

TBPRES TRUMPET



October 2016

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

Volume 11 Issue 10

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

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From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Approaching the Upcoming Presidential Election

The upcoming Presidential election is causing many people to question how to vote this cycle. A larger-than-usual number of people are not satisfied with any of the candidates. So, how should we as Christians approach the upcoming Presidential election?

In a letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul offered a note of encouragement that we should find helpful in this election cycle. After warning Timothy to stay on his guard against false teachers, Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

Interestingly, Paul urged prayer first of all for those in power rather than for those closest to him. Yes, by all means pray for all people, but Paul noted that those in leadership should be at the top of the list for prayer. Prayer reminds us that all things – even the most prominent political office in the world – are under God's sovereign authority. Prayer reminds us that our ultimate hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ, not in the office of the President.

Paul went on to explain the reason for praying for those in leadership. He said that we should pray for leaders "that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:2). Prayer in fact paves the way to life of peace. Without prayer, we are liable to resort to conflict, hostility, and aggression.

Someone may wonder if prayer is just pie-in-the-sky wishful thinking that will do little to change the status quo. However, as the Swiss theologian Karl Barth once said, "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

Praying actually is the most powerful activity a Christian can do. Let us lift up our hearts in prayer against the present disorder – in our hearts, as well as in our nation – and ask God to bring his kingdom to bear upon all.



Music Notes

Fall Season Choirs in Full Swing

Kids Of The King – 5 years through 3rd Grade – Wednesday Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Contact Debi Hensley or Michele Atkinson.

Dare 2 Declare – 4th Grade through 8th Grade – Wednesday Rehearsal 6:15p.m. - 7:00p.m. Contact Brooke Stinnett or Jess Hensley.

Worship Choir – 9th Grade to whatever you care to admit. Wednesday Rehearsal 7:13 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Contact Debi Hensley or Pat Smith.

A Cappella Chorale – 8th Grade and up. Contact Millie Myers regarding joining and rehearsal schedule.

Choirs are all in full swing learning tons of great music and reconnecting with friends and making new friends. ***IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!!! Just show up at rehearsal and we will get you connected.***

SAVE THE DATE – Christmas Outreach

Never too early to think of Christmas, so mark your calendar now for Sunday, December 18th, 2:00 p.m. to join the Music Ministry in Christmas caroling at a local assisted living facility, Westbrook Manor. Choirs will sing and we all get to sing favorite Christmas songs with the residents. It was a blast last year and we can't wait to go again – we hope YOU make plans to join us.

Can you name this tune . . .

*I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
Now I surrender*

Contact Debi Hensley at dhensley@dgfirm.com

Trumpet Staff

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Nancy Morrison
Co-editors

It is the goal of the Trumpet staff to provide articles for learning and growing, news for connecting with our church family, and information on opportunities for service and participation.

The views and opinions expressed in the Trumpet have not been reviewed or endorsed by the Session.

Please forward articles, ministry reports and calendar items for the next edition of the Trumpet to jhigby@dgfirm.com by the 20th of the month.

TBPRES WOMEN

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: LIVING IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

By Joan Kosanovich

Have you ever struggled with obeying God faithfully when you're surrounded by a society that inundates you with messages against him? If so, you're not alone! The Israelites experienced the same difficulties. This year, WBS is delving into this timely topic with a study by Tim Keller, focusing on the Old Testament books of Judges and Daniel, and the life of Joseph. As we dig into the lessons, we will learn about how to stay obedient and faithful to the Lord, even as those around us discount, disrespect, vilify, or ignore him as the One True God. All with the assurance that through Christ, God forgives our failures.

Monday evening 6:30-8:30 lessons started on September 12, and the Wednesday morning 9:00-11:30 session began on September 21. We are thrilled to welcome many new participants as well as returning familiar sisters! More than 30 women attended the studies so far. We are blessed to have a wonderful multigenerational and multicultural group of ladies to grow together, edify each other, share insights and wisdom, and build deeper relationships!

Women's Bible Study sessions are open to all women, including high school students (with free child care available both on Monday night and Wednesday morning), so don't be shy about bringing a friend for precious fellowship and captivating discussions about a subject that is encouraging to contemporary Christian ladies. Please don't miss this glorious opportunity to grow in the knowledge of our Lord, and to build deeper, sweeter connections with your sisters in Christ! There is absolutely no pressure – come when you can – mornings, evenings, or a mixture of both. The only cost is \$10 for the materials for the entire two-semester study; scholarships are available. We welcome you to WBS with eager anticipation!



October Anniversaries

Noel, George & Melissa	October 1	11 years
Bowman, Mike & Yong	October 12	37 years
Todd, Jody & Christine	October 13	32 years
Kaiser, Roger & Dee	October 14	21 years
Webster, Adam & Kyrsteen	October 22	5 years
Burns, Joe & Cindy	October 23	33 years
Atkinson, Chris & Michele	October 28	21 years



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

The Bible in Miniature

By Earl A. Myers, Jr.

Martin Luther said concerning the book of Titus, "Less than 700 words in the original Greek, yet what words they are! In this short epistle, we have a model of Christian doctrine in which is included, in masterful fashion, all that is necessary for a Christian to know and live by. Only the inspired wisdom of the greatest of the apostles would have traced so divine a summary with so unfaltering a hand. It is unparalleled for beauty and completeness. It is majestic in sweep from Christ's 1st advent to His final return in glory."

Titus, 1st Timothy, and 2nd Timothy are often referred to as the "Pastoral Epistles." Since the 18th century, they are frequently considered together because of their striking similarities in style, vocabulary, and setting. Also, they stand apart from the other Pauline letters in that they are the only ones written to Paul's Gospel coworkers. Written primarily to describe church structure, pastoral, elder, and deacon responsibilities, and to teach Christian living in response to the Gospel, they share a common theme: the inseparable link between faith and practice - belief and behavior.

While Verse 5 of Chapter 3 is often the most quoted and best remembered verse in Titus, there are verses in Chapter 2 that one commentator has remarked are the most concise summation in the entire New Testament of the relation of Gospel truth to life. He goes on to state that these verses are most notable for their perfect balance of doctrine and living. Having read them in my youth, I was so astonished by their presence and the impact they had on my thinking that I committed them to memory and often refer to them whenever the situation dictates. Because they have such depth and substance, I have written and expounded them in numerous Bible group settings and self-titled them, "The Bible in Miniature."

In future months, following the 1st of the year, I hope to amplify this marvelous passage that has meant so much to me, and hopefully will also be to you, the readers. In anticipation of that time, it is well to consider Titus 2, Verses 11-15:

11. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,
12. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this, the present age,
13. Looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ;
14. Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of his own, zealous of good works.
15. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke, with all authority. Let no man despise you.

TBPRES WOMEN



By Suzanne Swenson

I recently read an article about our God being a God of second chances, fresh starts, and new beginnings. I love that! God gives us a fresh start not only on Christmas, New Year's Day, or birthdays, but EVERY day of EVERY week. How many times do we grumble about it being Monday and how much we enjoyed the weekend? I know I have, but if I stop and rejoice in knowing that our Lord is giving us a fresh start every day of every week: *oh happy day!!!*

Several years ago, I wrote a few sentences on this subject and shared them with a couple of publications. I would like to share those thoughts - titled "The Gift" - with you, too:

It is the morning of a new day, and I have before me an unopened gift.

It is light as well as dark, long as well as short, it moves, and has depth.

I loosen the ribbons, and remove the paper to find a gift of time.

It is a whole new day and it is all mine. Thank you, God, for this wonderful gift.

As part of the TBPC family, we have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the 2016 Love Gift, sponsored by the PCA Women's Ministry. The Women's Love Gift has blessed committees and agencies such as Mission to North America's (MNA's) Special Needs Ministries, Mission to the World's (MTW's) efforts to support the Gonaives, Haiti Children's Home, and other such ministries. This year the gift recipient is Parakaleo, a PCA-MNA ministry that encourages, networks, and coaches church planting couples. It was founded in 2005 to serve as a lifeline for the couples to learn how their identity in Christ relates to their performance and their marital relationship. This effort provides an opportunity for growth and transformation not only for the couple but for the new church as well. TBPC will have a special offering at the end of worship service on October 9, 2016. What a wonderful opportunity to be part of a project that offers opportunities for second chances, fresh starts, and new beginnings! Praise the Lord!

October Birthdays

Jim Childers	October 1	Bonnie Hutton	October 17
Betty McQueen	October 4	Zach Tomasello	October 21
Keri Gawrych	October 8	Mike Bowman	October 23
Joyce McNulty	October 11	Alan Polasky	October 23
Barbara Bentley	October 12	Lexi Becker	October 26
Micah Dixon	October 13	Tommy Justice	October 26
Lindsay Montoney	October 16	Cade Darbyshire	October 27
Lou Bentley	October 17	Nathaniel Barquin	October 31

Truth Matters Today: A Hobson's Choice* Election?

By Joe Burns, truthmatterstoday@tampabay.rr.com

**A reference to Thomas Hobson (c.1544-1631), Cambridge stable manager who [rented] horses and gave customers a choice of the horse next in line or none at all.ⁱ*

From time to time in life, a serious quandary arises which seems to have no pleasing—or possibly even safe—resolution. Our upcoming election for president is such a situation for many Americans.

ⁱⁱNeither of the major-party candidates are highly esteemed or even generally respected. Each has prominent character issues that have shown up during examinations of their activities prior to entering the 2016 race. The fact that both have personalities that drive people away vice draw them in also repels voters. The shadow of Mr. Hobson looms as many plan to turn away from the voting-stable door convinced that not voting is better than voting for someone for whom they have contempt. You may very well be in that group. If so, perhaps an analogy could help illustrate some dangers of treading that path.



Suppose you are so concerned about the direction of our country under the leadership of a President Clinton or President Trump that you decide it's time to leave America and settle in a new, simpler place outside our nation's borders where you can live what you believe will be a simpler life as a farmer. Not long after you set up residence on a large farm there, you are told that your new country's government just passed a law that every farmer must have at least one pig or one hog as part of their farm. Though you suspect the powerful swine lobby is to blame, you know you have no choice but to comply if you want to avoid the chance of losing the farm you bought with nearly every cent of your life's savings. But which should you choose? Pig or hog?

Choose the one that you believe will do less damage to your barnyard. Not sure which one that is? Pick the one that your observations indicate will be the least-destructive swine.

So too with our upcoming election. Which candidate, the pig or the hog, is likely to do less damage to our barnyard? Moreover, what's the measuring tape? Like all things in the lives of Christians, His word should inform our opinions and decisions on this weighty issue.

Consider the crucial issues that follow as a sample of what's important to Him. Then evaluate how the candidates' platforms and positions conform with God's expectation in each area.

Fidelity: This is the subject of God's first commandment, so it makes sense that Christians should vote for someone who will draw us towards a deeper devotion to God as a nation...or at least the candidate who will pull us away from Him at the slower rate. Two of the earthly gods constantly seeking to replace our Heavenly Father are self and the state.

Self as God: The overarching ideology of the era we live in is personal autonomy...man wanting to make all the rules. In essence, man wanting to be like God. You know our country is in mortal danger when so many are committing the same sin that separated Satan from God.ⁱⁱⁱ When self is God, each individual is the sole arbiter of what's right...at least for them. Behaviors outlawed in God's word—the basis of morality in America for more than 200 years—have been increasingly normalized. Check the candidates' positions. Which one most strongly supports programs and policies that encourage this dangerous ideology, an ideology that equates every mortal man on the face of the earth with the creator of the earth and all that exists...including them?

State as God: Contemporary culture is looking more and more to governments of men to meet their needs. Our government seems anxious to play the role of Jehovah, provider of manna and quail in the wilderness. Plus, there are ardent activists within all three branches of our government who sanction or seek to increase the government's role in other areas such as health care, shelter, and college educations. When a nation depends on the state to provide each citizen's needs, the state becomes their God. Check the candidates' positions. Do they reveal support for our nation's trend in this direction? Or, is there a candidate who seems to be interested in reversing or slowing the current trend?



Law: Throughout history, God has demonstrated an acute focus on ensuring His people did what He required and stayed away from activities He outlawed. Those who devoted themselves to His law were exalted (David, for example). Those who broke them were punished. If a candidate has a broad and deep record of breaking laws without suffering any accountability, how likely is it that such a candidate will faithfully enforce laws themselves

in an age where rioting is becoming commonplace? Anarchy can't be far behind when our laws aren't upheld and law-breakers aren't held accountable. Worse yet, the ^{iv}next president will appoint one or more Supreme Court Justices and scores of judges across the county. In so doing, the new president will have a huge influence on defining what is right and what is wrong under the law. The new president's legacy in the arena of laws will last for generations to come. Do the research. Which of the two major-party presidential hopefuls is most likely to appoint justices and judges that truly and faithfully interpret the original intent of our Constitution and laws? Too often, the Israelite's spurned God's laws and suffered severely for it. The same will happen to us if we spurn the Constitution, which was built on Christian principles,^v and the laws based on it.

Life: There is no question that our Creator has sanctified human life. Yet our society has yielded to those who believe abortion should be an exception to the rule that murder is a crime. As a result, millions of Americans are murdered every year without consequence through this heartless and selfish crime against our most defenseless citizens. Yet candidates across our country seek to continue this barbaric infanticide by dressing it up

as something positive: Women's rights. [Check the talking points and platforms.](#) One candidate's position on abortion has been somewhat ambiguous. The other has left no doubt that abortion (also described as "reproductive freedom") should continue to be legal and even expanded in scope. **Can you live with the idea that you become a co-conspirator in this daily massacre by choosing not to vote at all or voting for someone who supports it?**

So, here's the crux. Hobson's unsatisfied customers of the 17th century only had to choose if they would ride or walk, perhaps for just one day. There was no impact of their decision on anyone else. The same was true for every consumer who followed them in the line at the stable door.

Not so our upcoming election. Your choice there will potentially affect millions alive today, millions more who will be living in the next several decades and millions more still who will be slaughtered inside (or just outside) their mother's womb before their first breath.

Despite the fact that this election pits a pig against a hog, the stakes remain at least as high as other presidential contests in our lifetimes. As Christians, will we choose to commit ourselves to candidates whose platforms and positions align with what God holds dear?

In truth, there's actually not much difference between pigs and hogs^{vi}. On the other hand, there are numerous significant differences between the major-party candidates that promise two different paths for Americans.

As far as voting for one of the minor-party candidates, you might as well enter a piglet in a horse race. Even if you believe both major-party candidates are bad for America, you're forfeiting your opportunity to help elect the least dangerous. Besides, do you know where those minor-party candidates fit in on these crucial issues?

So, what part will you play in defining our nation's future under God?

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ⁱ <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/hobson-s-choice>

ⁱⁱ Graphic: <http://tinyurl.com/jxf7y4t>

ⁱⁱⁱ Isaiah 14:12-15

^{iv} Image: <http://tinyurl.com/z88nll8>

^v Bennet, W. J. (1997). *The Spirit of America*; previously published as *Our Sacred Honor*. New York, NY: Touchstone. pp. 314, 366-367

^{vi} <http://www.righteousbacon.com/when-a-pig-is-a-hog-and-when-its-not/>

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