

# TBPRES TRUMPET



December 2020

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

Volume 15 Issue 12

## From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

### The Advents of Christ

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in the season of Advent. "Advent" means "coming" (from the Latin word *adventus*), and it is a term that refers to the "first coming" of Christ as well as his "second coming."

The early Christians developed the "church year" or "Christian calendar" as a way of learning about the birth, life, death, resurrection, and return of Christ throughout the year. So, the church year begins with Advent, then it moves on to Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passion Week, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, and so on.

The "first advent" looks back to Christ's first coming. The "second advent" looks forward to Christ's second coming. We live between these two advents.

This year I would like to explore the advents of Christ in a sermon series I am calling "The Advents of Christ."

First, I would like to examine "Christ's Entrance." His first advent was prophesied, and he came almost 2,000 years ago (Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Isaiah 7:14). His second advent is also prophesied, and he will come at some time in the future (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Second, I would like to look at "Christ's Timing." His first advent was at a time predicted (Daniel 9:25). His second advent is at time that is unknown (Matthew 24:36).

Third, I would like to explore "Christ's Appearance." When he came the first time, he came as a man (Philippians 2:5-8). And when he comes the second time, he will come as God (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Fourth, I would like to look at "Christ's Arrival." His first advent was announced (Luke 2:10-14). When he comes the second time, he will come unannounced, as a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

And finally, I would like to examine "Christ's Purpose." Christ's first advent was to save the lost (Luke 19:10). His second advent, however, will be to judge the lost (Matthew 25:31-33, 41-46).

Many of us are familiar with Christ's first advent. We are familiar with the events surrounding his birth because it has already taken place. But we may not be as familiar with Christ's second advent because it has yet to take place. I hope that we will learn more about his second advent and have a greater anticipation for it, so that we can say with the Apostle John, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

Freddy

## Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

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Vacant

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Eileen Fritz &  
Debbie Jordan

*Women's Ministry*  
Suzanne Swenson

*Youth*  
Bert Barber

# ESL

## English as a Second Language (ESL) Update Karen Cross, Coordinator

The ESL Mission has had a wonderful fall beginning. We started in August with one class and with one student on Zoom. We have grown to 5 classes, 5 volunteers, and 15 regular students. We are now offering evening classes for the first time for those who work and cannot attend during the day. Our schedule is:

Monday	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Advanced ESL
Wednesday	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Intermediate ESL
Thursday	9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Beginner ESL
Thursday	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Beginner ESL
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Intermediate ESL

After English Class we offer a Bible Study a time of sharing God's Word through devotions, song, and prayer. All students are staying for the Bible Study in every class.

Freddy completed teaching a Citizenship Examination Class. Two students have their Citizenship Interview and Exam scheduled for May of 2021.

### **We offer praise for:**

God's working through our Mission.

The participation of all students in Bible Study each class.

The support of TBPC.

The prayers of our congregation.

The technology of Zoom (Enabling us to have a student joining us from Barcelona, Spain!!!)

The dedicated group of loyal and patient volunteers: Laila Valere, Marsha Otto, Alan Polasky, Suzanne Swenson and Karen Cross (John Hutton will join us beginning the second semester).

The wonderful students from many countries that attend our classes.

### **We ask for prayer for:**

A volunteer to come forward to co-teach the Wednesday Evening Intermediate Class.

A way to reach new students.

A way to encourage existing students to not be intimidated by Zoom.

Success in teaching new students about Zoom.

Continued participation of all students while sharing The Gospel in Bible Study.



Dear TBPC family,

Our preschool remains enrolled at just over 40% of capacity. We are hoping and praying that the new calendar year will bring new students to our school.

We had a wonderful time in November celebrating this season of thanksgiving. We continue to praise God for his guidance and provision during this unusual time. We are thankful for our dedicated and hardworking teaching staff, and we are very thankful for all the support and kindness we have received from our TBPC family.

May our ministry continues to bring God glory. May many seeds be planted in the hearts of our students and their families!

Ashleigh Kemp  
Director



# FAMILY MINISTRY

We have planned a monthly family event for the remainder of this school year. These are great opportunities for fun and fellowship. Please diarize these dates. We also ask that families take a turn to assist in planning or simply helping with the organization of these events. Please scan the QR code below to sign-up to help!

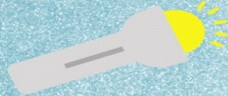


**13 DEC 5PM – 8PM CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

**23 JAN 5PM – 7:30PM SMORES NIGHT**



**26 FEB – 28 FEB FAMILY RETREAT @ LAKEWOOD RETREAT CENTER**



**27 MAR 5PM – 7:30PM FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

**10 APR 9AM – 12PM FIELD DAY @ HOWARD PARK**



**15 MAY 9AM – 11AM BEACH DAY**

**SAVE THE DATES IN YOUR FAMILY'S CALENDAR**

**Are you able to assist with organizing an event?  
Scan the QR code to sign-up**





Sunday, December 13 @ 5PM

## Christmas Caroling & Cheering

Come bless some folks in our church family by singing to them  
old beloved Christmas carols outside their homes!

All joyful noises and happy faces of all ages are welcome!

We'll meet at church 5:00 p.m. for instructions, including health safety instructions.

(A bite to eat in advance at home would be a good idea).

## Christmas Mingling & Munching

Carolers are invited to meet after caroling for hot chocolate  
and other goodies at the church.

## Singing & Serving

Let us know if you ...

- Will join us for caroling.
- Can provide safely handled Christmas sweets or savories for carolers.
- Can serve as a host or hostess for the refreshments.

Please write "Caroling" and your phone number on the Welcome Card, or  
contact Eileen Fritz at (813) 731-0457 or [EileenMFritz@icloud.com](mailto:EileenMFritz@icloud.com)

FAMILY NATURE  
PARK HIKE



Thank you Dan  
Taverne for organizing  
a fun morning!





Linking the Generations  
Through Prayer

Dear friends,

Thank you for all the ways you serve and contribute to the life of our church! As Paul said to the Philippians, “I thank my God every time I remember you.”

I want to take a minute and tell you about another opportunity in the life of our church called the *Pray For Me Campaign* and invite you to join us in linking the generations of our church community together through prayer.

**What is it?** *The Pray For Me Campaign* is rooted in the truths that God uses his Word, his people, and prayer to change the world. This ministry creates a vast web of intergenerational relationships and equips adult believers to pass on a sustainable faith to the next generation.

**How it works? 3 Prayer Champions for every young person in our church!**

The *Pray For Me Campaign* connects multiple generations within our church by having 3 Adult Prayer Champions commit to praying for one student or family with small children in our church.

**A Prayer Champion is someone who boldly goes to the frontlines in the battle for young people’s faith.** Each Prayer Champion will be given a name, specific prayer requests, and a Prayer Guide—to use daily and pray through seven biblical essentials of growth for their young person.

**Will you join us?**

1. Do you have a Student (grade 6 through college) you would like to add to the list to be assigned their own Prayer Champion(s)?
2. Do you have young children (grade 5 and under) that you would like to add to the list to be assigned a family Prayer Champion(s)?
3. Do you want to become a Prayer Champion?

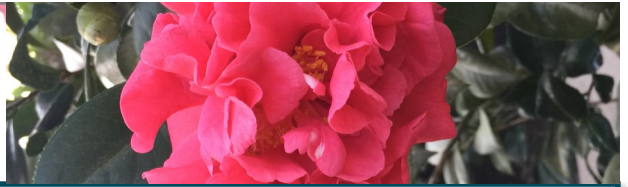
**If any of these 3 things describe you, or you would like to find out more information, please respond.**

My hope is that this campaign would have a mutual impact of enriching your spiritual life as you minister to these young people. Thank you again for your continued support and service to our church family!

Bert Barber  
rbarbert@gmail.com



# TBPRES WOMEN



*By Suzanne Swenson*

Hello! I hope that this greeting continues to find all of you well and safe during these challenging times. Women's Ministry had to adjust its annual Christmas brunch arrangements to accommodate the safety restrictions by planning a smaller version of our regular event. At last count we have 50 participants which is down from the normal number of 104. Cracker Barrel is providing our "brunch in a box." Stephanie Smoot and her team have put together an excellent program with C.B. Campano, Congressional Care Coordinator, Covenant Church, Lakeland, as our speaker. Although we will have a smaller gathering, I hope to provide more detail in the January edition of the Trumpet.

The Annual Women's Ministry Leadership conference is going virtual as the gathering in Atlanta has been cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. The PCA Women's Ministry leadership is being very creative and is providing the helpful information needed for us so we can participate from the safety of our homes. The following is an excerpt from the announcement.

**Women's Ministry Leadership Training Virtual Conference, <https://pcacdm.org/lt-2021/>**

*The Promise of His Presence: Living and Leading Covenantally*

A Virtual Interactive Conference Experience (12 weeks) designed to equip women and build His Church  
Launch Weekend: February 18-20, 2021 Keynote Speakers: Sarah Ivill, Susan Hunt, Susan Tyner, Paula Miles, Karen Hodge

"I will be your God, and you will be my people, and I will live among you." Jeremiah 30:22. The essence of the Covenant answers life's biggest question, who is God? It also addresses our deepest questions, am I loved, and am I alone? Our lives and leadership are currently unfolding in a socially distanced world that is bruised and broken by the Fall. These ongoing challenges underscore our need for His presence. Maybe you may feel God is distant or all alone in your desire to serve the Church. His presence is not only the distinguishing mark of God's people but also one of our greatest comforts. Our aim at the 2021 Women's Ministry Leadership Training is to remind you that the promise of His presence has profound implications on how we live and lead. We invite you to join other gospel leaders as we look to His Word with five keynote sessions and eight workshops to remind you that you are not alone and you are dearly loved as you serve an ever-present Father.

**We are disappointed we can't meet in person this year for Leadership Training, but we are excited to imagine what God might do with this virtual interactive conference experience.** We are praying that God would allow entire Women's Ministry teams to learn together. May God bring more women, from more churches, from all over the world...to do abundantly more than we can imagine or think!

### **Bonus year – You will also get:**

- Plenty of time (12 weeks) to view all of the LT Content and experience it in the context of your own church.
- Interactive virtual gatherings with like-minded women centered around your geographic region and shared affinities.
- Accessible Pricing and Creative ideas to engage your team over the 12 weeks.
- Opportunities to engage with LT Premium—Specialized training in a variety of topics with seasoned women’s ministry teachers that can be contextualized to your own church needs.

### **It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3:**

1. Gather your team
2. Build a customized plan from the content to grow together this spring
3. Register

### Cost:

- \$150 for individuals
- \$125/person for groups of 2-7
- \$100/person for groups of 8+

The TBPC WM team is reviewing this opportunity and we will provide more information as it becomes available.

Blessings

## Ministry Help Needed!

The **AV team** is currently in a transition to allow for online streaming. As such, we are in need of additional help to handle the PC side of the job during the Sunday worship service. If you could help one Sunday a month, it would greatly help us.

It is an easy task to learn and anyone age 15 or older can handle it.

Please contact Anthony Contrata - [anthonybcontrata@gmail.com](mailto:anthonybcontrata@gmail.com) or Leeann Destefano – [desleea@gmail.com](mailto:desleea@gmail.com).

You are also welcome to stop by the sound board to speak with one of us on Sunday morning and see what the job entails.

## *December Birthdays*

Connor Turpen	December 01
Jennifer Isaac	December 05
Christiaan Kemp	December 05
Pete Rotolo	December 08
Abigail Vincent	December 08
Rachel Contrata	December 11
Elijah Jeffries	December 11
Senny Karibi-Whyte	December 12
Marika Taverne	December 12
John Hutton	December 13
Betty Pothoven	December 14
Alba Skopp	December 16
Melissa Bayley	December 20
Richard Becker	December 20
Emalin Henry	December 24
Krystal Bailey	December 25
Alessandro Tigley	December 26
Zainab Karibi-Whyte	December 27
Stevie Riley	December 27
John Schmidt	December 27
Sandy Carruth	December 28
Benison Taverne	December 31

## *December Anniversaries*

Roque, Rock & Jennie	December 05, 1964
Cozzolino, Joe & Kim	December 14, 2011
Fritz, Freddy & Eileen	December 14, 1985
Carruth, Kevin & Sandy	December 17, 1988
Rotolo, Pete & Laura	December 22, 1997
Campbell, Bill & Joanne	December 28, 2002
Dishman, Peter & Lauren	December 28, 2013
Jeffries, Drew & Ashley	December 28, 2011

## Trumpet Staff

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

Andrea L. Proctor, *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 [andreaproctor@tcforce.com](mailto:andreaproctor@tcforce.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

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