

TBPRES TRUMPET



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Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

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Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz,
Pastor

Melissa Bayley,
Office Administrator

Joanne Campbell,
Bookkeeper

Cheryl Barber,
NTCA Director

Marianne Cali,
Nursery

Chris Christopher,
Custodian

Debi Hensley,
Pianist, Choir

From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Report on the 44th General Assembly of the PCA

The 44th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America met in June 20-23, 2016 in Mobile, AL.

The General Assembly began on Tuesday evening with a Worship Service and message by the outgoing Moderator, Ruling Elder Jim Wert. There were two additional Worship Services on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, with messages by Dr. Tim Keller and Rev. Thurman Williams. I always enjoy the Worship Services because the convention hall is filled with worshipers.

After the opening Worship Service on Tuesday evening, the General Assembly elected Dr. George Robertson to serve as Moderator of the 44th General Assembly, which he did most ably.

For several years the General Assembly has offered about 75 different seminars. Obviously, one is not able to attend all of the seminars but I usually purchase a recording of all the seminars so that I can listen to them following the General Assembly.

There were two big issues at this year's General Assembly. The first issue had to do with Racial Reconciliation. Actually, the issue came up at last year's General Assembly, and that assembly decided to have Presbyteries express their opinions on the issue throughout this past year. So, a total of forty-three Overtures came before this year's General Assembly, each dealing with the issue of Racial Reconciliation. (*Continued page 2*)

Our Mission: To bring people to Jesus Christ and membership in his church family, develop them to Christlike maturity, equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world, in order to magnify God's name.

The other big issue at this year's General Assembly was the approval of a Study Committee on Women's Roles in Ministry. This issue generated the most debate on the floor of the General Assembly. A blogger stated the following about the formation of this Study Committee, "One of the reasons this recommendation came about is because of the wide variety of practices in the PCA regarding women's roles in the church. We have churches that don't permit women to do hardly anything and we have churches that permit to do almost everything. Hopefully, this committee, informed by the Scriptures, will recommend some sensible boundaries regarding what types of ministry roles women should have in the local church" (see <http://theaquilareport.com/the-good-news-of-the-2016-general-assembly/>). Each year every Permanent Committee and Agency reports on its work for the previous year. There is much about which to be encouraged! Let me briefly mention a few areas of encouragement.

Mission to the World (MTW) is the largest Presbyterian missions agency in North America. MTW has 586 career missionaries, 100 two-year missionaries, and 148 one-year missionaries serving in 86 countries. Our own Presbytery of Southwest Florida requested the start of a provisional Presbytery in Nicaragua, which was approved by this year's General Assembly. Dr. Lloyd Kim, our new MTW Coordinator, has urged all PCA churches to pray that **1%** of our adult members would become missionaries. Given that the PCA has about 280,000 adult communicant members, which would add 2,800 new PCA missionaries around the world. I am happy to report that the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church will soon have 5 full-time missionaries, which means that TBPC has **2½%** of its members serving as full-time missionaries!

Mission to North America (MNA) placed 52 church planters on the field in 2015. Obviously, that is an average of 1 church planter per week starting a new PCA church! Our own Presbytery has 19 churches and 4 church plants, which is very encouraging for a Presbytery of our size. MNA also approved a new Coordinator, Rev. Paul Hahn. I think he will do an excellent job continuing to grow MNA, and I am excited to see what God will do in the coming years in MNA.

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) has ministries on 145 campuses in the United States. Interestingly, RUF began as an organization in 1971, two years before the PCA came into existence! RUF-International (RUF-I) works with international students on our US campuses, and RUF-Global (RUF-G) works on campuses overseas. Bert and Cheryl Barber will be joining Peter and Lauren Dishman to work at the National University of Colombia in Bogota, which is a RUF-G ministry. The other Permanent Committees and Agencies have similarly encouraging reports. However, I would like to conclude this report with news about the growth of the PCA. The PCA grew by 11,816 communicant members in 2015. **That is nearly 1,000 people per month joining the PCA!** In addition, there were 9,679 professions of faith in 2015, with more than half of them coming from adults. That is just a quick report on what came out of the 44th General Assembly. I hope you are encouraged, as I am. And I also hope you will continue to pray that the Lord will glorify himself through the work and ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America.

Vacation Bible School

By Holly Hawkes

Children filled the halls, classrooms and sanctuary of our church this week. Their little voices were heard singing, feet skipping, questions whispered. For this past week these little ones, the boys and girls God sovereignly brought to our little event, heard the words that will not pass away. For some this was the first time they heard the words of Jesus. The truth of our Creator.



Volunteers served from providing a safe parking lot to teaching bible lessons. Snack time after snack time came together with materials you donated. The generosity of every gift - small and large as well as the time of our volunteers contributed to the greater purpose. I hope you were blessed by being a part of Vacation Bible School. I thank you for demonstrating love to our covenant children and our neighbors. Prayers that God continues the good work that he has started here. Praise for supplying all our needs.



August Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1— Jonathan & Averil Massie | 18 — Wilbraham, Steve & Linda |
| 6 — Larry & Barbara Hess | 21 — Hutton, John & Bonnie |
| 14 — Bob & LeeAnn DeStefano | 21 — McQueen, Bob & Betty |
| 14 — Ken & Betty Pothoven | 21 — Tyler, Craig & Jane |
| 16 — Bill & Sandy Neal | 28 — Jim & Linda Childers |

TBPC Ministries

Adult Christian Education & Fellowship
Ed Jordan

Children
Vacant

Emptynesters
Sandy Neal

Greeters & Welcome Table
Ted Jeffries

Growth Groups
Session

Hospitality
Joan Kosanovich

Men's Bible Study
Jeff Beams

Men's Ministry
Brian Carrier

Missions
Bill Jeffries

Music
Debi Hensley

NTCA
Cheryl Barber

Nursery
Marianne Cali

Outreach
Bert Barber

Pacesetters
Randi Mallary

Pastoral Care
Rev. Freddy Fritz

Ushers
Lenny Chew

Women's Bible Study
Melissa Bayley

Women's Ministry
Suzanne Swenson

Youth
Kevin Nobles

TBPRES WOMEN



By Suzanne Swenson

Greetings to all and we hope that all of you are having a great summer. After completing two successful outreach projects this year; the Women's Ministry is looking forward to holding its summer Sister-to-Sister event on July 30 at Linda Childers' home. NOTE: TIME CHANGE: Instead of a brunch, we will have a lunch from 1-3:30.

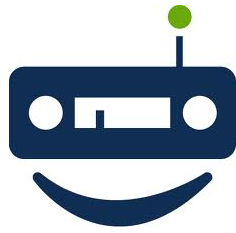
Bring a side dish that will go with salad as the entrée. Linda will be showing us how to make Chrismons for the church's Christmas tree. (Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them). All church women are invited. Contact Linda Childers if you have any questions. lwchilders@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there.

We are also setting plans in motion for the Christmas brunch, which is held annually on the first Saturday in December, which is December 3rd this year. If you want to get in on the fun, join us at our WM15 every second Sunday after worship service as we plan the event.

Blessings from all of us to all of you,
Suzanne

August Birthdays

1	—	Jason Skopp	11	—	Emily Connell	21	—	Colby Tomasello
3	—	Oceane Lok	11	—	Reid Donaldson	24	—	Wicke Egbert
6	—	Joanne Campbell	15	—	Lenny Chew	25	—	Wes Mollard
7	—	Lillian Barquin	15	—	Olivia Chew	26	—	Peter Wu
8	—	John Dixon	15	—	Kim Cozzolino	27	—	Joe Burns
9	—	Lilly Porter	17	—	Doug Hayman	29	—	Bert Barber
10	—	Verity Hawkes	20	—	Paige Atkinson	31	—	Suzanne Swenson
10	—	Averil Massie	21	—	Billy Jeffries			



Tuned In

By: Debi Hensley

Ephesus – Up Close & Personal, Christmas in July and Praise & Prayer

So these three things aren't really related, but they have been occupying a lot of space in my brain recently. First, Ephesus.

I had the enormous privilege to travel to Europe and one of our stops was Turkey where we visited Ephesus. As we started down the road, our fabulous guide, Oz, told us to stop and turn to look back. He said "stop for a moment and think of who has walked on this same road before you." That put the rest of the morning into perspective as we toured the excavated city.

Even after all this time, the wealth of this seaside (at that time) city is evident. The mosaic marketplace entries, the remains of the beautiful library and, of course, the grand theater where Paul preached were amazing.

Standing off to the side of the grand walkway which is flanked by enormous columns, looking back at the massive theater, it was hard to stay composed. So thankful for this opportunity to explore history and for those who set the standard for us to share the Gospel.

After returning from the trip, the calendar became a slippery slope, which seemed to be in fast forward mode. It's this time of year we begin planning for the Fall Choir season, which includes Christmas.

Have you ever thought about joining the Choir? If you are waiting to be asked, consider this your official invitation. You may think you can't sing, you can't free up Wednesday nights or you can't be in the Choir because you can't read music. Well, God is awesome and none of your feelings surprise him. Talk to him and ask if this is the year you take the plunge. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and learning together. I hope to see you in the Sanctuary on August 17th at 7:13 p.m. No need to audition or register, just show up. We will be learning some amazing music and, yes, there will be Christmas music coming from your CD player long before the first bell jingles. Nothing beats singing his praises.

I hope you were able to attend one of the two Praise & Prayer gatherings. What a wonderful time of informal worship – reorienting our focus from the world to God. Praying and singing together with church family is such a special time. I particularly loved the second gathering where we focused on VBS and several shared how VBS has impacted them both as volunteers and participants. Keep an eye/ear open for the next one. Hope to see you there.

Can you name this tune . . .

*You made a way so I could come
Just as I am, to You, my God*

Contact Debi Hensley at dbh@macfar.com

**Missionaries Supported by
TBPC**



Mission to the World

Esaie & Natacha Etienne
Ken & Tammie Matlack
Carla Stevens

Reformed University
Fellowship

Peter & Lauren Dishman
Andrew & Meghan Newman

New Harvest Missions
International

Nathaniel & Cherita
Adawonu

Serving In Missions

Rene & Lilli Palacio

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Don & Judy Vander Ploeg
Kevin & Gertrude Nicholas

PRCC

Chaplain Ted Hamm
Chaplain James Cochell

Missions Update

By Cheryl Barber

Guitars, a keyboard, and voices filled the back classroom on Thursday evening, as a group gathered to praise God and pray for the Ocean Commotion Vacation Bible School. As we sang and prayed, favorite VBS memories were also shared.

A memory that was mentioned by Zach Tomasello, was the VBS Penny War. Zach claimed victory for the boys in last year's Penny War and asserted his hope that the boys would once again triumph. The playful competition snags the bigger slice of the younger set's memory of the VBS giving project, but the greater benefit is that each year a contribution is made to a financial need somewhere in the world to the tune of hundreds of dollars, primarily collected in pennies, nickels, and dimes. The Barber's with Mission to the World were selected as this year's giving project.

What a privilege and a challenge to creatively present the work of a missionary to 130 excited children in the morning assembly. The technical assistance of the capable Melissa Bayley helped to present our story in pictures in a series of power point presentations. Thanks to the creative talents of Michelle and Caroline, an interview skit with an unexpected and entertaining sound effect was produced. All, we hope, helped the children to see that their giving is an investment in God's work.

The specific project identified for the Penny War was our Language Acquisition Expense. Language learning, one of the items in our budget of one-time expenses, is to be accomplished through an intense language school, tutoring, university classes, or some combination of those options. The final total collected from this year's VBS Penny War (drum roll please...) is \$1,300. We thank God and all who have become 'missionary senders' through their contributions to the VBS giving project.

The Word Is

TBPC member Chris Probes shares scripture she has found particularly helpful as she experiences widowhood:

Neh. 8:10 "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Zeph. 3:17 "The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

Ps. 18: 2 "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Praise God! The Word was, The Word is, and The Word will be!

Bible Word Search: Grace

by Scott Spicer

Circle each letter of the words you find in the grid below.

Aggrandize, Assurance, Boldness, Builds Up, Complete, Deferral,
Delay, Elevate, Enhance, Exceeding, Faith, Foundation, Fullness,
Generosity, Gift, Glorify, Goodwill, Great, Honor, Hope, Justified,
Mercy, Moratorium, Not By Works, Peace, Sanctified, Saved, Sincerity,
Sufficient, Suspension, Truth, Undeserved, Upgrade

G F U L L N E S S E N D L O B
N U P G R A D E T E L P M O C
I A D E V A S I N C E R I T Y
D N B Y T I S O R E N E G R E
E B S K R O W Y B T O N T U L
E A U T Y C R E M S I M F T E
C D S I N N G R E A T O I H V
X E P S L E Z I D N A R G G A
E I E H U D I D E C D A L O T
N F N Y O R S C U T N T O O E
H I S A H N A U I I U O R D H
A T I L O E O N P F O R I W T
N S O E P A C R C I F I F I I
C U N D E S E R V E D U Y L A
E J L A R R E F E D E M S L F

But He Needed to Go Through Samaria

By Earl Myers

In one of the July devotions of *Our Daily Bread*, the writer cites that life's path is often difficult, using the people of Israel as a prime example. After hundreds of years of bondage in Egypt, God, under the leadership of Moses, led them to the Promised Land; however, He, "Did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near" (Exodus 13:17). He was fearful that the Israelites would change their minds when confronted by a powerful, war-like people, and they would decide to return to Egypt.



Although they would spend many years wandering through the desert because of their disobedience, God had a plan that would ultimately bring them to the land that He had chosen for them.

God's Son, many years later, also had a plan as "He left Judea and departed again to Galilee, but He needed to go through Samaria" (John 4:3-4). While the people from this area were despised by the Jews as they avoided it by traveling around the province, Jesus was

compelled to take the direct route because He would encounter a woman to whom He would reveal Himself as The Messiah.

Jesus, in counsel with the Father, knows the best path for us as we seek His will for direction and purpose. Often, perhaps, we can get side tracked by the worries and cares of this world, but if we turn over these matters to Him in prayer, we can be assured that "God's timing is always right-wait patiently for Him".

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church
19911 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33647
Phone: (813) 973-2484
Email: office@tampabaypresbyterian.org

