Starting the 2018-2019 Ministry Year

A few days after you receive this newsletter, summer will come to its unofficial end. For the past few years, most of our ministries have taken the summer off from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hopefully, everyone is rested, refreshed, and ready to go for our new 2018-2019 ministry year!

New Tampa Christian Academy (NTCA) actually began classes about two weeks before Labor Day and, in fact, the NTCA staff started the week before that! Enrollment at NTCA is at 90%. That number often increases during the Fall. The enrollment is a bit less than previous years, perhaps because of the construction on Bruce B. Downs Blvd. over the summer that blocked the advertising on our fence (which has proven to be some of our best advertising over the years). NTCA has a new Administrator this year: Ashleigh Kemp. We are grateful for Ashleigh stepping in to this role. And I also want to thank (my wife) Eileen for serving as the Administrator last year. Had she not served in that role, it is entirely likely that NTCA would have closed down. So, thank you, Eileen, for your wonderful labors last year at NTCA!
The Women’s Bible Study also began their Fall Bible Study two weeks before Labor Day. There is a Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study (that meets at 6:30 p.m.) as well as Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study (that meets at 9:00 a.m.). Debbie Jordan and Eileen Fritz give leadership to the Women’s Bible Study. The women are studying the Psalms (using a DVD with Dr. Robert Godfrey).

The Men’s Bible Study will begin their Fall Bible Study the Saturday after Labor Day, on September 8. They meet at 7:45 a.m., and the men are studying the book of Genesis. After spiritual nourishment, many of the men then join together for physical nourishment, aka breakfast, at Steak ‘n Shake after the Men’s Bible Study.

Our Sunday morning ministries will begin on Sunday, September 9. The first thing to note is that there will be a time change for our Sunday ministries beginning on September 9. Sunday school for children and Adult Bible Fellowships (ABFs) will begin at 9:15 a.m. The Worship Service will begin at 10:45 a.m.

Since Adult Bible Fellowships (ABFs) are new, the Session is having an Information Meeting for all members in the double classroom on Sunday, September 9, at 9:15 a.m. to inform the attendees about ABFs and also to answer questions about ABFs. The ABFs will begin on Sunday, September 16, with two groups, each led by a Ruling Elder. The number of attendees in each Ruling Elder’s group will determine where each ABF will meet. RE Ed Jordan and RE Rich Thompson will inform their Shepherding Groups where they will each meet.

The Music Ministry had a rehearsal for all interested choir members on Saturday, August 25. Worship Choir rehearsals began on Wednesday, August 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

English as a Second Language (ESL) will 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.

Health Update

Here is a quick update on my health. On Monday, August 20, I had surgery known as “brachytherapy,” which is simply the implantation of radioactive seeds into my prostate gland. I apparently received 48 seeds (I still don’t have confirmation of that number!), and I have recovered much better than I expected. There has been some minor fatigue and some tenderness (no pain, really). I rested on Tuesday and returned to work on Wednesday. By Friday, the tenderness was mostly gone. So, as far as I know, all my treatments (injections to reduce testosterone, external radiation therapy, and radiation seed implantation) for prostate cancer are now concluded. I expect no more treatments, but there will be regular checks to make sure that the cancer has been eradicated.

I am so thankful to the Lord for sustaining me through this treatment. I am also very thankful for Eileen, as she has so wonderfully cared for me. And I am thankful too for the wonderful support, prayer, and encouragement from each one of you. Thank you!

Freddy
Our August 4 Sister-to-Sister event was a huge success due to the creativity and organizational skills of our two co-coordinators, Coleen Knecht and Rachel Contrata. Our thanks also to Karen Guest who opened her beautiful home to 26 excited women in the church. The Olive Garden Restaurant catered the event.

Coleen got us off to a great start with an ice breaker. We were each asked to share either a cooking hint or something about ourselves that would be a surprise. We discovered that more than a few of us do not cook! We then set about finding our prayer partners by finding the person with the corresponding Italian or English version of a line from an Italian song that matched what had. How fun that was.

The devotional, The Righteousness of God Through Faith, was presented by Rachel Contrata. She used Romans as her Scripture text. The first two and a half chapters of Romans are very dark. In Chapter 1 there are titles like “God’s Wrath on Mankind.” In Chapter 2 we have “God’s Righteous Judgment” and “The Jews and the Laws.” Even in chapter 3 there is “No One is Righteous.” In all of these chapters we hear Paul tell us very frankly of the issues of our sins; that all sins condemned us to death; that no matter what we do, as written in Romans 3:10, “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; no one who seeks God. All have turned away; they have together become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” But then we get to see the bright light at the end of the tunnel and it is a very bright and beautiful light, which is our “Righteousness through Faith.”
Romans 3:21-31 tells us that through Jesus Christ we have been made clean. Chapter 3:22-23 states, “There is no difference for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” but that through Jesus Christ we are all made clean in the sight of God. God did that so He could be the one who justifies us through faith in Jesus. The word “justifies” is defined in the dictionary as “having, done for, or marked by a good or legitimate reason.”

Paul then goes on to talk about the law. He explains that we should base everything we do on faith and not the law and that both Jews and Gentiles, circumcised and uncircumcised, are justified through the same faith. But then the very next line is important (3:31), “Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.” This is because through our faith we should want to glorify God in all that we do by following the law though his grace.

A discussion and personal testimonies followed.

What a great Sister-to-Sister event. Our next one will be a tea party on October 13 at the home of Sherry Nies. The theme will be, “All Things Fall.” Ladies, get your fascinators out and ready to wear on 10/13.

If you have always wanted to get involved with the Women’s Ministry activities, we do have three coordinator positions available; they are: Card Coordinator, Christmas Brunch Hostess Coordinator, and Co-Coordinator for the Brunch Food Committee.

To stay up on the WM happenings, don’t hesitate to join us at our WM15 meetings on the second Sunday of each month. We will be gearing up for our big event of the year, The Women’s Christmas Brunch, held on December 1, 2018.

Blessings,

Suzanne Swenson
ESL starts September 12
Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:30 A.M. at TBPC

The English as a Second Language Ministry is looking for new volunteers. In addition to helping internationals improve their conversational English, the ESL Ministry offers friendship and Bible study. For some, this is their first opportunity reading Scripture or even stepping foot in a Christian building.

Thirty adult students attend on a weekly basis. If you know someone who would benefit, please share our program information. Childcare is provided.

Volunteer Role: Volunteers prepare a weekly English lesson from a detailed teacher’s guide. No teaching experience is necessary. Patience, encouragement, and prayer go a long way. Two volunteers work together in each of the levels. This partnership allows volunteers to help each other and cover when there is an absence.

If you have time on Wednesday mornings, please consider being a part of this mission. Please contact Holly Hawkes (hollacej@gmail.com or 813-360-2077) for more information.

Deuteronomy 10:19, "Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."
On August 11 at 8:30 A.M., the Men’s Ministry sponsored another quarterly breakfast. It was a good event with approximately 17 men attending. The breakfast was again prepared by Brian & Alisa Carrier and fresh brewed coffee by Joe Kirkpatrick. The breakfast consisted of an appetizing array of food including eggs benedict, hash browns French toast, fruit and our church favorite thick bacon. They enjoyed the breakfast and the fellowship with other men of Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church and sometimes visitors will join us for breakfast.

In addition, we offer a 20 minute teaching of the Scriptures, which is usually done by our Pastor Freddy Fritz. This time we had Brian Carrier who offered a lesson titled “Christianity in Baseball.” It was an interesting message detailing how baseball is a failing sport, but we strive to perfection. The same goes in our lives where we strive to be the best, but fall short through daily sin in our lives. Jesus offers us to be right with God as he paid the ultimate sacrifice for our sins and shortfalls in our daily lives.

We promote the breakfast through our Men’s Bible Study that will resume again in the fall on September 8, 2018, as we continue to study the word of Genesis, “The Message of Creation” written by Dr Jack B. Scott, Ph.D and taught by our Bible Study leader, Dr. Jeff Beams. Please join us each Saturday morning as we lead the men through this lesson beginning at 7:45 A.M. We hope to see new faces join our group in the fall.
Happening in September

LABOR DAY
Church office is closed.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS
Saturday, September 8, 7:45 A.M. Study the book of Genesis.

ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS (ABF) BEGIN
Sunday, September 9, 9:15 A.M. Members’ Information Meeting (see “From the Pastor's Desk” for more information).

WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE BEGINS
Sunday, September 9, 10:45 A.M.

SUNDAY SECONDS.
Sunday, September 9, 6:00 P.M. All are encouraged to attend this monthly evening service.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE BEGINS
September 12

EMPTY NESTERS
Sunday, September 16, 12:00 P.M. at Bonefish Grill, 1640 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Wesley Chapel. Please RSVP by Friday afternoon, September 14, to Sandy Neal, 813-973-7814.
### September Birthdays

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### September Anniversaries

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