

TBPRES TRUMPET



February 2021

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

Volume 16 Issue 2

From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

TBPC's 2021 Missions Conference

TBPC's 2021 Missions Conference is scheduled to take place the weekend of February 19-21, 2021.

In previous years, we have had a Missions Conference speaker and a number of our missionaries join us for the weekend event. There were a number of opportunities to meet our missionaries, hear about their work, and pray with and for them. There were events for children and youth so that they could meet our missionaries and learn about the missionary enterprise. We also had meals together in order to encourage fellowship.

As we approach this year's Missions Conference, we are still in the throws of a worldwide coronavirus pandemic. Our scheduled Missions Conference speaker was hesitant about traveling to Tampa from Chattanooga, partly because Covenant College (where he serves as a Bible professor) was reluctant to have him travel, but mainly because his wife has an auto-immune disease.

In God's providence, Mission to the World announced that they were having a Virtual Missions Conference the same weekend that we had scheduled for our Missions Conference. I have participated in a pre-conference meeting to learn about their Virtual Missions Conference, which has the theme, "His Story Continues." It is going to be a wonderful opportunity to learn about what God is doing around the world.

On Friday night and on Saturday, there will be 2 plenary speakers, breakout sessions where we will be able to meet virtually with our missionaries, stories of God at work around the world, and even activities for children and youth. On Sunday morning, Rev. Scott Simmons will preach for us to wrap our annual Missions Conference.

We will be broadcasting from the church sanctuary for those who wish to join us at church. However, you may also participate from home as well.

The important thing to do at this point is to register. Please register at: mtw.org/vmc.

We will get more information about our plans for events at the church to you in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, please pray for the Missions Conference and register for the Missions Conference.

Freddy

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz,
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Adult Bible Fellowship
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EmptyNesters
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Greeters & Welcome Table
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Hospitality
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Men's Bible Study
Jeff Beams

Men's Ministry
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Women's Bible Study
Eileen Fritz &
Debbie Jordan

Women's Ministry
Suzanne Swenson

Youth
Bert Barber



WHAT THEY MEANT FOR EVIL...

is a stunning story of how a child embraced God as always being in control and always good. This, despite disappointment, hardship, fear, cruelty, confusion, and violence swirling around her and deeply touching her life during the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005). Rebecca Deng's life is an echo of Joseph. Powerful, second only to Pharaoh, Joseph calmed his panicked brothers who had so cruelly abused him years before. "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." Devoid of desire for retaliation and devoted to the care of suffering people, Joseph's absolute, unflinching, and mature trust was rooted in both the sovereignty and goodness of God that transcends the betrayals and other cruelties of this life. Rebecca's story is a contemporary, beautiful, and practical reflection of what Joseph lived out in Egypt so many millennia ago. It also highlights the valuable and stunning impact of missionary schools in impoverished and/or war-torn parts of the globe today.

In that Sudanese war, the Muslim North had violently attacked the village people in the beautiful, peaceful, and resource-rich Southern Sudan. These Southern Sudanese were people who had been heavily influenced by missionaries who were faithful to the Scriptures. Their way of life was destroyed. Their people murdered. Their children murdered or orphaned.

Rebecca was one of those numberless multi-thousands of orphaned girls. Only eighty-nine of those orphaned girls who survived were awarded an opportunity to come to America in the aftermath of the civil war. Known as The Lost Girls, they were given an opportunity to enjoy freedom, peace, education, and the prospect for a normal, war-free life. Of the 20,000 orphaned boys, only 4,000 of them, known as The Lost Boys, made it the United States. Their written stories are plentiful. Rebecca's is rare. I had to read it!

To my delight and surprise, the story was a radiant display of grace in the life a child that embraced the profound and seemingly contradictory doctrines of the sovereignty and goodness of God from missionary school teachers who taught her while she was in a refugee camp. The more mature grappling with its personal implications followed in her story, then the beautiful fruit of such a full and practical embracing of those doctrines. In that way Rebecca's story wonderfully shines clarity on the intimate compatibility of these doctrines that we often grapple with personally, in ordinary conversation, and even in our small groups at TBPC.

As the story unfolded, I found that my excitement grew for *some* of my family and friends who would love this story! I wondered who knew this story...

Did my brother and his wife who ministered with their family for 35 years in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe who also felt the horrors of civil war impacting them and the people they love?

Did my niece and her husband and their now young adult children who lived a primitive lifestyle as a missionary family for so many years in Southern Sudan?

Did Ken and Betty Pothoven who went to Calvin College?

Did Rene and Lilli Palacio, our TBPC missionaries with SIM, originally Sudan Interior Mission?

Then my excitement grew from thinking that *some* of them would love this story to *all* of you would love this story!

This month our TBPC church family will be challenged again to think the Great Commission. Given to us as a sacred trust, this is our mandate to spread the story of this sovereign, loving, and self-sacrificing God and his extravagant gift of salvation from the dreadful consequences of our sin. Whether we will find ourselves listening "in-person" or on internet this month, we will be asked to consider how we will respond to our Savior who called us to reach every creature with his Gospel invitation for eternal salvation. Hopefully, Rebecca's story will excite you and remind you of the value, fruit, and beauty of your earnest prayers, generous giving, and personal encouragement to our TBPC missionaries in the coming year!



HIS *Story* CONTINUES

Virtual Missions Conference

February 19–20, 2021 | FREE

Our world is in upheaval but the work of making disciples of Christ is ever before us. Now more than ever, we witness His hand at work and celebrate the assurance that His story continues.

You'll hear stories from around the world, experience workshops that will challenge your views on missions, and catch a glimpse into the future as we anticipate how God will grow His kingdom through the work of the Presbyterian Church in America and our partners.

Individuals, groups, and churches welcome.

More info at mtw.org/vmc

mtw
Mission to the World

ESL

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

Our ESL Program continues to grow in such a wonderful way. God has blessed us in so many ways, working through our program, teachers, and students. We are so grateful that our group of students continues to grow adding new students weekly. Our total enrollment is now 25 students.

We started a new class in the new year—Beginner Level 2. With the addition of this new class, we now offer 6 classes per week:

- One Advanced Level 4 Class (Afternoon). Teacher: Karen Cross;
- Two Intermediate Level 3 Classes (Morning & Evening). Teachers: Karen Cross and John Hutton;
- Two Beginner Level 1 Classes (Morning & Evening). Teachers: Laila Valere, Marsha Otto, Alan Polasky, Suzanne Swenson and Karen Cross; and,
- One Beginner Level 2 Class (Afternoon). Teacher: Sandy Cooper.

Many of our students take multiple classes at different levels. Some of our students also choose to audit a more difficult class for listening practice, without participating out loud.

Our students come from the following countries: Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Spain, Turkey, Syria, South Korea, and China.

All of the students continue to stay for our Bible Study which includes: Scripture, Hymn, Vocabulary, and Prayer. Many of our students take multiple classes, at multiple levels. We have 2 versions of the same Bible Study; a Beginner Version and an Intermediate Version. Many students participate in the same Bible Study as many as 4 times per week!

We have developed such wonderful bonds with our students, and they have also become great friends and support systems for each other. It is such a privilege to be able to serve God and our community.

Please continue to pray for the ESL Program as we continue to share the Word of God through the Gospel while helping our students learn English.

We always have room for and need more volunteers! Please audit a class on Zoom and see how our Program works! We would love to have more volunteers join us! Contact Karen Cross for more information at: 813-714-9921, or karencross38@hotmail.com.

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

DAY VISITORS.....\$10 per person

WANT TO SIGN-UP?

Email Ashleigh Kemp at
kempash@gmail.com





Dear TBPC family,

This past month has gone well for NTCA. We have adjusted to our reduced classroom capacity. We now only have two classrooms open for the remainder of this school year. We are currently serving 20 students and this will be increasing to 23 in February.

Our **registration** for the 2021/22 school year opens for TBPC members and current NTCA families on **Monday, February 22, 2021**. Please refer to our website for further information: www.ntcafamily.org.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for your preschool ministry. I am working on identifying more ways in which our congregation can get involved in this wonderful ministry, so watch this space!
Ashleigh Kemp, Director



TBPC KIDS

COVID-19 update

As a Children's Ministry, we are continuing to review and enhance the precautions we take against COVID-19. We have implemented a new check-in system. All children participating in Children's Church will be checked in at the welcome desk on arrival and their temperatures will be taken. Face masks are still encouraged. We have moved the venue of Children's Church to the overflow room (double classroom), so that we can put more space between the children. Similar measures will also be taken for Sunday School. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Ashleigh Kemp, at kempash@gmail.com.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes for children aged 3 - 5th grade run alongside the Adult Bible Fellowship classes

from 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Our curriculum is:



<https://www.gcp.org/Distinctives.aspx>

Children's Church

Every Sunday during the Worship Service.

Serving children aged 3 - 5th Grade.

Children start in the service and exit after our Old Testament reading (at the start of the next song). Our curriculum is:



www.mustard-seeds.net

About Being a Boy or a Girl

Discussing Gender and Marriage
with Little Ones in Light of God's Word



by Lisa Updike / Illustrated by T.C. Lookabill

Book Corner

In her inviting and understandable way, master storyteller Lisa Updike discusses God's good plan for making boys and girls different for God's glory. Using scripture passages throughout, she explains to young children that when people think they know better than God and want to do only what feels good to them, it is sin, and sin is sad. In the final pages, she presents the hope of the gospel and the help God offers through Christ to live for his glory.

Available at: www.pcabookstore.com

FAMILY Fun



Our January Family Ministry Event was a S'mores night at church. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun. Despite the rain, we had a good time of fellowship.

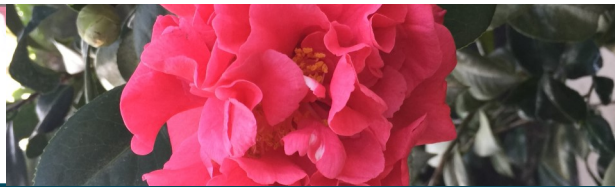
Thank you to the Newmans for organizing this event.

Our Family Ministry events take place once a month. Take note of the schedule below and save the dates in your family's calendar. We'd love to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

-  **26 FEB – 28 FEB** **FAMILY RETREAT @ LAKEWOOD RETREAT CENTER** 
- 27 MAR 5PM – 7:30PM** **FAMILY GAME NIGHT**
- 10 APR 9AM – 11AM** **FIELD DAY @ LETTUCE LAKE PARK**
-  **15 MAY 9AM – 11AM** **BEACH DAY**

TBPRES WOMEN



By Suzanne Swenson

Sister-to-Sister February 13, 2021

“The world tells us that annoyances and afflictions cause discouragement and doubt and that we are right to demand our own way. There are circumstances that are not what we wish or even what we think we need, and suddenly we are convinced that life hurts. The only option we have is to protest or whine—or so it seems. But what if we respond with worship instead? What if we moved beyond an occasional thank you to cultivating a lifestyle of appreciating God’s goodness every day of our lives despite the circumstances?” (Nancy Leigh DeMoss).

Kelly Rogers, our Women’s Ministry Sister-to-Sister Chairman, selected, *Choosing Gratitude: Your Journey to Joy*, a book authored by Nancy Leigh DeMoss, a Christian radio host, as the basis for our February 13, 2021 event. Ms. DeMoss has authored 15 books which have sold over 2,000,000 copies. She challenges and equips the reader to live a life of intention, a life based on thankfulness for the freedom Christ has provided and for the blessings of others. By intentionally thanking God and others, bitterness and entitlement are replaced with joy and the humble realization of just how undeserving we really are.

The Sister-to-Sister event will be held in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2021. All women are invited to join us for a morning of fellowship and friendship. The program will also be available through a Zoom link. We hope all women can join in, whether in person or on Zoom.

Women’s Leadership Training Virtual Conference

Hey ladies, several of you have approached me about how this conference will work with our Women’s Bible Study. This Leadership Training (LT) training will fall under the umbrella of Women’s Ministry and will not impact our weekly WBS training. I will be signing up for it and can share the information through articles that I will write based on the subjects discussed. I will share the information in that manner in the Trumpet. If anyone else is interested in signing up, please reach out. My email is suzswenson@verizon.net.

After having attended the face-to-face LT meeting last year with Marianne Cali and finding the meeting very educational and that it gave us an opportunity to meet other PCA members, I feel that it is beneficial to attend the 2021 Committee on Discipleship Ministry (CDM) Virtual Leadership Training. CDM has hosted LT for over 30 years and in the past several years they have exceeded their capacity and had to turn many women away. This year, with the uncertainty of COVID, they made the decision to "go virtual." While they would much rather be in person, they made the decision to hold the LT meeting because it is important, and it will give more women the opportunity to "attend"! The LT meeting begins on February 18 and continues through May 31, 2021.

The 2021 LT agenda is as follows:

It begins with Launch Weekend, February 18-20, 2021. This will include:

- Thursday, February 18, 7:30-9:00 p.m. – live programming via ZOOM Webinar, featuring Karen Hodge as the emcee, surprise guests, giveaways, and a keynote speaker.
- Friday, Feb 19, 7:30-9:00 p.m. – live programming similar to Thursday with a guest speaker.
- Saturday, February 20, 9:00-11:30 a.m. – programming with a keynote speaker and small group discussions.

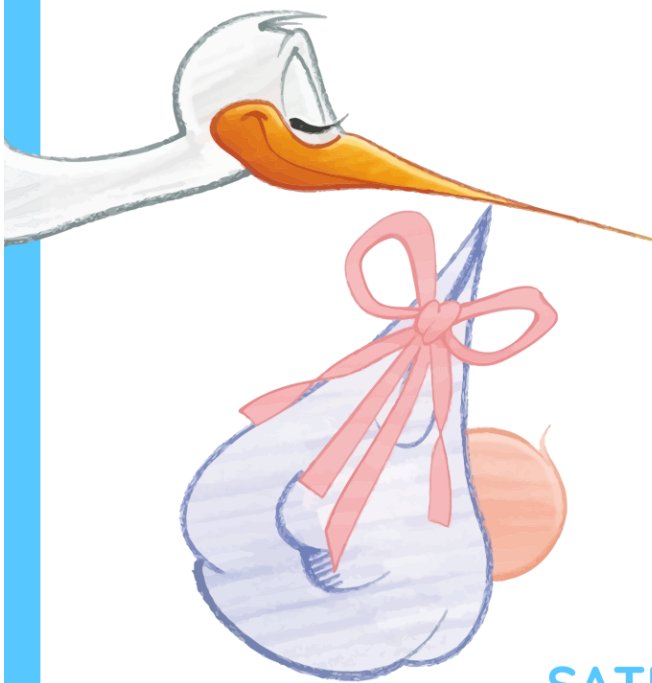
We will have access to:

- All 51 keynote sessions, workshops, the ability to join any (or all) of the Affinity Groups, and an additional Regional Gathering all until May 31, 2021. (Even if we aren't available for Launch Weekend, we will be able to view all of the material until May 31).
- We will receive weekly emails with encouraging and valuable information from Karen Hodge from February 18 to May 31.

Stay safe, be well, and be happy

Blessings to all

BABY SHOWER EMILY COOPER



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

AT TAMPA BAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Registered at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

RSVP by February 1 to
Jennifer Schumm
(mompbr@gmail.com or 813-781-3020) or
Clydia Craig
(clydia.craig2019@gmail.com or 813-335-6320)

Men's Ministry

Men's Fishing Trip

November 21, 2020

On November 21, 2020, the Men's Ministry had its fifth inshore fishing event located at the Gandy Bridge docks. It was a great time since we had so few events this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. So there was a lot of interest in the fishing trip. We had 6 men attend the fishing trip this year. The event was originally scheduled for November 7, but the weather was not good and we had to postpone it until November 21. The November 7 date had 21 people attending, which would have been the most of any year by a lot, but most of these people were unable to attend on November 21. We chartered 2 boats this time and the fishing was really as good, if not better, than last year. There were not as many species caught this year, but we managed to catch some flounder and a few puffer fish that blow up like a balloon when you handle them. The big species of fish this year was for sure the snook, which accounted for most of the catch that we had. Those present and on the fishing event pictured from left to right were Alex Rogers, Andrew Newman, Pastor Freddy Fritz, Peter Rotolo, Brian Carrier, and Scott Simmons.



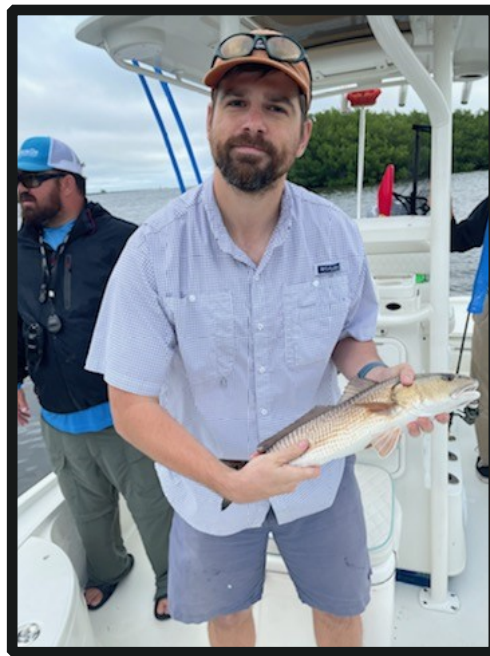


It was an overcast day as the beginning of another cold front was moving in that kept the temperature to a very comfortable 68 -75 degrees. We even had to witness the cold front in the form of rain halfway through the fishing; getting wet for approximately 20 minutes. The rain came and nobody cared as there was too much good fishing going on. We had 2 boats among the 6 men with 3 to a boat, which made it very comfortable on board. The Lord provided yet another perfect day to catch fish and they were really biting on this day. Among 6 men a total of 78 fish caught in total. The Captains that guided our day, Captain Mike with Pastor Freddy Fritz, Andrew Newman and Scott Simmons on Boat # 1 and on Boat # 2 was Captain Rusty was Brian Carrier, Alex Rogers and Peter Rotolo.

This trip was very exciting as the captains recommended that we fish close to shore as the seas were a little rougher to go out any further. They were correct because as soon as we dropped our first hooks the fish began to bite. We were mainly against the flats this time and we were very interested in the flats area that gave us an abundance of fishing to do. The boats were constantly reeling in fish. On Boat # 2 Brian Carrier caught 22 fish, Peter Rotolo caught 17, and Alex Rogers caught 13 more for the boat that caught the most fish of the day. On Boat # 1 were Freddy Fritz catching 9 fish, Andrew Newman catching 8 fish, and Scott Simmons catching an additional 9 fish for a total of 26 fish. It was a very fun fishing trip for all of the men with again, a lot of activity like we had in 2019.

This year Brian Carrier was the big fisherman catching 22 fish for the day for TBPC and our Grand Champion for this year. The fishing started very slow for him, but Captain Rusty moved the boat and he started catching them 1 after another. I know Brian won and no guys, it was not fixed. Peter Rotolo said it was and wanted a recount. Sorry Peter no recounts, they are not allowed.

We finished about 1:00 p.m. and proceeded to lunch. The final finish to the day was to go to the local restaurant where all the men enjoyed a nice lunch together at a new location, The Salt Shack on the Bay. The food was excellent and the view was amazing. There were a variety of items chosen with some seafood ordered, which was appropriate for the day.



The Men's Ministry would like to thank all the people who participated in the men's fishing trip and we hope we can hire 4 or 5 boats next year. If it is anything like the past 2 years, we are anticipating a lot of men, and young men, attending next year.





We will be having our next Men's Ministry event on Thursday February 4 for a night of bowling at The Main Event on State Road 56 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This event, although the men will be bowling, can be a family event. Please have a spouse, girlfriend, or children come out the same night and enjoy the games area while the men participate in a bowling match. We would like to thank the men who attend the 5th annual inshore fishing event and look forward to doing this around the same time next year. We also hope that you men can make it to the Men's Bible Study every Saturday morning at 7: 45 a.m., led by our own Dr. Jeff Beams, studying the Book of Proverbs by Dr. Jack B. Scott. Thank you again for the support of the Men's Ministry and Men's Bible Study.

With Praise,
Brian S. Carrier
Men's Ministry Leader



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**

February Birthdays

Tammie Matlack	February 01
Cathi Diaz	February 02
Phil Lear	February 02
Rock Roque	February 03
Cherita Adawonu	February 11
Lucibeth Hamm	February 12
Diana Weinel	February 15
Alisa Carrier	February 17
Holly Mickler	February 17
Melissa Noel	February 17
Todd Bayley	February 21
LeeAnn DeStefano	February 21
Thom Tigley	February 21
Ron Jorgensen	February 27
Marianne Cali	February 28

February Anniversaries

Smoot, Ken & Stephanie February 22
7 years



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.

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church
19911 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33647
Phone: (813) 973-2484
Email: office@tampabaypresbyterian.org

