



From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

What Will 2021 Look Like?

I don't have to tell you that 2020 was a very different kind of year for all of us.

When 2020 began, I suppose we all anticipated a normal continuation from the previous year. That was true for about two and a half months, but then in mid-March the entire world—and I do mean “the entire world”—changed for each one of us.

As we look to 2021, we know that we are still a long way from a new “normal.” There are many uncertainties about the future. What will 2021 look like?

In his book titled *The Post-Quarantine Church*, Thom Rainer states, “The post-quarantine era may prove to be one of the most challenging seasons for churches and their leaders.” Our world has unquestionably changed. There are so many uncertainties. No-one alive today has ever experienced what we are experiencing.

“Still,” as Rainer goes on to say, “it is a season of opportunity.” As we enter 2021, let's keep a couple of truths in mind.

First, God is still on his throne. Around mid-March (for us in the USA), God was not somehow dethroned. What has caught the entire world by surprise, and has now paralyzed countless numbers of people, did not catch God by surprise. In fact, the novel coronavirus was decreed by God in eternity past. It is only now coming into existence by his eternal decree.

Second, the Gospel is still unchanged. The good news that God's Son, Jesus, is the substitute for sinners has not changed. Jesus was a substitute for sinners in 2019. He is a substitute for sinners in 2020. And he will be a substitute for sinners in 2021 and until he returns for his second advent. The message of the Gospel is still the same, just as Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

And third, the Great Commission is still binding. Jesus' command to "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19) still stands. However, our method for making disciples in 2021 is almost certainly going to have to adapt to the new realities of our post-quarantine world. Some people will not return to gathered, in-person worship services. New opportunities will open for reaching unchurched and unbelieving people. And new challenges will face leaders in shepherding and leading members. There will be a steep learning curve for all of us.

Frankly, I don't have a crystal ball regarding 2021. I don't really know what it will look like. But, I do know that as I hold on to the truth that God is in sovereign control, the Gospel has not changed, and that our method for making disciples needs to be adapted for 2021, then we will be able to face 2021 with great hope and confidence.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Freddy".

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Debbie Jordan

Women's Ministry
Suzanne Swenson

Youth
Bert Barber

ESL

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

The ESL Program continues to grow on a monthly basis. We are now on our Christmas Break, and will resume classes on Monday, January 4, 2021.

We ask that you prayerfully consider joining the ESL Program as a volunteer. The time commitment each week is about 90 minutes. Twenty students are participating on Zoom in 5 separate classes. We have both daytime and evening volunteer opportunities.

The books that we use to teach English are excellent with very easy to follow lessons. Teachers and students are able to follow the material together. The English instruction is in the books for the teachers to explain to the students prior to asking them to participate in workbook questions. The answers to the questions in the workbooks are at the back of the book, so there is never any confusion about how to complete the answers correctly.

During each class we have a time for a devotion, vocabulary, a hymn or praise song, and prayer. This material is provided to all volunteers and students either via email, or through postal mail prior to class. All of our students are participating in our Bible Study after we finish the English portion of our English classes.

We only speak English in class so there is no need for volunteers to speak or interpret in another language. As volunteers, we really get to know our students and develop a wonderful bond with them. Many of the students return year after year, and many of them take more than one class. They are so very grateful for our help, and it is a true joy and a great blessing to be able to serve others in our community that need our help.

Please contact Karen Cross at karencross38@hotmail.com or 813-714-9921 if you would like to learn more about what our program involves.

We would love to have the opportunity to invite you to a class to observe and see how our program works!!!

TBPC FAMILY RETREAT

26 - 28 FEBRUARY 2021

WHERE?

LAKEWOOD RETREAT
25458 Dan Brown Hill Road
Brooksville, FL, 34602

THEME?

FAMILY MATTERS

We are very excited to have Rev Andrew Newman as our speaker. There will be 3 sessions over the weekend. (And separate workshops for children during the Saturday sessions).

COST?

(All charges are for both nights)

RUSTIC MOTEL ROOM (includes 1 Queen bed, 2 Twin beds & own bathroom).....\$120 per room

FOOD CHARGE.....\$10 per person

TENT CAMPING.....\$20 per tent

WANT TO SIGN-UP?

Email Ashleigh Kemp at
kempash@gmail.com





Dear TBPC family

Firstly, I just want to thank everyone who contributed to NTCA funds as part of their year-end giving. Your contributions will assist us to continue this important ministry as we seek to serve children in our church family, our community, and also bring the gospel to those families who do not yet know Christ as their Savior.

We have had a difficult December. The NTCA School Board made a very difficult decision to reduce our current class offering down to two classes for the remainder of this school year. Unfortunately we have not had any pick up in enrollment as we had hoped and as a result we have adjusted the number of classes we are currently offering to align with our current enrollment. This resulted in the roles of three staff members being made redundant, namely Ms. Patty, Ms. Azeb, and Ms. Ava. Please keep them, and their families in your prayers!

As we look toward the 2021/22 school year, please pray for the School Board and me as we put together our plans for the new school year. Pray that God will continue to give us wisdom and guide our decisions. We give God all praise and glory for his continued protection over the school, our staff, and our families during this pandemic.

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!



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**



FAMILY MINISTRY

S'mores Night

Come join us for a fun around the fire! We'll be roasting marshmallows for S'mores and enjoying an outdoor movie.

(Pizza will also be served for dinner)



Saturday 23 January 5pm - 8pm

Don't forget: Bug spray, camping chairs, blankets.

To sign-up write **"S'mores"** on your Welcome card, or **scan the QR code**.
Contact Meghan Newman (704-562-0429) with any questions.



TBPRES WOMEN



By Suzanne Swenson

Happy New Year!

It has been suggested that instead of making our usual resolutions for the new year, whether it is losing that five pounds that we are always thinking about or some other goal, we can turn to the Bible for guidance. Two favorite verses that I find very comforting are, “Be still, and know that I am God...” (Psalm 46:10). The second one is, “I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). Taking comfort in knowing that God always has a plan for us relieves us of the anxiety and chronic worry. My prayer for the reader is that everyone remains safe and well in the New Year.

Our TBPC 32nd Christmas Brunch was held on December 5, 2020 in the Sanctuary. My sincere thanks to everyone who had a role in making the brunch a success under the unusual circumstances. Stephanie Smoot, the Coordinator, did an amazing job. We were pleased to have 52 guests in attendance with others watching it on Zoom. A few of the highlights included having Marianne Cali’s daughter, Cathi Diaz, present Marianne’s personal testimony. We were sad that Marianne was ill and could not attend the event. Attachment I below is a copy of her testimony.

We were very blessed to have C.B. Campano, Congregational Care Coordinator, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, Florida, as our WM Christmas Brunch speaker. C.B.’s topic was “Bathsheba, A Message of Restoration.” The transcript of her presentation will be emailed to the ladies in our church and to any gentlemen who request a copy.

Attachment II, is a quick summary of the virtual Leadership Training that is being offered in lieu of the face-to-face gatherings in Atlanta.

Wishing everyone a very joyous and safe new year. Blessings.

Attachment I **Personal Testimony: Marianne Cali** **Founder of the TBPC WM Christmas Brunch**

Several years ago, in one of my Bible Study groups, we studied a series by Ray Vander Laan about the Standing Stones in the Bible. One lesson was on the crossing of the Jordan. In Joshua 4, God tells Joshua to command one man from each tribe to be chosen to carry a rock from the bottom of the Jordan as they passed through and later after all of Israel was in Canaan, they were to erect these stones as a memorial. Why? So that as the generations passed, the children would ask, “Why is that stone standing there?” and that testimony would be told to the next generation, and not be forgotten by the people.

Each year at our Ladies’ Christmas Brunch, it has become a tradition to ask someone to share their testimony. The main question we wanted them to answer was not so much how they came to know Christ, but how has knowing Christ changed the way they have celebrated Christmas. So this year I’m on the “hot seat!” How has knowing Christ changed the way I celebrate Christmas? To be honest, not much. I have a pretty boring testimony! I grew up in the fifties, when even non-Christians celebrated a Christ-centered Christmas. My little one-room country church put on a Christmas program every year that started with the youngest child standing up front and saying, “I wish you a Merry Christmas!”, progressing through each child’s presentation of his song, prose, or poetry, and culminating with the entire Sunday School portraying the Christmas story as the congregation sang each appropriate carol. I especially remember being one of many angels each year and of course dreaming of the year I would be old enough to be Mary! Even our school programs included the Birth of Christ. Even if the play was about Santa and his elves and all the dancing drums and singing baby dolls, it culminated with the presentation of the Nativity and singing of carols.

Preparations for Christmas included making hand-made gifts for each family member, baking treats for the neighbors, hayrides so we could carol to the shut-ins, and visiting relatives that we had not seen often during the year. The whole idea was to express the Love of Christ to those around us. So I pretty much grew up celebrating a Christ-centered Christmas.

In 1964, Sam and I eloped and lived in a one bedroom, furnished apartment, and struggled to make ends meet. That year, I didn't have much money for Christmas decorations, and I couldn't afford a Nativity. Some of you remember the old 5 and 10 cent stores? Well, I spent 59 cents for Joseph, 49 cents for Mary, and only 29 cents for Baby Jesus, (all made out of paper mâché). I was able to have the beginnings of a very unique Nativity that lasted for many, many years. Just as an aside, I ended up at one time with a collection of over 50 Nativities!!!

In the summer of 1965, we found out that we were going to have our first child. Well, this is where my testimony really starts to get interesting. You see Sam and I had gotten pretty lazy on Sunday mornings and thought that sleeping in was much more beneficial than attending church. But as we pondered the awesome responsibilities of parenthood and I found that I couldn't even be responsible for naming a child, we decided that we couldn't do this alone. We needed God to guide us through this. We very seldom missed a Sunday School class, Bible Study, or Worship Service after that!!

As Cathi, Rich, and Jeff grew, one of our major goals was to be sure our children knew how to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. Yes we did Santa Claus but our local Santa, Mr. Finely, was the best Santa ever. He put every individual child on his knee and asked them if they knew that Christmas was Jesus' birthday, why do we give gifts at Christmas, who brought the first Christmas gifts, and did they know that Jesus was the best gift all. Yes, we made homemade gifts for each other. Yes, we put up a Christmas tree and went to see the Nutcracker. Yes, we enjoyed family traditions but we always brought it all back to celebrating Jesus' birthday. Even to this day Christmas dessert is a birthday cake for Jesus and we always sing "Happy Birthday, Jesus."

So back to my opening information about Standing Stones. What do Standing Stones have to do with how we celebrate Christmas? Just this. As we celebrate Christmas and enjoy all the beauty, wonder, gatherings, and traditions of the season, what Standing Stones are we placing in our children's hearts? Will they ask us why we do such and such only at Christmas, or why do we place straws of gratitude in the manger every night as we gather around the Advent candles for our family devotions? Why do we go to church on Christmas Eve; and most of all, will they ask why we sing Happy Birthday to Jesus?

My desire, thirty-two years ago, at our first Ladies' Christmas Brunch, was to place a Standing Stone in each of the lady's hearts to remind them to stop and ask, "Why are we celebrating Christmas?" And today, as back then, my desire is to challenge all of you to be placing Standing Stones in the hearts of your loved ones. Enjoy all the excitement, traditions, fellowship, and love of the season; but please stop and ask, "Why is that Standing Stone there?" I love you and "Happy Birthday, Jesus."

Attachment II

The Who, What, Where, and How of Leadership Training

The Women's Ministry office in Atlanta has received a number of phone calls and emails about the Leadership Training (LT) so, as a result, has prepared this quick summary of Who, What, Where and How.

Who should attend LT? Often, churches send 1 or 2 leadership women to LT. This year, since you will save money on travel and hotel, consider providing this opportunity for your entire leadership team. (A few churches have requested the opportunity to make it available to all of the women in their church). Our topic will be the Covenant and this will be rich teaching that will be beneficial to the women in your church.

What/Where and When is Virtual Leadership Training? CDM has been hosting Leadership Training for over 30 years, and in the past several years we have exceeded our capacity and had to turn many women away. This year, with the uncertainty of COVID, we made the decision to "go virtual." While we would much rather be in person, we made the decision to have LT because we think it is very important, and we rejoice that this gives many more women the opportunity to "attend!"

For 2021 you will be able to:

Join us for Launch Weekend on February 18-20, 2021. This will include:

- ◆ Thursday, Feb. 18, 7:30-9:00 p.m. EST - LIVE programming via a special link via a Zoom Webinar that we send, featuring Karen Hodge as the emcee, some surprise guests, giveaways, and a keynote speaker.
- ◆ Friday, Feb. 19, 7:30-9:00 p.m. EST - More LIVE programming similar to Thursday evening, including a keynote speaker.
- ◆ Saturday, Feb. 20, 9:00-11:30 a.m. EST - LIVE programming with a keynote speaker, as well as the ability to go into a small group by Region.

You will then have access to all 51 keynote sessions, all of the workshops, and the ability to join with any (or all) of the Affinity Groups and an additional Regional Gathering...all until May 31, 2021. (Even if you are not available for Launch Weekend, you will be able to view all of the material until May 31.)

You will also receive weekly emails with encouraging and valuable information from Karen Hodge from February 18 to May 31.

How do I gain access to Leadership Training? If you would like to participate, please register as an individual for \$150 by going to womensleadership.pcacdm.org. However, we know that it's better to join with others, so gather women from your church and participate together. The cost is \$125/person if there are 2-7, and \$100/person if there are 8 or more. CDM can invoice your church directly by calling Tim Schirm, 678-825-1112.

Once you sign up, you will receive a code to have full access to the site. You can view the material in multiple ways.

Here are some ways we've heard women are planning to join together:

- ◆ Gather together (socially distanced) on Launch Weekend, and then set up a schedule to watch the remaining videos each Wednesday evening.
- ◆ Rent an Airbnb for the weekend and go through all of the material.
- ◆ Show the videos as part of your women's Sunday School class in the Spring.
- ◆ Watch the videos individually and then gather for discussion (either socially distanced or via Zoom).
- ◆ You do not need to have all of the names of the participating women when you register; we just need the number that will participate and you can add the names later.

What is the deadline to register? We would love to have you register by February 1. However, you will be able to continue to register after that date.

What is LT Premium? We know that some have expressed an interest in a consultation with Karen Hodge or one of our Trainers. This is available for \$100 for 1-1/2 hours that will be with your leadership team. We are offering 4 additional small group classes at \$20/person that will be held via Zoom and you will have an opportunity to interact with the teacher.

Why is there a charge since everything is online? While it would be wonderful if we could offer this at no charge, CDM operates on the donations of individuals and churches, as well as income from conferences. There are many costs involved with preparing for this conference, including the website administration, Zoom accounts for hosting, speakers, and administrative work of the CDM staff.

What do I do now? Register (you can add more women later). Gather with us for the next several months as you get to experience Leadership Training in a different format!

If you have further questions, give Suzanne a call or send an email. Suzanne 703-402-3567 or suzswenson@verizon.net.

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church needs your help!

Membership Vow #4:

"Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?"

In practice, this means:

"I promise to be a faithful member of Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, supporting it through prayer, Bible study, regular attendance upon worship, **unselfish Christian service**, and stewardship of my life and possessions"

God has provided us all with a spiritual gift, let us help you find yours.

Some ministries that need help now:

Work from Home!

– AV team needs someone familiar with PowerPoint to learn how to create our weekly slides. We use a program called Proclaim which is similar to PowerPoint. Since we have been using Proclaim for a few years, songs and other slides will already exist, so it is just a matter of pulling them in.

No experience is necessary, but you do need a Window 10 computer or Mac with latest OS.

This position would require approx. 20 minutes per week. Training will be provided.

– Assistant Webmaster needed for new TBPC website going live in January. We have simplified our website, making it easier to update and manage. The website is complete, but we are looking for someone to help maintain it. This would involve weekly/monthly document uploads and new or updated pages as needed. No experience necessary.

The position would require approx. 20 minutes per week. Training will be provided.

Help Needed on Sundays!

– **AV TEAM** needs soundboard operators and someone to run the Worship Service slides one Sunday per Month. No experience needed we will train you. If you can run PowerPoint slides, you can run the Sunday Service slides!

– **Nursery attendants** needed one Sunday per month. Childcare training will be provided if not already completed.

– **Hospitality Coordinator** needed. This is a leadership position. The coordinator has general oversight of all hospitality events and oversees kitchen management: supplies, organization, equipment, laundry, frozen food storage, and writing kitchen procedures as needed. The coordinator also recruits and schedules the refreshment team for after-church fellowship.

– **Hospitality Refreshment Team Members** needed one Sunday per month. Several areas of need are involved in this position: 1. Responsibility for preparing coffee at 10:00 a.m. for after church fellowship. 2. Serving coffee during the after church fellowship and clean up afterwards. Both positions would involve only one Sunday per month.

– **For Inquiries and Additional Information: contact Leeann Destefano (813)991-8385 or desleea@tampabaypresbyterian.org**

January Birthdays

Cheryl Barber	January 06
Vern Yu	January 08
Rene Palacio	January 09
Richard Gainer	January 18
Karen Guest	January 20
John McNulty	January 20
Andrea Proctor	January 22
Lilli Palacio	January 23
Bill Campbell	January 27
Christopher Powe	January 29

January Anniversaries

Chew, Lenny & Cheryl	January 01, 1988
Egbert, Luke & Wicke	January 26, 2008



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 by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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