If Christ Had Not Risen

Have you ever wondered what would have changed if Christ had not risen from the dead on that first Resurrection Sunday?

One writer provocatively suggests that not much would have changed. We would still be dead in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). Christ’s disciples would have stayed locked up in their homes in fear for their lives (John 20:19-23). We would still lie in the grave with no hope of a future resurrection for us (1 Corinthians 15:12-58). The universe would eventually fizzle out, since Christ would not be the firstborn of all creation, the one through whom God would reconcile all things on earth and in heaven (Colossians 1:15-20). Fertility cults involving resurrection myths would still abound, but with no grounding in historical fact. And Christ would have proven to be the weak, pitiful blasphemer that his enemies said he was (Matthew 27:27-44; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31).

But, thanks be to God, Christ has indeed risen from the dead! We are no longer in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). We have a faith that is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:14). We will rise bodily from the dead ourselves (1 Corinthians 15:20). The creation does indeed groan awaiting our redemption and its restoration (Romans 8:22). We can join the first disciples in proclaiming the good news of Jesus’ resurrection (Acts 2).

The resurrection is God the Father’s stamp of approval on the life and ministry of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is no liar or lunatic. He is indeed the Lord of life. As Jesus said to Martha, so he says to each of us, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25–26).

Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! I pray that you will believe this!
**HAPPENING IN APRIL**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2 - DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER LILIES**
Easter Sunday Memorial/Dedication Easter Lilies are available for you to sponsor. Please fill out the form in the bulletin to designate your memorial or dedication, along with $7.00 for each lily. Please note “Easter Lily” on your check or envelope. You may take your lily home after the Easter service for your own enjoyment.

**MONDAY, APRIL 3 - EARLY REGISTRATION FOR VBS**
TBPC and New Tampa Christian Academy families as well as former VBS participants are invited to register for VBS this week. Look out for an email linked to the Vacation Bible School registration page. The website is mobile friendly. Register, donate and get set for VBS. Questions? Email vbs@tampabaypresbyterian.org. See TBPres Kids newsletter article in this newsletter.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13 - 7:00 P.M.: MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE**
The English name Maundy Thursday from the Latin “mandatum novum,” which means “a new commandment.” We will celebrate communion as instituted by Jesus when he spoke these words to his disciples as he washed their feet: “A new command I give you: Love one another” (John 13:34).

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14 - 7:00 P.M.: GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**
In this service of Tenebrae, meaning “shadows” or “darkness,” we aim to experience the loss of light at the death of Christ.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16 - 8:45-9:45 A.M.: EASTER SUNDAY BUFFET BREAKFAST**
Choose an item (bring enough for 15 people) from the tear-off sheet in the narthex. Disposable containers are preferred, or label them with your name and collect them afterwards. Please have food at the church by 8:45 am. To sign up write “EBB” on your Welcome Card and “Set-up” or “Clean-up” if you can help. It is important that you register so we can make sure there is enough food.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 - 12:00 P.M.: THE PACESETTERS’ LUNCH**
This month we will meet at Chili’s located at 17643 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. Please join us for fun and food with good fellowship. RSVP Randi Mallary (813-513-4400, randimallary@gmail.com).

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23 - 12:30 P.M.: EMPTYNESTERS’ LUNCH**
Please join the Emptynesters for lunch at Ruby Tuesday’s, 17520 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. Please RSVP to Sandy Neal, 813-973-7814 or sandybill1941@gmail.com by Friday, April 21.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29 - 11:00 A.M. – 1 P.M.: SISTER TO SISTER**
Please join in the fun and fellowship with the women of TBPC for this quarterly event. Details will be posted in future Sunday bulletins.

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**April Anniversaries**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Richard &amp; Janice Thompson</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>46 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Karen Guest</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>22 years</td>
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<td>Todd &amp; Melissa Bayley</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>27 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard &amp; Lois Gainer</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>68 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>James &amp; Cathy Turpen</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>13 years</td>
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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!

Ministry Spotlight

Every Sunday while their parents attend the Adult C&E classes, the children have their own Sunday School classes. We offer classes for children age 3 to Grade 5 and nursery for infant to age 2. Classes start at 8:45 am and we would love to see you there!

All of our Sunday School Curriculum is provided by Great Commission Publications. For our Preschool and Younger Elementary classes, we use the Show Me Jesus curriculum and the older elementary kids use a Bible Survey called G2R. The G2R Bible Survey allows the older children to read and study scriptures themselves and put what they learned at younger ages into historical and chronological context.

The preschool class has just completed their study called “Jesus is God’s Son” where they learned God’s promise to send a Savior was fulfilled in Jesus the Son of God. We are starting our next study called “Jesus is the Savior.” The children will learn about Jesus’ love for his people, his death and resurrection, his ascension, the promised Holy Spirit and the Lord’s return one day.

The younger elementary class just finished up a study where the theme was “Obeying God”. They studied the prophets and kings from the Old Testament, exploring their lives learning what it means to obey God. The next study which they will begin soon is called “Knowing Jesus” where they will study the life of Jesus.

The older elementary class has been going through the books Matthew through John and studying the life, work and teaching of Christ in the Gospels. They have been able to explore the story of Christ through the eyes of the gospel writers. Next, they will study Acts through Romans where they will look at the history and growth of the early church and doctrines of our faith.

For more information on any of the Sunday School curriculums, visit Great Commission Publications website at www.gcp.org.

VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Sign up now for Vacation Bible School on our website at www.tampabaypresbyterian.org. We encourage you to take advantage of early sign up as last year we had a waiting list.

This year, VBS is from July 10th—14th and our theme is Upward Bound. VBS is open to all children ages 4 years at the start of VBS through rising 5th graders. A suggested donation of $20 per child can be made online at registration. Please see Holly Hawkes or Debbie Jordan for cash or check donations.

Upcoming Dates

• April 16th: Easter Sunday – No Sunday School
• May 21st—Last Day of Sunday School; Children’s Ministry Fair
• July 10 — 14th — VBS

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
JOIN THE TREK OF A LIFETIME!

BY HOLLY HAWKES

Plan now to help guide the adventure! Trail Guide Holly is seeking individuals to climb Upward Bound, the ultimate VBS expedition, and help young Backpackers follow Jesus’ rugged and radical ascent to the Summit of God’s Kingdom!

Monday July 10 to Friday July 14
8:45 am – 12:15 pm
Work 9-5? We appreciate any time commitment during this week!

Volunteer Needs:

VBS Decoration Coordinator- Bring Upward Bound to life in the hallways, classrooms and sanctuary. If you are creative and have some time in the week leading up to VBS, we need your help. This requires time on Sunday, July 9th when Tampa Bay Presbyterian will be transformed by other VBS helpers.

Guides- Lead a small group of elementary or preschool age kids. A good crew leader is a friend and helper for the kids and station leaders. They ask questions, take kids seriously and encourage them throughout VBS. Guides will help children learn in small groups by working through the trail journals provided.

Snack Helpers, Craft Helpers- Assemble, serve and clean up the children’s snacks. Cut, assemble and glue with the little artists throughout the week. The craft assistants aids the crafts leader in managing and preparing materials and guiding kids through the process of making a variety of crafts.

Youth Drama – Earl Myers is directing a youth drama for the opening and closing assemblies. We still need two youth volunteers willing to learn their lines and bring to life the VBS skits. The skits are an important part of VBS and emphasize the Bible lessons. Have fun and be an actor.

Memory Work Listeners – Help children learn their Bible verses. Be a listening ear and “cheer leader” for young children who are hiding God’s word in their hearts. This is not a chaperoning role. You can act as a MWL at your convenience during VBS week.

Recreation and Traffic Assistants- The games assistants aids the leader in preparing and leading fun and noncompetitive activities. You can expect lots of hard work, fun, and high-fives. Additionally at 12:00 pickup, we need men willing to help direct the flow of cars to ensure safe travel Monday – Friday. VBS dads, this might be a good way to be involved. Can you spare one day off for VBS?

Toddler VBS – Works with our littlest VBS kids, VBS staff children ages 2 and 3 in classroom, utilizing provided curriculum in age-appropriate activities. Assisting with Bible time, music, memory verses, recreation, games, and playing.

Ready to Join the Trek? Contact Holly Hawkes — 813-360-2077 or hollacej@gmail.com
On February 23, 2017, the Men’s Ministry sponsored a hockey game night with the Tampa Bay Lightning hosting the Calgary Flames. It was a good game for all who attended and, since the initial registration was a little low, we opened the event up to the church for anyone to attend. We had several of the women of the church attend and several dads were able to bring their sons for a first time hockey event. It was a lot of fun for the group with plenty of fellowship and good food.

The game was very close throughout the entire night with the Lightning taking the first lead of the evening, but then falling behind in the second period 3-1, only to come up short in the end on a 3-2 loss. We did have an enjoyable time and for the young boys of the church it was a night for them to remember: attending their first NHL regular season game. I want to thank everyone that attended. We had 17 people attend for a very successful event.

Our next Men’s event will be another TBPC Golf Tournament at a new golf course to be announced very soon. This will be in the month of April closer to the end of the month. Please look in the Sunday bulletin for the date of the next Golf Tournament.

We also look forward to another event which will be a Ray’s game for everyone at the church that would like to attend. This is sponsored by the Men’s Ministry each year to bring any or all family members together to enjoy fellowship at a baseball game for the evening. Please look for the Sunday bulletin soon to see when this very successful event will be. Last year we rented a bus and had 46 people attend. This is usually the single largest attended event of the year and we would like to make it very special again. The Men’s Ministry appreciates the fun and fellowship we enjoy with our Christian brothers and sisters and look forward to other events throughout the year.
Ashleigh Kemp and her family recently became members of TBPC. She has consented to share her testimony below with her new church family.

I re-committed my life to Jesus in 1999 (16 years ago). I say re-committed because I do believe that at some time in my childhood I had already accepted Jesus as my Saviour but I don’t have a specific memory of that. What I do remember is the fact that God was central to our family and that I grew up to love him as my heavenly father and also friend.

I know I am lucky that way – not everyone is blessed with a God-fearing home, but I was and the foundation that was given to me by my parents, also saved me.

I say save because, as stereo-typed as it is, being a pastor’s daughter in a small village community (of Villiersdorp where I lived in my high school days) had its social challenges and temptations.

I think I started drifting from God towards the end of my high school career and then going off on my own and living on my own at University (which was in Stellenbosch) just caused that distance to grow wider. During that time I led an immoral lifestyle, but looking back I believe that God was watching over me and protecting me from harm (despite I’m sure being hugely disappointed!).

It was in my 3rd year of studies that I realised that my life was on a path to destruction and I started making changes. Later I was befriended by some fellow students that were going on an outreach to Mpumalanga.

It was at that outreach that I drew even closer to God and realised that I needed to lay all my guilt in front of him and that through his grace he would clear my slate and that I would have new life in Him.

That was a turning point, because for the first time in quite a while I felt freed from enormous guilt. Knowing that he had already died for my sins and that his forgiveness washed away all my stupidity finally gave me peace.

My life and my walk with the Lord didn’t go perfectly from then. And I often stumbled as I tried to turn away from my past. More specifically in the years that directly followed that point.

But God is a gracious God and he has continued to watch over me and over time I have drawn closer to him and I can truly say that He is, as He has always been, my redeemer, protector and my Saviour.
Transformed, a Thought for Today

Today is another beautiful day with a clear blue sky, puffy clouds, green trees, and colorful flowers. We begin our day giving thanks to our loving, Heavenly Father who has made this wonderful world for us to enjoy and to be mindful of. This reminds me of a presentation that was part of the PCA Transformed Florida meeting. The speaker painted visual pictures of our world – its people and their testimonies and of the beauty of God’s creation. The speaker followed her description with a passage from Romans 11:33-36:

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! . . . For from him, through him, and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”

As pointed out in the presentation, we are the products of our theology and doxology. We are encouraged to not conform to this world but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, and from that we can learn what is the will of God.

The speaker offered six worldly issues, a conformed worldview, and a transformed biblical view. Of the six, I want to mention accountability because I often struggle with it. Who is going to know if I skip a day of exercise or going to the gym? God knows. Each person is accountable to God. Enough said. I am off to the gym. Blessings to all and enjoy your day.

April Birthdays

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<td>Yong Bowman</td>
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<td>Maddison Jeffries</td>
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<td>Jack McNulty</td>
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PCA MINISTRIES NEEDS YOU

Skilled Volunteers Needed to Serve PCA Ministries Via the Internet

Greetings from MNA SecondCareer!

As you may know, the purpose of our ministry is to match PCA church plants, churches, and other PCA ministries that have limited resources with adult PCA volunteers of all ages. A year ago we sent an email to PCA churches across the country to recruit skilled volunteers who could serve via the Internet. Many volunteers responded, but more are needed. Do you have a heart to serve and a specific skill that could be helpful to a PCA church planter, church, or other PCA ministry? Mission to North America’s SecondCareer Ministry is seeking adult volunteers of all ages to serve via the Internet. The following are types of assistance frequently requested:

- Admin assistance
- Publicity/Marketing
- Accounting
- Architect
- Graphic Design
- Demographic Site Profiling
- Website Development
- Social Media

If you are interested in more information about serving with your skills via the Internet, please contact Barbara Campbell, MNA SecondCareer Facilitator, bcampbell@pcanet.org, 804-339-5005.