



From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Why?

“Why?”

This is one of the questions that are frequently asked by little children.

But “Why?” is also a question that we ask when we encounter troubles or trials or tragedies.

Yet, we often don't get an answer to our question, “Why?”

I recently came across a helpful article by Tim Challies dealing with this question. When sorrows or sufferings come into our lives, here are four responses to help us deal with it.

First, trust God with it. God has given you faith. This faith is not only for your eternal salvation. This faith is also for everyday life. Since God loved you enough to save you, believe that God loves you enough to help you when you encounter difficulties in your life.

Second, consider the answer that would really satisfy your question. God may be doing something in your life that is far beyond your ability to know and grasp. God is working his plans for his glory that may be incomprehensible to you. Would God's answer to your trouble really help you? Job never really learned why God allowed him to suffer. I am not sure that he would have been satisfied if he had learned the reason.

Third, try to think about what God has revealed rather than what he has not revealed. It is futile and frustrating trying to figure out that which God has not revealed. Spend your time pondering and reflecting upon the character of God. Think about his attributes and how he means to develop your character rather than grant you comfort.

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And fourth, turn your focus from “what God did” to “how God is using it.” Since God is sovereign, there is nothing that happens to you that is a surprise to God. He is working all things for his glory and your ultimate good. So, try to think about what good is being developed in your life as a result of the difficulty you are going through.

I pray that God will help you as you deal with troubles or trials or tragedies when—not if—they come into your life. It will not be easy. But, if you follow these four responses, you will find yourself flourishing rather than languishing in the face of your difficulties.

Breddy



**AND LET US NOT GROW WEARY OF DOING
GOOD, FOR IN DUE SEASON WE WILL REAP,
IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.
GALATIANS 6:9**



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.

35th Annual Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 2

Guest Speaker: Betsy Mack

Betsy Mack is the wife to Glenn Mack, d. 5-1-2001, mother to six beautiful girls, mother-in-law to six son-in-laws, grandmother to 15 (with one on the way) grandchildren. She lives in Boca Raton, FL and has known Melissa Bayley for over 30 years. (Really her claim to fame.)

She attends North Creek Presbyterian Church, Coconut Creek, FL, where she teaches a Women's Bible study and directs the Children's Ministry. Her hobbies are Bible studies, grandchildren, and everyone else's grandchildren. She is honored to speak at the Brunch.

Tickets are available for purchase after church in the narthex

October 29 through November 12

Admission is \$18 for girls 8 and older and \$10 for girls ages 5-7.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.

Psalm 37:7a



Hospitality

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

Your Hospitality Ministry looks forward to providing a light meal for the November 5, 2023, Membership Class. Next, the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19 promises to be a beautiful evening for all who can attend. There is a black binder at the Welcome Center in the narthex for sign-ups. Additionally, for any of you who wish to bring food, please use the disposable tins that are next to the display, as they will fit into the sterno trays. Setup and clean up volunteers are needed as well. Any questions may be directed to LeeAnn DeStefano (desleea@hotmail.com; 813-991-8385).

As always, we appreciate any light snacks to have with the coffee and tea each week. We ask that items be purchased (rather than homemade) and kept in the original packaging. Anyone wishing to bring pastries, cookies, or similar store-bought items is welcome to do so, and you do not have to make any commitment to the Hospitality Ministry to bring goodies to share with our TBPC family!

We thank you for prayer, and ask that you continue praying, for our sponsored missionaries, John and Karen Stodghill, who serve the Lord and the people of Belize. We also ask that you pray for the Hospitality Ministry members, for various needs, including health, encouragement, and other needs. Finally, please pray for our church leaders, local, state, and federal leaders, and all who guide us through this amazing journey here on earth.



November Anniversaries

Mike & Toni Cacioppo

November 21, 2014

Jason & Michelle Rucker

November 23, 2016

Wes & Mary Mollard

November 25, 1952



November Birthdays

Brian Carrier

November 4

David Karibi-Whyte

November 18

Holly Huffer

November 7

Alan Wyss

November 21

Tom Moore

November 9

Dildar Gajadhar

November 22

Carrol Josephs-Marshall

November 11

Jason Knecht

November 22

Jeff Huffer

November 13

Roy Riley

November 26

Roger Otero

November 17

Laura Davis-Rotolo

November 28

William Otero

November 17

Diane Cunningham

November 29

Freddy Fritz

November 18



HelloOo, Parents!

Clydia Craig

Do you know all the words to *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*?....How about *Happy Birthday*?...And *Jesus Loves Me*?

Sure, you know them! Do you know why? You learned them as a child when your mind was fresh and eager to learn new things, and you learned them to music!

For several years on our Sunday School, we have used *Ask Me WhoOo*. It's the music of a three-volume CD set with Scripture and the Children's First Catechism, both word-for-word. It is so easy to memorize as a sing-along! *Ask Me WhoOo* has been included in Sunday School for Toddlers through 5th Graders underscoring our *Show Me Jesus!* curriculum. Yes, Toddlers! Don't under-estimate those little sponge brains!

Now, there's an exciting NEW part! Kids who are signed up for Sunday School this year who memorize and recite or sing will about 13 Q&As and verses each quarter will earn Bucks up to...

\$25 Media Bucks or 2-3 year-olds for Bibles, Christian books, music, or videos.

\$50 Media Bucks for 4 year- olds through 2nd Graders.

\$100 in Camp Bucks or Media Bucks towards Christian camp 3rd through 5th Graders.

Perhaps the most important part of all of this is that we will be grounding our Covenant children in the basic tenants of our faith. I know it's no surprise to you that young people today are bombarded with lies that lead them astray. Even children who have grown up in church, too often leave later. They don't know what they believe. If they don't know what they believe in, they will believe in anything. The culture these kids are growing up in is broken and evil. Satan wants to destroy our kids! Record numbers of our kids are depressed and committing suicide because they have no solid biblical foundation.

A 2022 study¹ focused on the Gen X, born 1960 - 1980 produced some shocking statistics:

70% listed themselves as Christian on surveys, but -

44% never read the Bible.

63% said Right from Wrong was "situational."

31% never go to church.

57% never participate in a Bible study.

33% do not believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

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According to this same study, “If someone has robust religious experiences growing up, they are likely to maintain their beliefs and practices into adulthood.”

At the baptism of our Covenant babies, we all raise our hands and pledge that we will help the parents to raise the child up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. But unless we are Sunday School or Children's Church teachers or Nursery workers, we don't have much interaction with the young ones. However, one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in this church was taking part in the *Pray for Me* campaign. I had two sweet boys to pray for. In my interaction with them, I asked each of them how I could pray for them. It was so rewarding! I really got to know them when otherwise I would not have.

So how can you help in keeping our young ones in church, and in the Word? Our TBPC Family has 21 Toddlers through 5th Graders who are children of TBPC members. We pray each one will be enrolled and in regular Sunday School attendance this year! That means we would need 21 volunteers to be “Coaches,” (or “Buddies”), to listen to the children recite the memorized Scripture and Catechism. For you to volunteer would mean no study or prep time, very little extra time at the church, and no special skills. Just love, interest, and prayer! This is a such great way to get to know a one of our TBPC kids and for one of them one of them to get to know you. This only involves a few minutes after church, plus listening and evaluating a recitation once a quarter. We also plan to have an all-church *Ask Me WhoOo* Sing-Along at the in May.

Our kids will memorize quickly as they sing *Ask Me WhoOo* each week in Sunday School, at home, in a park, or in the car with parents and sibs or even by themselves. The *Ask Me WhoOo* Song Time during the Second Sunday Evening Service each month will make memorizing easier still! The music in audio and video is easy to find on You Tube by just searching for *Ask Me WhoOo*. Also, <http://www.askmewhooo.com/series.html>

Right now, we also need four more for our Sunday School Team, Teachers and Assistants! since we only have half of the teachers we need. Most of all, we need parents to be committed to bringing their kids each week to Sunday School and to be listeners and encouragers for their kid as they practice reciting or singing what they have learned.

Let's to bridge the age gap at TBPC! We need everyone to pray as we kick this program off in the In September. Ask God what He wants you to do to help to rescue our children. He has a job for each of us!

Thanks from the *Ask Me WhoOo* Team!

Contacts:	Eileen Fritz	Sunday School Coordinator	(813) 731-0457
	Clydia Craig	Head Cheerleader	(813) 335-6320
	Ruth Clarke	Administrator	
	Bill Clarke	Technician	
	LeeAnn DeStefano	Technician	

¹ <https://www.americansurveycenter.org/research/generation-z-future-of-faith/#:~:text=If%20someone%20had%20robust%20religious,beliefs%20of%20their%20parents%27%20faith>

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIS FALL

Are you looking to see more of Jesus in the Old Testament? Are you wondering how to understand Biblical themes in less familiar books of the Bible? Then you have choices!

Join one of our Women's Bible Study groups this fall as we become more familiar with the significance of the Old Testament for Christians today.

Mondays 6:30-8:30PM

Zoom

The Word of the Lord

by Nancy Guthrie, with video lessons by the author.

September 11—November 13

Tuesdays 10:00AM –Noon

In Person

The Word of the Lord

by Nancy Guthrie, with video lessons by the author.

September 12—November 14

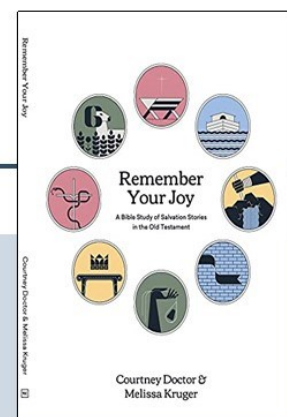
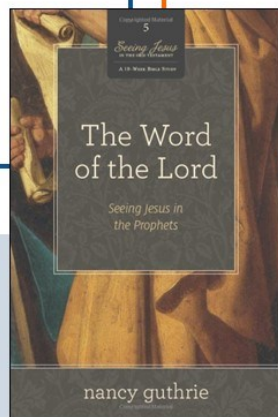
Tuesdays 5:30-7:30PM

In Person

Remember Your Joy

by Courtney Doctor and Melissa Kruger

Begins September 5, meets most weeks through November



- ◇ Meetings include lessons, discussion, and prayer.
- ◇ Books will be available in the Narthex following worship beginning August 27th at a cost of \$15 while supplies last. Books are also available on Amazon or other online retailers.
- ◇ Childcare provided upon request.
- ◇ Contacts: Eileen Fritz, 813-731-0457, eileenmfritz@icloud.com; or Debbie Jordan, 813-368-7513, debbiejordan1@gmail.com



DID
YOU
KNOW?

The TBPC Website has a new look!

The "Members Only" section has a new password. Members may contact the church office (813-973-2484 or office@tbpca.org) for the password.



ONLINE GIVING

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church is changing our online giving tool to Servant Keeper. This will provide all the same service that you have come to expect from your church, just with a new provider. You will notice that it even looks and works very similar to Faithlife Giving, our previous tool. Servant Keeper is experienced and provides highly secure transactions.

Sometime over June, when you click on our giving page you will see instructions to register for the new tool:

- " Search for whether your email is in the system
- " Reset your password and update your profile
- " Make your contribution!

Questions about the new solution? Please have a look at this user video: GPBSK - Donor Portal (wistia.com), see giving FAQs: Online Giving FAQs for Givers - Servant Keeper (servantpc.com), or contact the church office at 813-973-2484 or email office@tbpca.org.

Please note that if you have a scheduled gift, it has been saved and will continue as it has previously. Soon, you will be able to make any changes to your scheduled gift directly in the Servant Keeper app.

We thank you for your continued support of our church over the years.

Calendar of Events: 2023-24



Fall

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
7i/17 - 12/17

Membership Class
11/5

Church Retreat
11/10 - 11/12

Thanksgiving Dinner &
Service
11/19

Winter

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
2/16 - 2/18

Membership Class
2/18

Spring

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

Membership Class
5/19

ESL End of Year Lunch
5/20

Summer

Vacation Bible School
TBD

Missions Trip to Belize
July TBD

Membership Class
8/18

Contact us



facebook.com/tbpres



www.tampabaypresbyterian.org

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Patricia Harshfield,
Custodian

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TBPC Ministries

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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 by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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