



## From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

### God's Providence

Years ago, I read a story about Charles Hodge (1797-1878), a prominent theologian and professor at Princeton Theological Seminary.

While returning from a trip, Hodge's carriage overturned. Despite the potential for serious injury, Hodge emerged unscathed. Hodge attributed his safety to God's providence. He believed that God's hand was at work in protecting him during the accident, demonstrating his deep conviction in divine oversight and care in the affairs of life.

When he recounted the incident to another person, whose identity I do not now remember, the person said something like this to Hodge, "So, if you had been injured in the accident, would that not also be attributed to God's providence?"

And the answer to that question is, of course, "Yes!"

Question 11 of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* is: "What are God's works of providence?" The answer is: "God's works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving, and governing all his creatures, and all their actions."

I want to emphasize the word "all." God's providence extends to "*all* his creatures and *all* their actions."

God's providence governs not only what we consider good, such as protection from a severe injury in an accident, but he also governs injury in an accident.

We do not believe things happen by chance, luck, or good (or bad) fortune.

No. "God's works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving, and governing *all* his creatures, and *all* their actions."

Whatever may happen in this world or to us, let us constantly affirm that God controls everything.

Freddy

# Hospitality

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



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our first Fifth Sunday Potluck! It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun for adults and children alike. Our church family is truly blessed by each and every one of you. We eagerly await our next Fifth Sunday adventure!

The annual State of the Church Address (SOCA) Meeting is scheduled for **August 25, 2024**. As in past years, we will have lunch after Worship and before the SOCA meeting begins. This year, our theme is BBQ! Your Hospitality Ministry team will provide meats, and we ask that anyone who wishes to bring food please prepare (or buy) a side dish. Any questions may be directed to Andrea Schultz or Joan Kosanovich.

Many thanks also to you who share light snacks to have with the coffee and tea each week. We appreciate the snacks, and the opportunity for fellowship before and after Worship over a bite to eat and a cup of coffee or tea.

If you are interested in serving in TBPC's Hospitality Ministry or would like more information, please contact Joan Kosanovich ([jmkosanovich@gmail.com](mailto:jmkosanovich@gmail.com)) or by text/phone at 352-206-7887 or Andrea Schultz by text/phone at 727-439-4343. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and the Kingdom.

# August Anniversaries

Jonathan & Averil Massie	August 1, 1999
Bill & Ruth Walker	August 1, 1972
Larry & Barb Hess	August 6, 1966
Jeff & Holly Huffer	August 8, 1992
Bob & LeeAnn DeStefano	August 14, 1971
Ken & Betty Pothoven	August 14, 1964
Axel Bayard & Ertha Baptiste	August 16, 1984
Harris & Nuji Kunanayagam	August 17, 1996
Michael & Laila Valere	August 17, 1963
Scott & Valerie Simmons	August 18, 1979
Rod & Andrea Proctor	August 20, 2015
John & Bonnie Hutton	August 21, 1971
Craig & Jane Tyler	August 21, 2004
Adalberto & Mindy DeJesus	August 25, 1996

# August Birthdays

Joyce Linton	August 2	Kristofer Gray	August 18
Nathaniel Adawonu	August 4	Peter Dishman	August 21
Esther Whitley	August 6	Brandi Shultz	August 21
Lillian Ordahl	August 7	Justice Powe	August 24
Deborah Osibodu	August 8	Wes Mollard	August 25
Lilly Porter	August 9	Madison Powe	August 25
Averil Massie	August 10	Kennedy Powe	August 26
John Otto	August 11	Trinity Powe	August 26
Evelyn Yu	August 13	Ben Sun	August 26
Sara Kagalkar	August 14	Peter Wu	August 26
Anup Kagalkar	August 14	Joe Burns	August 27
Michael Beazel	August 17	Jose Negron	August 28
Derk Shultz	August 17	Bert Barber	August 29
Laila Valere	August 17	Suzanne Swenson	August 31

# VBS 2024:

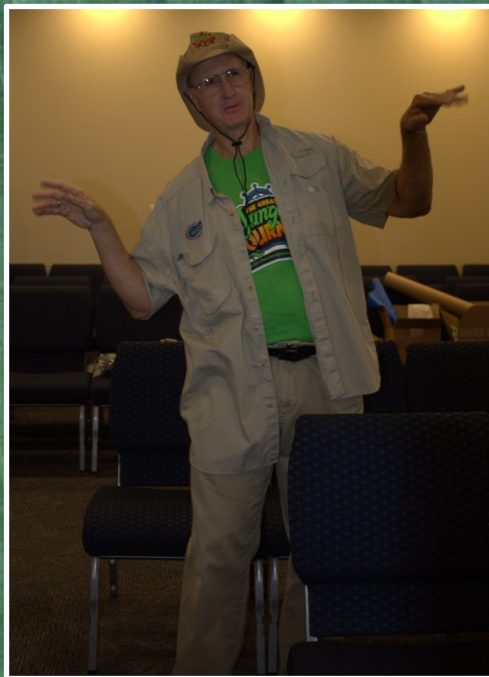
## The Great Jungle Journey, An Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation

By Toni & Mike Cacioppo

On Sunday, June 23, 2024, Pastor Freddy welcomed everyone to the jungle, where VBS travelers took an epic river cruise from Genesis to Revelation from June 24-28, 2024 on the Great Jungle Journey. They hiked by trees and bushes and through vines to their various stations each day, and braved monkeys, snakes and tropical birds along the way. Their riverboat, the SS Good News, sailed by a beautiful waterfall and a remote hut connected to the riverbank by a treacherous rope bridge.

On their cruise, travelers stopped at 7 ports of call: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, the Cross & Consummation. They learned that God made the world and everything in it, that man disobeyed God, introducing sin to God's good world and leading to His judgment and man's separation from Him. They learned that Jesus came and died for man's sin, and that if we believe in Him, we get to spend eternity with God in heaven. Each day travelers also heard facts about some neat jungle creatures, and about the LoveOne Mission at the Dociné School in Haiti, which provides food, water, healthcare, and the gospel message to boys and girls in need. VBS travelers were encouraged to donate to the mission through a friendly competition of boys against girls.

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Along with their travel guides and station leaders, 65 travelers assembled each morning for the daily Jungle Jam and sang songs together with hand motions. Each traveling group had an animal mascot: Tamarins (the youngest group), Macaws, Leopards, and Chameleons (the eldest group). Over the course of the week, travelers visited the following stations each day:

**Rain or Shine Bible Time:** where Gator Scott, Wild William, and puppet Jungle Jinga presented the gospel message and taught key events in the history of the universe, as recorded in God's Word;

**Tree-mendous Science & Crafts:** where travelers witnessed science demos like volcanic eruptions and battery-powered electric circuits powering lightbulbs. They also made crafts like face planters for cress seeds, straw serpents, and Easter dioramas;

**Rainforest Recreation:** where travelers did a jungle obstacle course, a rainy relay, and other fun outdoor (and sometimes indoor) games for exercise;

**Canopy Café Snacks:** where snacks like forest fruit, gospel goodies and colorful bites were served to match the day's theme;

**Travelers' Memory Verses:** which involved engaging memory activities that used items like little toy animals and animal noises, or colorful plastic cups and word towers to help kids remember the daily memory verse.

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During the closing jungle jam, travelers sang memory verse songs, reviewed the day's lessons, and were even rewarded when they remembered what they learned. They watched a video drama about a river cruise tour group that got stuck in the jungle for 5 days because their boat went missing during a storm. They were rescued (the tour guide had to rescue a traveler from a crocodile!) and everyone returned to port safe and sound. For the mission donation competition, the boys won soundly despite the girls' best efforts, with a difference of over \$100. Together, our VBS travelers far exceeded the \$500 goal, donating a whopping total of \$778.06 to the LoveOne Mission.

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We saw God at work in so many ways this year, from the start of VBS preparation all the way through to the end of the event. Thank you, TBPC, for your support of and engagement with this key outreach event through your encouragement, your donations of supplies, funds, time, and manpower, and most importantly, your prayers. We are also immensely grateful to this year's 42 on-site VBS volunteers, youth and adults who set aside their time and offered their gifts and talents as travel guides, station leaders/teachers, assembly leaders, sound technician, administrators, safety monitors, and photographer. We encountered some unpredictable challenges during the week, but we weathered the storms by God's grace and through the talent, willingness, and flexibility of our volunteers, and our travelers heard God's word and remained safe.

We hope that this year's VBS left all attendees with lasting memories of the fun they had and the lessons they learned, and we pray that God will guide them to a sound understanding of the 7 C's of history, a saving knowledge of Christ, and eternal life with God in the new heaven and the new earth.

## Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

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Andrea Schultz

*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*  
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Stephanie Smoot

*Missions*  
Scott Simmons

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

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