

TBPRES TRUMPET



October 2024

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

Volume 19 Issue 10

From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Digital Devices and Worship

As your pastor, I believe it is important to share my thoughts on a particular matter, even if they may not align with everyone's views. Your consideration means a lot to me.

I understand that the convenience of digital devices is appealing. It's easier to carry a smartphone or tablet than a paper Bible. However, I believe there's a more profound significance to this choice.

Recently, I read an article in which the author suggested several reasons not to use a digital device in worship. Let me give some of them to you.

First, digital devices often distract people who are using them. Notifications pop up on the device. The person may feel the desire to respond to the notification. That is a distraction.

Second, digital devices may distract other people. The person next to you may see your device and want to know what you are looking at. The article's author said that he saw the person next to him looking at the football rankings and found himself staring at them much longer than he needed to.

Third, digital devices may communicate the wrong priorities. Even if you focus on the Bible and sermon, you may be communicating that you are more focused on your digital device than on the God you are worshiping.

There are other important reasons not to use a digital device in worship, but I will save them for another time.

I haven't been to a movie theater in several years. However, the last time I attended a movie, there was a clear, bold sign asking the patrons to turn off and not use their digital devices during the movie.

Could movie theaters have higher standards than worship sanctuaries?

Freddy



Elder and Deacon Installation: Waldo Kemp and Michael Rush



Belize Missions Trip

By Scott Simmons

JULY
20 – 27,
2024

Perhaps the saying, “The road to hell is paved with good intentions” is a bit over the top. However, good intentions cannot substitute for performance. I had intended this article for the September Trumpet. Much has been happening. My intentions were good, but I failed to perform. So, the article is one month late and it is a follow-up report on TBPC’s Short-Term Missions Trip to Belmopan and Belize City, Belize from July 20 – 27, 2024.

I believe Martine Extermann and Jennifer Isaac did a fantastic job of keeping you informed about each day of our trip. Upon returning home, two from our team—Ed Jordan and Jennifer Issac—during the worship service shared with you some highlights we experienced. Since it was a missions team from Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church sent by TBPC carrying



out the ministry of TBPC, we truly desired that you felt a part of the trip because you were. Without you, the nine of us could not have gone to do this amazing work the Lord brought to pass.

The Lord’s watchful care over the trip was evident before we left. The decision was made to add the extension to the existing wooden structure before we arrived

because of the rainy weather. TBPC made this possible with a \$4,000 gift. Without the extension, we would not have had enough space on Sunday for the worship service. We would have been in the rain. In addition, without the extension, there would not have been sufficient space for the number of children taking part in VBS.

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The Lord made sure all of our team made the flight from Tampa to Miami to catch our connecting flight to Belize. The last call for boarding had been made and the doors had been closed. We should have missed the flight. However, the right American Airline personnel were there to let 7 of our team onto the plane. Then after the doors were closed a second time the right American Airlines personnel happened by at just the right time to let the rest of our team onto the flight. The Lord's hand was evident.

It rained heavily when we were there—Saturday and Sunday. The rain stopped when it needed to on Monday through Wednesday for VBS and to paint in answer to prayer. Also, the word about VBS spread more than doubling the number of children after the first day.

When we left Belmopan for Belize City to complete painting St. Andrews PC Hootenanny Green, it rained. The rain did not stop us. We were also lacking some needed tools. Tools were purchased and found. Amazingly, the painting was completed. Once again, we saw the Lord's hand of provision. Our flights home were uneventful for which we were very grateful. It was for the 9 of us a wonderful experience of the Lord's watchful care and provision. There was so much that revealed how the Lord oversaw our trip, there is not enough space or time to share all that took place. To you, the congregation of TBPC, we are grateful for your generous support.

There is wonderful follow-up information. On the Sunday after we came home, 9 of the children who came to the VBS at the Great Commission Presbyterian Church plant in Belmopan attended the service with some or all of their family.

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We have learned these children continue to attend with family. In Belize City at St. Andrews PC, the members completed painting the roof. In addition, we noticed they were having youth and children's activity which they implemented sometime after our visit last year. Finally, a wonderful sign has been placed on the fence around the Great Commission PC property so those walking or driving by can see the name of the church and get some general information. The sign was the result of a suggestion and gift from one of our team. In addition, another amazing act of the Lord, all the money has been raised to lay the foundation for the permanent church building.

What will happen concerning a short-term missions trip next year remains to be seen. If you are interested, do let Martine Extermann know. Also, it is our hope that going on such a trip will get you involved with missions and move you to share with others the importance of spreading the Gospel and planting churches beyond our culture.

With hearts grateful to the Lord our God,
Scott A. Simmons

On behalf of the Belize Missions Team of Martine Extermann, Jennifer Isaac, Jennifer Schumm, David Cunningham, Ed and Debbie Jordan, Raymond and Lupita Arias, and Scott Simmons.



October Anniversaries

Joe & Cindy Burns

October 23, 1983

Tokini & Zainab Karibi-Whyte

October 23, 2004

October Birthdays

Anna Sauls	October 4	Theo Smoot	October 22
Jennifer Schumm	October 6	Alan Polasky	October 23
Christopher Powe	October 8	Alice Wiens	October 23
Morgan Sauls	October 9	Laura Highfill	October 24
Joyce McNulty	October 11	CJ McLaughlin	October 24
Abraham Bayard	October 12	Jeff Skipper	October 25
Karthi Selvaraj	October 12	Adam Bridges	October 27
John Stodghill	October 14	Ken Smoot	October 27
Isabel Schultz	October 15	Marisa Starr-Braschler	October 27
Emily Washburn	October 15	Bill Clarke	October 29
Bonnie Hutton	October 17	Rosa Mojica	October 30



New Tampa Christian Academy INC.
Excellence in Christian Education

Dear TBPC Family,

It has been a great start to our 2024-25 school year. The children have adjusted well to the classroom routines and schedules, as well as building relationships with their teachers and friends. Everyone seems to be settling in great and we celebrate that!

The Fall season is approaching and we are getting ready to host our Scholastic Book Fair and Storybook Character Parade in October. This is always a fun time for the families to see their little ones participating and for families to have a time of fellowship.

As I am adjusting to my role as Director at NTCA, I am eager to embark on a wonderful school year. I am looking forward to seeing the children growing, learning, and exploring. I ask God to help us bring him glory in everything we do and say. I am thankful to God for blessing our school and keeping us in the palms of his hands. I am thankful for every family represented at NTCA, every child, and for all the staff. Please continue to pray for NTCA throughout the school year and to God be the Glory!

Susanne Gonzalez
Director





ESL First Impressions for the New School Year

We have had a fantastic beginning to the new ESL 2024-2025 school year!

We have welcomed new students and three new teachers! Clydia Craig is a new teacher with an evening Level 2 class. Emily Washburn is a new teacher with an Intermediate Class. David Lehman is a new teacher with a Beginner Level 1 Class on Thursday mornings in –person. We are so happy to have them join our program!

We have 92 students in 10 classes. Many of our returning students have chosen to advance to a higher level! It is so wonderful to see their increasing confidence and eagerness to improve their English.

We had many students that stayed in touch with each other throughout the summer. Some of the classes have WhatsApp chat groups. Teachers periodically posted a question for the students to answer in English. We saw many wonderful pictures from students and teachers who traveled over the summer. In many of our first classes, students practiced conversation skills by sharing their summer

experiences. It has been so wonderful to see each other again after a three-month summer break. We are all so excited for our new year!

Karen Cross

For over five years, it has been my pleasure to participate in the English as a Second Language program. I co-teach with Michelle Shearer and thoroughly enjoy it. It is exciting to watch the students come into class at the start of a new year, greeting each other warmly and often bringing a treat to share. Often I notice that the students become family and help each other.

From time to time I have heard students referring to the program as not just a class but the basics for friendships, sharing God’s Word, and learning life skills. The individual classes are divided into two parts which includes an English grammar session, followed by a devotion and conversation about God’s Word.

Suzanne Swenson



The Beginner level 2 zoom class is taught by Laila Valere and Marsha Otto. Sandy Carruth is observing the class. On September 12, our second meeting of the school year, we had 12 students participate. The students are so happy to be back. In addition to our former students, we have 4 new students. Some students live in the Tampa area but others join us from Canada, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia, Virginia, Texas and London. Their native languages are Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Chinese.

Even though we are not together physically, we have formed a bond with our students. It is a blessing to be a part of this ministry.

Marsha Otto

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.
Leviticus 19:34 ESV

Reformation Day Celebration

“SOLA SCRIPTURA”

Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise; then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in Your word.

(Psalm 119:41-42)

The foundations seem to be crumbling. Christian morals are mocked. Church leaders embrace lifestyles contrary to the faith they profess.

The struggles of today have plagued the Church throughout history. Over 500 years ago, the humanism of the Renaissance caused many, including religious leaders, to turn from God's Word to embrace worldly goals and political power. On Reformation Day, we celebrate God's faithfulness to bring His people back to Him. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted the ninety-five theses opposing the worldliness of the Church in his day. This bold act of protest launched

the Protestant Reformation. Others followed him, and the reformers emphasized five absolutes. The first of these “solas” was “sola scriptura” (“only Scripture”): the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the only guide for salvation and a life that is pleasing to God.

Today, the waves of societal change can overwhelm us. Church leaders are tempted to “go with what works” by combining Scripture with cultural norms, marketing techniques, and human imagination. To avoid the futility of life apart from God, the Church of today must never stray from the “sola scriptura” of the Reformation.

The Reformation was God's instrument to bring His people back to a faith centered on Him.

The first chapter of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* defines well the value of Scripture:

“It pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which makes the holy Scripture to be most necessary...” (WCF 1.1).

The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men (WCF 1.6).

The anonymous British hymn writer known as “K” summarized this cornerstone of the Reformation even further in John Rippon’s *Selection of Hymns*:

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid
for your faith in His excellent Word!

What more can He say than to you He has said, to you
who for refuge to Jesus have fled?



Presbyterian Church in America

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1700 North Brown Road | Suite 102 | Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043
www.pcabookstore.com | 1.800.283.1357

Calendar of Events: 2024-25



Fall

- Women's Bible Study
9/3- 11/19
- Men's Breakfast
9/7
- Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
9/8 - 12/22
- Men's Bible Study
9/14 - 12/21
- Men's Fishing Trip
TBD
- Membership Class
11/18
- Thanksgiving Dinner &
Service
11/24

WINTER

- Beginning of Advent
12/1
- Women's Christmas
Brunch
12/7
- Men's Breakfast
12/14
- Christmas Eve Service
12/24
- Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
1/12 - 3/26
- Men's Bible Study
1/4 - 3/29
- Women's Bible Study
1/7 - 3/31
- Missions Conference
2/14 - 2/16
- Membership Class
2/16

Spring

- Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
4/6 - 5/25
- Men's Bible Study
4/5 - 5/24
- Women's Bible Study
4/1 - 5/27
- Passion Week
Maundy Thursday Service
4/17
- Good Friday Service
4/18
- Easter Sunday
4/20
- ESL End of Year Lunch
4/26
- Youth End of Year Party
TBD
- Membership Class
5/18

SUMMER

- Vacation Bible School
TBD
- Missions Trip
TBD
- Membership Class
8/17

Contact us



facebook.com/tbpres



www.tampabaypresbyterian.org

19911 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33647

813-973-2484

office@tbpc.org

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Scott Simmons,
Assistant Pastor

Melissa Bayley,
Office Administrator

Stephanie Smoot,
Nursery

LeeAnn DeStefano,
Office Assistant

Yanet Bermudez Ortiz,
Music Director / Pianist

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Eileen Fritz &
Debbie Jordan

Men's Bible Study
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Men's Ministry
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Youth
Bert Barber

NTCA
Susanne Gonzalez

Trumpet Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz, *Editor-in-Chief*

Grace Lee, *Co-Editor*

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, pictures, ministry reports, and calendar items for the next edition of the *Trumpet* to grace76548@gmail.com by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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

