Another New Ministry Year Begins

Shortly after you receive this newsletter, summer will be coming to its unofficial end. As we did last year, most of our ministries took the summer off from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hopefully, everyone is rested, refreshed, and roaring to go in our new ministry year!

New Tampa Christian Academy actually began classes for the year about 2 weeks before Labor Day. We are glad to report that enrollment for NTCA is almost full.

Our Women’s Bible Study will actually begin their weekly Bible studies on the Monday evening and Tuesday morning before Labor Day. The Men’s Bible Study will also begin their weekly Bible study on the Saturday morning before Labor Day. The Tuesday evening Growth Group (led by Todd Bayley) will begin on the Tuesday following Labor Day.

Adult CE&F, along with children’s and youth Sunday school, will begin on Sunday, September 10. As mentioned previously, the Adult CE&F classes will have an emphasis on the Reformation this fall.

The Music Ministry, Pioneer Clubs, English as a Second Language, and so on will all begin after Labor Day.

As we begin our new ministry year, let me encourage you to get involved in a ministry in the church. The Bible teaches that every Christian is part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). One of the reasons God placed Christians in local churches is so that he may work through each Christian to enable him or her to serve others in the body of Christ. There are many opportunities to serve in our church family. Almost every ministry leader would be glad for more help in his or her ministry. So, just talk to a ministry leader, and I know that you will be welcomed with open arms!

Pray that the Lord will glorify himself in our service to him this coming year. Pray that the church of Jesus Christ will be strengthened and grow in health. And pray that those outside our church family may come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, so that we may all grow to maturity in Christ.
HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

THERE ARE MANY ACTIVITIES STARTING UP AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER

Please be sure to look over the entire newsletter for all the September activities. Because so many are listed in related articles, they are not all included on this page.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY
The Men’s Bible Study will resume meeting on Saturday, September 2 at 7:45 a.m.

EMPTYNESTERS LUNCH
The Emptynesters will kick off our fall season with a luncheon at Chili’s, 17643 Bruce B. Downs, on September 17, at 12:15 PM. Please plan to join us! RSVP to Sandy Neal, 813-973-7814 or sandybill1941@gmail.com.

THE PACESETTERS’ LUNCH
Please check future Sunday bulletins for the location, date and time of the September lunch. Please join us for fun and food with good fellowship. RSVP to Randi Mallary, 813-513-4400 or randimallary@gmail.com.

September Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Billy &amp; Trina Jeffries</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>10 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roy &amp; Stephanie Riley</td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>48 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary &amp; Pat Smith</td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>48 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waldo &amp; Ashleigh Kemp</td>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>12 years</td>
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September Birthdays

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Hunter</td>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chloe Darbyshire</td>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Cozzolino</td>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
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<td>Meredith Gartman</td>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
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<td>Bill Jeffries</td>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
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<td>Jonah Jeffries</td>
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<td>Christina Lear</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
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<td>Jonathan Massie</td>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
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<td>Linda Childers</td>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
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<td>Ishtyler Etienne</td>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
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<td>Karen Cross</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
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<td>Brett Thomas</td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
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<td>Charles Vander Ploeg</td>
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<td>Sandra Justice</td>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
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<td>Jeff Montoney</td>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
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<td>Ken Matlack</td>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
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<td>Michelle Hunter</td>
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<td>Lauren Dishman</td>
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<td>Gil Steile</td>
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<td>Isaiah Etienne</td>
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<td>Mary Mollard</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trina Jeffries</td>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randi Mallary</td>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
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</tbody>
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Across
1. Geneva Reformer whose salary was partly paid in wine.
10. Comparison
12. Had big debates with Luther over free will
13. Front page
14. Congregations?
16. Initials of a German Reformer
17. Insist
18. Star Trek counselor
19. Number of confused Muses
21. Essential guide to a Reformed Christian
24. Standard deviation
25. Reformers place it before Christus
27. Downtown Budapest
29. You for Luther
31. Summer delicacy
33. Crosses Chi in Christian symbolic
34. Naysayer
36. Biblical city
37. Holds a German drink
38. Biblical seat of power and procreation
40. Possessive
42. Bits of religion
43. Female Geneva theologian from Calvin’s time.
46. Was cowed by Zeus
47. Cereal
49. Biblical measure for 47.
50. Org. created by Geneva Evangelicals
51. Crossed by Calvin in Strasbourg

Down
1. Powerful Protestant leader.
2. Instrument disliked by Calvin
3. Eaten by John Knox?
4. Regular heartbeat
5. Keeps physicians up to date
6. Famous Protestant Confession.
7. Largest charitable org. in the USA.
8. God’s feelings toward Sodom
9. Embedded
10. Weather pressure
11. Motto shared by Reformers… and Jesuits!
15. Adorns some pastor robes
20. Blood stain
22. Russian house
23. He started it all…
26. Biblical look
28. Covenant holder
30. Card game
32. Anesthetic
35. Separated by Moses
39. Spy
41. Bottom holes
44. Texted indiscretion
48. Reformers would not have dared address God like that.
51. Crossed by Calvin in Strasbourg
53. Nickel
54. Family movie
I want to take this opportunity to announce that the 29th Annual Christmas Brunch will be Saturday, December 2, 2017 and that it signals the start of the Advent season. If you look closely at the calendar, the event is only 16 weeks away. Now you may think we have all the time in the world to get it organized; however, I was reminded at the conclusion of the 2016 brunch that 364 days from that day, we would be hosting the 2017 event so no rest for the weary! Well, not to worry we are on the job. Our speaker is Sharon Keller Johnson and her presentation will be “Naomi and Ruth... A Christmas Story.” Her name maybe familiar to some as her brother is another favorite of our Bible studies, Tim Keller. The brunch theme will be Sisters in Christ.

In addition to the speaker, we have volunteer coordinators for the hostesses, food service, servers, prayer team, hanging of the greens and lots of enthusiasm and interest. This is a team effort so we need your help:

- Volunteers to help decorate the tree and church. Linda Childers and Barbara Hess are coordinators.
- Ladies, do you want to try out your new Christmas table decoration and dishes? Here is your chance to be a hostess. Valerie Scalici is coordinator.
- Gentlemen, have you ever had a desire to be a server? This is your chance. Pete Rotolo is coordinator.
- Without the prayers from the church members, we could not have had the smooth-running events. Marianne Cali is our prayer coordinator.

SAVE THE DATES:

**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. All ladies are welcome. Our next meeting will be September 11 right after worship service in the Youth Room.

**Sister-To-Sister:** Our next quarterly event will be at the home of Linda Childers on September 16, 2017. 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.
Welcome to the TBPRES KIDS Newsletter! My hope is that this newsletter will help parents, visitors, and the general church body know more about what our Children’s Ministry offers and to get to know some of the wonderful volunteers that make it all happen! If you have questions or suggestions, we would love to hear them!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Children’s Ministry is looking for volunteers!

Sunday School:

• 2 Assistant Teachers. Assistant Teachers serve on an every-other week rotation.

• Substitute Teachers/Assistants. If you are willing to serve as a substitute teacher or assistant teacher, please let us know.

Pioneer Clubs:

• Assistant Teacher for Scooters (PreK—K)

• Teacher and Assistant Teacher for Pathfinders (Grade 3—4)

• Teacher for Trailblazers (Grade 5—8)

• Registration/Kick-off Night Volunteers (September 20)
  • Registration Table
  • Face Painting
  • Crafts

Please see Kristine Wyss, Jo Campbell, or Bill Campbell for more information about any of these opportunities!

Upcoming Dates

• September 10th — Sunday School Resumes

• September 20th — Pioneer Clubs Kick-Off

Children’s Ministry Contacts

Coordinator: Kristine Wyss
(Kristine_Wyss@yahoo.com or 615-642-9968)
Sunday School: Jo & Bill Campbell
Children’s Church: Ashleigh Kemp
Pioneer Clubs: Kristine Wyss
VBS: Holly Hawkes
"60,000 Reich Marks. What this person suffering from [h]is hereditary defects costs the People’s community during his lifetime. Comrade, that is your money too.”
Nazi Propaganda Poster circa 1938

During World War II, as the Third Reich was filling their concentration camps with Jews and others hated by the Nazis, a young Nazi officer holding a conductor’s baton stood at a crossroads and faced the long lines of new prisoners arriving at the Auschwitz concentration camp. He was the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele, the German "SS physician who achieved infamy for his inhumane medical experimentation on concentration camp prisoners at Auschwitz. That, however, was not his only mission there. As each prisoner disembarked from the cattle cars of arriving trains, they formed two lines, one for the men, and another for the women and children. The men’s line led to the baton-wielding Mengele. As each man approached him, he would flick his baton to the left or to the right. The prisoner would then proceed in the direction of his flick. A flick to the left: prison and possible survival. A flick to the right: the crematorium. His decision was based solely on the individual’s value to him in furthering Nazi goals: strong and useful or weak and useless.

Dr. Mengele was thus the decision authority directly responsible for the deaths of untold thousands, if not many more, of the approximately 1 million prisoners at Auschwitz. Staggering. How did a once-civilized nation devolve to a point it could rationalize such wholesale slaughter of innocents?

Thirteen years before Adolph Hitler rose to the post of Chancellor of Germany; and eighteen years before the Third Reich inaugurated Operation June (the wholesale arrest, imprisonment and euthanization of Jews and others in concentration camps) and psychiatrist Alfred Hoche and Dr. Mengele was thus the decision authority directly responsible for the deaths of untold thousands if not many more of the approximately 1 million prisoners at Auschwitz including Birkenau, Monowitz, and subcamps. How could that happen? How did a once-civilized nation devolve to a point it could rationalize such wholesale slaughter of innocents?

Thirteen years before Adolph Hitler rose to the post of Chancellor of Germany and 18 years before the Third Reich inaugurated Operation June (the wholesale arrest, imprisonment and euthanization of Jews and others in concentration camps), psychiatrist Alfred Hoche and Jurist Karl Binding penned a chilling book: Permitting the Destruction of Life Unworthy of Living (“Allowing...”in later editions).

What sorts of lives did these two angels of death suggest should be legally declared to be unworthy of life? The poster above offers a clue. Indeed, the target population was those
physically or mentally handicapped German citizens who were consumers of the Reich’s resources but unable to contribute to them.

Ultimately, their book served to legitimize the elimination of Germans who couldn’t carry their weight in German society. Indeed, it is credited, at least in part, with spawning “Action T4”, the pre-Nazi program to rid the nation of their own citizens by euthanizing those who fit the title of “unworthy of living”. The precepts of the book were to be implemented again but on a much larger scale once the Nazis were in control.

Why is all this of interest today during the summer of 2017?

The entire world has just witnessed a year-long drama in which the courts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as the European Court of Human Rights heard a case brought by London’s Great Ormand Street Hospital (GOSH). The case revolved around little Charlie Gard. Charlie was still an infant when his parents learned he had Mitochondrial DNA Depletion Syndrome. He joined just 15 others world-wide who had the same condition.

The suit brought by GOSH sought authority to take Charlie off life support rather than allowing his parents, Connie Yates and Chris Gard, to continue seeking medical treatment until they had exhausted every possibility. In particular, the couple were eager to take advantage of a new procedure under development in America that offered them a flicker of hope.

GOSH was unmoved by that possibility. Their representative told the UK High Court that keeping Charlie on life support while his parents pursued experimental treatment in the U.S. meant he would have to continue experiencing his existing symptoms while preparing for the treatment:

“The [alternative therapy in America] would take time and over the weeks and months Charlie would be forced to remain in his parlous [sic] condition: he can’t see, can’t hear, can’t cry, can’t swallow. He has a mechanism that causes his lungs to go up and down.”

Did you notice the hospital didn’t list excruciating pain or any pain at all as a reason to let him die? In fact, the hospital’s attorney acknowledged “We don’t know whether he suffers pain.” So, the truth here is that the hospital’s goal wasn’t to try and spare Charlie pain. No, they seemed instead to have built their case on the belief that Charlie Gard’s life was unfit for living...and, unfortunately, they prevailed. Charlie died July 28th, 2017, just 359 days after he entered this world.

What a tragedy. Based on the opinions of total strangers, the courts ruled that Charlie’s quality of life was more important than life itself. At the same time, they also ignored the possibility that a cure for Charlie’s disease might be found at some point during his lifetime.

However, unlike the case Hoche and Binding made to euthanize the mentally and physically handicapped, proponents of taking Charlie off life support were not concerned that he was utilizing state resources without the ability to help replenish them. After all, Charlie’s parents set up a crowd-funding account that raised nearly $2 million to offset medical costs.
No; hospital advocates who sought to end Charlie’s life did so with a larger purpose in mind as evidenced in a GOSH statement released July 13, 2017:

"It has been and remains the unanimous view of all of those caring for Charlie at Great Ormond Street that withdrawal of ventilation and palliative care are all that the hospital can offer him consistent with his welfare. That is because in the view of his treating team and all those from whom GOSH obtained second opinions, he has no quality of life and no real prospect of any quality of life."\textsuperscript{xiii}

There you have it then. According to GOSH, quality of life (QOL) trumps life itself. They are of the mind that Charlie’s life was unworthy of living.\textsuperscript{xiv}

Parents worldwide should take keen interest in this matter as it sets down a marker on the issue of who should be the deciding authority in cases like Charlie’s involving minor children. GOSH’s statement of July 13th makes the hospital’s position unmistakable:

"[The parents] believe that only they can and should speak for Charlie and they have said many times that they feel they have been stripped of their rights as parents."\textsuperscript{xviii}

What immediately follows should trigger shivers in those who agree with this child’s parents:

"GOSH holds and is bound by different principles [than parental autonomy]. In a world where only parents speak and decide for children and where children have no separate identity or rights and no court to hear and protect them is far from the world in which GOSH treats its child patients."\textsuperscript{xiv}

Don’t forget, this isn’t simply the opinion of a single hospital. The courts agreed with GOSH on this enormously important view of parental autonomy.

There are certainly cases where negligent or abusive parents should rightly have their parental rights suspended or terminated to protect their children from harm. Charlie’s was not such a case. His parents wanted to preserve his life and hoped to improve his lot.

Shouldn’t preserving life be the default response in situations like Charlie’s? Shouldn't any parents not stripped of their paternal rights be the appropriate medical surrogates for infants, or would the courts require we find a way for neonatal children to specify a medical surrogate? Ridiculous.

What if the Charlie-Gard doctrine takes hold as a justifiable reason to end human life here in America? People in The Netherlands should know that answer by now. Euthanasia was legalized there in 2000 “to relieve those enduring, unbearable suffering.” Consider the situation of an elderly Dutch woman described in the January 28th, 2017 edition of Great Britain’s Daily Mail newspaper,\textsuperscript{xv} More than 80 years old, this woman was afflicted with dementia (not uncommon for the aged). As such, she exhibited some traits also not unusual for a woman of her age including wandering, becoming easily angered and often afraid.

At some point during her life, this woman indicated she \textbf{may choose} euthanasia ‘when the time was right’. Well, her doctor decided to accelerate that timetable by spiking the woman’s coffee and administering a lethal injection. But there was a snag. The coffee drug did not leave the patient unaware, so the elderly woman began fighting for her life. Even so, with the woman’s family holding the woman down, the doctor was successful in legally killing her.
Unless we actively work to prevent it, we can expect more situations like this as the world-wide assault on the sanctity of human life continues. American abortion deaths\textsuperscript{xvi} alone have nearly exceeded the deaths resulting from the known victims of The Holocaust.\textsuperscript{xvii}, but, thankfully, that event is over. Abortions, on the other hand, continue in America and are joined by assisted suicide and euthanasia in pushing deaths-by-choice and fiat ever higher.

Those macabre facts should motivate us greatly.

Charlie Gard
August 4th 2016 - July 28th 2017\textsuperscript{19}

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\textsuperscript{i} http://tinyurl.com/jgmbszr
\textsuperscript{iii} http://tinyurl.com/humsog2
\textsuperscript{iv} http://tinyurl.com/_yawrjr48
\textsuperscript{v} http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=4496
\textsuperscript{vi} http://tinyurl.com/y88cg8te ("Look Inside" Forward at Amazon)
\textsuperscript{vii} http://tinyurl.com/yccToo4m
\textsuperscript{viii} Ibid
\textsuperscript{ix} Image: https://static.independent.co.uk/s3fs-public/thumbnails/image/2017/06/13/08/charlie-gard-1.jpg
\textsuperscript{x} http://tinyurl.com/yabky3uk
\textsuperscript{xi} http://tinyurl.com/ydabd6s
\textsuperscript{xii} Ibid
\textsuperscript{xiii} Ibid
\textsuperscript{xiv} Ibid
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