Probe, was immensely fun. Complete with a robot and Star Wars theme songs. Kids made new and deepened friendships, as did our church volunteers.

The program is also deep. I’m so encouraged by this J.C. Ryle quote. As a mom to a 2- and a 4-year old, I can feel my words get no farther than the wall. I have an imperfect grasp of the Trinity or the Holy Spirit. How can my kids understand this?

“In short, I believe that we have no idea how much a little child can take in of the length and breadth of the glorious gospel. They understand far more of these things than we suppose.” J.C. Ryle

We presented the gospel June 18-22. The VBS team of 40 daily volunteers were the hands and feet of Christ.

In Snacks they practiced thankfulness by saying grace, in games they spent their energy to sharpen their mental focus, in crafts they worked out their creativity and talked about the lesson. My little boy explained to me that the shiny circle is a mirror and “God made me to reflect him.”

Memory Work was a time to hide God’s Word in their heart. Assemblies practiced praise through song and giving to the mission.
The Bible lessons and gospel presentation taught Creation, the fall, Cain and Abel and Noah.
I don't have the number of children who were saved. That is a work of the Holy Spirit. But I witnessed amazing and wonderful things in the lives of children June 18-22. I’m happy to share it with you. And thank each of you for your prayers, volunteering, and financial support.
Holly Hawkes
Happening in July

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 6:00 P.M.: SUNDAY SECONDS.
All are encouraged to attend this monthly evening service.

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

July Birthdays

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<td>Debbie Jordan</td>
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July Anniversaries

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Answers to WSC Scripture Reference Game: 1B, 2C, 3E, 4F, 5A, 6D.