

# TBPRES TRUMPET



April 2024

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

Volume 19 Issue 4

## From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

### The Resurrection of Jesus

Almost forty years ago, Chuck Colson was in India. Colson had spent time in prison for his role in the Watergate scandal that eventually toppled Richard Nixon from serving as the President of the United States. Colson spoke to crowds of people who wanted to hear his testimony regarding his involvement in the Watergate scandal that eventually led to his conversion to Jesus Christ. Colson described his experience:

When I was in India last fall I had many opportunities to tell what Christ has done in my life. The thousands of faces in those predominantly Hindu crowds would nod and smile as I shared my experience. Hindus believe all roads lead to God—if Jesus was my guru, that was fine. They all had their gurus, too.

But when I spoke of the reason for my faith, the resurrection of Christ, the nods would stop. People's expressions changed and they listened intently. The fact of the Resurrection demands a choice, one that reduces all other religions to mere philosophies (*Christianity Today*, March 21, 1986, p. 72).

The difference between Christianity and every other religion is that Christianity is based on historical facts. God invaded history in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect life. Jesus went to the cross. Jesus died and was buried. Three days later, Jesus rose back to life again.

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Almost three centuries ago in England, two men set out to disprove Christianity. One was a well-known English jurist and literary scholar named Lord Littleton. The other was Gilbert West. They agreed that if Christianity was to be discredited, two things were necessary: to disprove the resurrection and to explain the conversion of Saul of Tarsus in a way that satisfied the skeptics. The two men divided these tasks between themselves, Lord Littleton taking the problem of Saul of Tarsus and Gilbert West agreeing to research the resurrection. They invested over a year in their studies, then met together again to compare notes. Each one was astonished to discover that the other had become a Christian.

The evidence for the resurrection of Jesus is compelling and convincing.

Let us believe the resurrection and tell others about the resurrection. Our lives will be changed. And the lives of others will be changed, too.

*Breddy*

### **byFaith Magazine Update**

As you may already know, byFaith recently transitioned to a digital-only format. Instead of a quarterly print magazine, readers should now look to byfaithonline.com for the news and feature articles they've read for years. The content is updated daily. Hence, byFaith readers will benefit from checking the web page frequently, as they would other online news sources. You can always have updates delivered directly to your inbox by subscribing here (at byfaithonline.com).



## **Books to Give**

A number of Christian books and history books were donated and are available at the church for anyone who is interested. Please let Scott Simmons know if you would like to browse the titles. After Sunday morning service is generally a good time.

# FINISH WELL

When I retired from teaching in 2010, I looked forward to years of relaxation with my family and being able to enjoy each day without the time constraints of countless obligations and responsibilities. When I relayed these thoughts to my oldest daughter, Sarah, she talked about the idea of finishing well. I was convicted by that conversation. I needed to realize that I still have much to contribute and that I should actively endeavor to serve the Lord in my senior years and not to reach a plateau but to keep on growing and serving.

The Lord has provided an opportunity to do just that—to finish well. The ESL program has given me the opportunity to be a missionary at home. When I began teaching, I supposed that most of my students would be Hispanic. To my surprise, over half of my students speak Arabic.

I would not be able to share Jesus in their countries of origin—Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria—but they have come to us. Each week we are able to share the gospel through a devotional, scripture and a time of prayer.

If you are looking for a way to serve God and bless those who want to learn English, consider finishing well by becoming a part of this blessed ministry.

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race.

I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”

2 Timothy 4: 6-8.

Marsha Otto





“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)

We are excited to let you all know that your Hospitality Ministry is hoping to offer some additional events! We will have a brief (15-20 minute) meeting after the worship service in the Youth Room on **April 14, 2024**, and welcome anyone interested in learning more. Anyone with questions, please reach out to Joan Kosanovich ([jmkosanovich@gmail.com](mailto:jmkosanovich@gmail.com)) or by text/phone at 352-206-7887.

As ever, we are happy to welcome light snacks to have with the coffee and tea each week should anyone wish to contribute. We ask that items be purchased (rather than homemade) and kept in the original packaging. Snacks may be brought with no required commitment to the Hospitality Ministry, but we also are happy to welcome anyone who would like to volunteer.

If you are interested in serving in Hospitality, in a any capacity, or for more information, please contact Joan Kosanovich or the church office. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and the Kingdom.

Children ages 4 years (by June 1st) through 5th grade (completed) may attend  
**VBS 2024 at Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church!**

Monday, June 24th through Friday, June 28th, 9:00AM to 12:00PM daily.

Registration information coming soon.



Various ways for adults and youth to VOLUNTEER!!

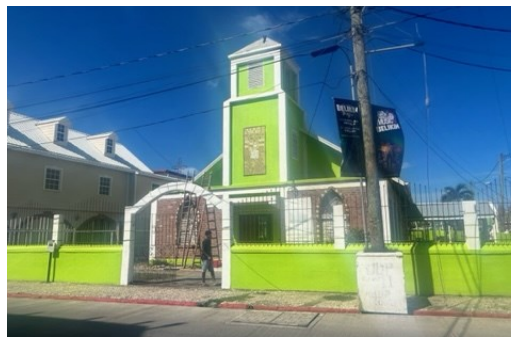
During VBS: guide a travel group, assist at a station, lead games, play with toddlers

Before VBS: donate craft and snack supplies, prepare crafts, assist with decorations

Find out how you can help!

Call Mike-813.482.2350 or Toni-646.335.2097 or email [mikeandtoni05@gmail.com](mailto:mikeandtoni05@gmail.com)

# BELIZE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP



The expressed interest in TBPC's Missions Trip to Belmopan, Belize has been most encouraging.

The essential information about our trip is as follows:

**The Date:** Saturday **July 20** thru Saturday **July 27**.

**The Cost:** Approximately \$1,700 for airfare, food, lodging, transportation, and evacuation insurance.

**Age:** To go one must be at least 14 years old and if under 18, accompanied by a parent, responsible family member at least 21 years of age, or legal guardian.

**Other:** A passport is required, medical insurance, an up-to-date tetanus shot, and money for personal expenses.

The first part of the trip will be to assist the church plant in reaching out to the Belmopan community. We will host a Vacation Bible School on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. It will also involve inviting the community to take part in the VBS and letting them know about the church. On Thursday, we will go to Belize City to help finish painting St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (Hootenanny Green).

You may wonder about Sunday. We will engage in worship with churches in Belize as well as visit in the community. Friday will be our free day or as some think of it, our fun day. There is much to see and enjoy in Belize. Saturday, July 27, we will return home.

There is paperwork that must be filled out not only for TBPC, but also for Mission to the World. The sooner we can get the paperwork in process, the better.

The great value of a short-term missions trip is visiting a mission field with one of our supported missionaries. You will get a better understanding of missions and, we trust, come home motivated to encourage and support the great work of missions.

Scott Simmons

On behalf of the Missions Committee

# Youth Group Family Cookout

Photos courtesy of Jill Otero



# APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Richard & Janice Thompson	April 4, 1971
Todd & Melissa Bayley	April 14, 1990
Edwin & Diane Rothfuss	April 15, 1967
Jason & Coleen Knecht	April 18, 1998
James & Cathy Turpen	April 22, 2004

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

David Lehmann	Apr 4	David Otero	Apr 17
Florence MacLeod	Apr 4	Richard Thompson	Apr 18
Waldo Kemp	Apr 10	Gabriel McNulty	Apr 20
Charlie Cacioppo	Apr 11	Grace Lee	Apr 22
Ashley Powe	Apr 11	Rohan Linton	Apr 23
Janice Thompson	Apr 11	Fidelia Mas-Beazel	Apr 24
Michael Bridges	Apr 15	Marsha Otto	Apr 27
Robert Almonte	Apr 17	Tom Yu	Apr 27
Jack McNulty	Apr 17	Caleb Massie	Apr 30



# TBPC ADOPT-A-MISSIONARY PROGRAM

The TBPC Adopt-A-Missionary Program began in 2020 to help our ministry groups get to know our supported missionaries and chaplains through communication and prayer. TBPC currently supports 8 missionary families with prayer, encouragement, communication, and financial support. We also support, in all areas except financial, 2 chaplain families who are associated with the Presbyterian & Reformed Commission on Chaplains & Military Personnel (PRCC) and Mission to North America (PCA).

The Missions Committee would now like for this opportunity to be available to families and individuals in addition to church ministries. How much more will our missionaries, chaplains, and their families be encouraged if our prayers and communications are multiplied! The expanded program began on Saturday,

February 10, at the Missions Conference Dinner here at the church. Sign-up sheets and information on each of our missionaries and chaplains was available at the dinner and in the church foyer for a few weeks following. Our 2024 Missionary Profiles brochure provides information and a photo of each family with contact information, birthdays, and anniversaries. In addition, helpful information on praying for missionaries is included in Appendix B. Missionary newsletters and updates received



throughout the year also provide good information in better knowing your missionary and how to pray for them. These are emailed to the entire church family as received and also included in the *Intercessor* weekly prayer guide. Your role as an Adopter will be to faithfully pray for your missionary/chaplain family and periodically communicate your encouragement to them via email or snail mail. Cards for birthdays and holidays are one way to do this. Gifts are not a good idea, particularly for families living outside of the U.S.

Will you consider adopting one of our missionaries/chaplains for a year until our 2025 Missions Conference? This commitment to regular prayer and encouraging communication will bring blessings to the missionary/chaplain family and also to you as you follow the Great Commission of our Lord. Please call Nancy Morrison, Missionary Care Coordinator, 828-674-2614, if you have any questions or would like more information.

# Women's Winter Bible Studies



Continue tracing the unfolding story about Jesus as the main focus of all Scripture as we study from the Gospels with RC Sproul and then the Great Commission with Buck Parsons.

## MONDAY EVENINGS

(JAN 8, 2024)

6:30-8:30

ZOOM

Abby Hutto points out that each work of Jesus narrated in John reveals an aspect of God's character and nature, along with modern-day testimonials applying these truths.

## TUESDAY EVENINGS

(JAN 16, 2024)

5:30-7:30

TBPC

## TUESDAY MORNINGS

(JAN 9, 2024)

10:00-12:00

TBPC

STUDY GUIDES IN THE NARTHEX TODAY \$20

# Calendar of Events: 2023-24



## Fall

## Winter

## Spring

## Summer

Women's Small Group  
9/5 - 11/14

Women's Bible Study  
9/11 - 11/14

Men's Breakfast  
9/16

Adult Bible Fellowship  
Children & Youth SS  
9/3 - 12/17

Men's Bible Study  
9/2 - 12/17

Youth Group  
7/17 - 12/17

Membership Class  
11/5

Church Retreat  
11/10 - 11/12

Thanksgiving Dinner &  
Service  
11/19

Youth Group  
12/3 - 2/18

Women's Christmas  
Brunch  
12/2

Beginning of Advent  
12/3

Christmas Eve Service  
12/24

Adult Bible Fellowship  
Children & Youth SS  
1/7 - 3/31

Men's Bible Study  
1/7 - 3/30

Women's Bible Study  
1/8 - 3/26

Missions Conference  
2/9- 2/11

Membership Class  
2/18

Passion Week  
Maundy Thursday  
Service  
3/28

Good Friday Service  
3/29

Easter Sunday  
3/31

Youth Group  
4/1 - 5/26

Women's Bible Study  
4/1 - 5/14

Men's Bible Study  
4/6 - 5/25

Adult Bible Fellowship  
Children & Youth SS  
4/7 - 5/26

ESL End of Year Lunch  
4/27

Membership Class  
5/19

Vacation Bible School  
June 24-28

Missions Trip to Belize  
July 20-27

Membership Class  
8/18

Contact us



facebook.com/tbpres



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## Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz,  
*Senior Pastor*

Melissa Bayley,  
*Office Administrator*

Stephanie Smoot,  
*Nursery*

LeeAnn DeStefano,  
*Office Assistant*

Yanet Bermudez Ortiz,  
*Music Director / Pianist*

Bob Morrison,  
*Bookkeeper*

Patricia Harshfield,  
*Custodian*

Ashleigh Kemp,  
*NTCA Director*

## TBPC Ministries

*Adult Bible Fellowship*  
Ed Jordan

*Nursery*  
Stephanie Smoot

*Children*  
Vacant

*Outreach*  
Bert Barber

*Brunch Bunch*  
Alisa Carrier

*Pastoral Care*  
Rev. Freddy Fritz

*Greeters & Welcome Table*  
Brian Carrier

*Ushers*  
Jennifer Schumm

*Hospitality*  
Joan M. Kosanovich

*Women's Bible Study*  
Eileen Fritz &  
Debbie Jordan

*Men's Bible Study*  
Rod Proctor

*Women's Ministry*  
Brandi Shultz

*Men's Ministry*  
Brian Carrier

*Workshop Ministry*  
Melissa Bayley &  
Stephanie Smoot

*Missions*  
Scott Simmons

*Youth*  
Bert Barber

*NTCA*  
Ashleigh Kemp

## 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](mailto:grace76548@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

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