

TBPRES TRUMPET



March 2021

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

Volume 16 Issue 3

From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Pressing On When Facing Difficulties

Almost everyone will admit that this past year has been their most difficult year. Ever. By far! Twelve months ago we had heard about COVID-19 and that it was potentially serious. Three weeks later, the entire world shut down for months. We are still not out of the woods yet as we all experience this worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

So, how does one press on when facing difficulties? In addition to the coronavirus pandemic, these difficulties may include stresses, disruptions, and failures.

James, the brother of our Lord Jesus, knew about difficulty. However, his difficulty also included persecution for faith in Jesus. James gives some counsel about how to press on when facing difficulties.

First, our difficulties will not last. In light of eternity, our difficulties are very short in duration. James writes, “As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord” (James 5:10). The prophets endured tremendous difficulties because they knew it was only temporary. When facing difficulties, focus on the eternal. Keep in mind that our difficulties will not last forever.

Second, God will use our difficulties. James writes, “for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:3-4). Difficulties often catch us by surprise. But God allows them into our lives so that we might become “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” Someone once said, “God is not as concerned about our comfort as he is about our character.” He uses our difficulties to shape our character to become more like Christ.

Third, getting angry will not help. When we go through difficulties, it is easy to get angry with others. But it does not help. James writes, “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (James 1:19-20). One cannot be angry and righteous at the same time.

Fourth, trusting God pleases him. “and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’—and he was called a friend of God” (James 2:23). Abraham trusted God even when he had no idea how God would fulfill the promise (of a son) to him. God considered Abraham a friend because Abraham trusted God’s word, even when he had no concrete evidence to do so. We will please God when we trust him and rely completely on his word when facing difficulties.

Fifth, Jesus is coming back. James writes, “You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:8). No one knows when Jesus will return. But when he returns, he will right all wrongs. He will put all our difficulties behind us and we shall be glad that we remained faithful to him.

And finally, this is not the end of the story. When we read a complex story, it seems confusing and hard to follow. But, when we get to the end of the story and all of the tensions are resolved, we appreciate the story. When Job lost his health, his children, and his wealth, he had no idea how it would all turn out. But God did. James writes, “Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). God cared about every detail of Job’s life. And he cares about every detail of your life and my life.

So, when you face difficulties in your life, press on while keeping these truths from James in mind.

Freddy

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Welcome

Join us in welcoming Tom Moore as the Custodian at Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church. Below is a short introduction from Tom. We are so thankful for Tom's joyful, enthusiastic, and supportive attitude as he serves in this role!



My wife Vicki and I just moved to Tampa from Kansas City, Kansas in December 2020. Prior to the move here I retired from a career in Law Enforcement and Corrections. The move to Tampa works out for us because we love the weather and beaches of Florida and are now able to live where we once vacationed. We found TBPC online before our move. The reality matches the great perception we had of TBPC from Pastor Freddy's recorded sermons and the active church as described on the website. Everyone here us been very welcoming and we appreciate it. The icing on the cake was this position opening up! I look forward to serving the local body here at TBPC. We hope to become communicant members soon. See you around! (The cheesy mustache in the photo was for a fundraiser – really.)



Yanet grew up in Havana, Cuba. She moved to the Tampa Bay area this past summer with her husband as Music and Spanish teachers. She is a Doctoral Candidate of Piano at James Madison University. She earned her Bachelor's of Music in Cuba, and her Master's of Music at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She has been married to Adrian Cottier for ten years. He is a Trumpet player. They love cooking and spending time with their families.

Please join us in welcoming Yanet Bermudez Ortiz as our new pianist.. She will play regularly for our services. We thank God for the many years Millie Myers served as pianist. Millie will still play on occasion.

LET'S HAVE
A BLAST!



BABY SHOWER HONORING ABIGAIL VINCENT

Barb Hess & Ashley Powe +18134107053

Saturday, March 27 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church 19911 Bruce B Downs Boulevard Tampa, FL 33647





Gentle & Lowly:

The Heart of Jesus for Sinners and Sufferers

Working closely to the biblical text, and with help from Puritan writers, Dane Ortlund explores comforting and healing significance for our up-and-down lives. We would love for you to join us as we see the endearing picture of the heart of Jesus for us unfold in the pages of Scripture as we study and pray together!

TWO IDENTICAL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUPS BEGINNING...

Monday, March 15, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ~ Tuesday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

FEATURING...

- A 24-week study with breaks for holidays.
- Stand-alone chapters. Join us whenever you can!
- An introductory video interview with Dane Ortlund.
- Devotional podcasts by Dane Ortlund.
- Free weekly study guides.

SIGNING UP FOR WBS ZOOM GROUPS...

Please sign up using the Welcome Cards in the Sanctuary using "WBS Mon" or "WBS Tues," or by calling/texting Debbie Jordan at (813) 368-7513 or Eileen Fritz at (813) 731-0457.

ACQUIRING YOUR BOOK...

There are some extra books available on a first-come basis. Please contact Eileen Fritz at (813) 731-0457.

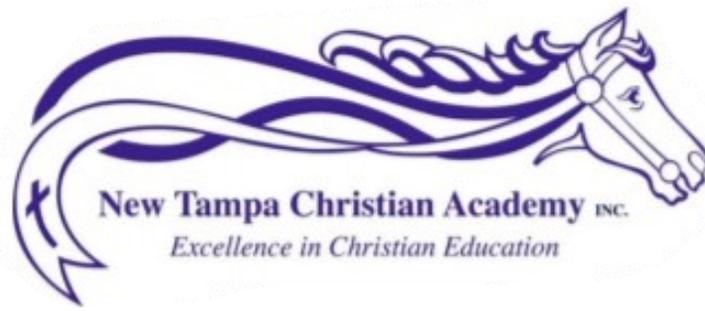
PAYING FOR YOUR BOOK...

If you ordered the book through us, please do not put your payment in the offering plate or combine it with your offering. Rather, you may pay by cash or check made out to TBPC with "WBS" in the memo line, and deliver it...

- to Barb Hess on a Sunday;
- in an envelope marked "WBS" to the WBS mailbox in the General Office; or
- by US Mail to the church. TBPC WBS, 19911 Bruce B. Downs Blvd, Tampa, FL 33647.

DISCOVERING THE HEART OF JESUS FOR YOU...





Dear TBPC family,

We're now two thirds of our way through the school year. What a year it has been! But we are thoroughly enjoying the time with our small group of students this year. They continue to learn and grow! A parent recently shared that she was so impressed that her daughter was telling her about Moses. She shared that she spent years in a Catholic school. So her daughter's retelling brought back lots of memories. It's moments like these that you realize the important work of this ministry. God has given us the important mission of sharing the gospel with people on our doorstep and in our community!

Our registration opened on February 22 for the 2021/22 school year. We had a flurry of registrations from our existing families, especially for our Pre-K4 class. We are very encouraged by this!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for your preschool ministry.

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 ages 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 ages 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 bad. 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



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!

March 27, 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. TRIVIA NIGHT @ TBPC

April 10, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. FIELD DAY @ LAKE PARK, LUTZ

May 15, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. BEACH DAY @ PASS-A-GRILLE BEACH



FAMILY EVENTS

**27 MARCH 2021
5PM - 7:30PM
TBPC AND VIA
ZOOM**

Save the date!
Registration details to follow

Teams of six. Create your own, or let us assign you. We hope you can join!



Men's Ministry

Men's Bowling Night

On February 4, 2021, the Men's Ministry had its third Bowling Night which was held at a newer location—the Main Event in Wesley Chapel. It was a change that included a huge game room for some of the younger children and ladies in the church. This was an event that the men have done before, and have enjoyed, so the response was good this year with enough bowlers for 3 teams. It was only the second men's event since the Covid 19 crisis began in 2020. We had 12 bowlers present and a few spectators, we think, but they were too busy playing the games in the main event. We were scheduled to bowl for 2 hours and we planned on playing 3 games, but the time did not allow for another game, so we played 2. Those present for the event by team were Team # 1: Waldo Kemp, John Hutton, Pastor Freddy Fritz and Cole Busby. Team # 2: Todd Bayley, Andrew Otero, Rev. Scott Simmons and Jason Skopp. Team # 3: Mark Snow, David Otero, Derk Shultz and Brian Carrier.





We were scheduled to start at approximately 7:00 p.m. but we actually started the first game at 7:20 p.m.. We decided to split the teams by drawing numbers, numbers 1 through 12, and thus the 3 teams were formed. It was an enjoyable night of bowling. And adding to the fun were pizza and beverages which were provided for all to enjoy. The bowling alley was very modern with illuminated bowling pins and video screens for viewing at the end of the alleys.

All of the teams started a little slow but the teams were closely matched for the challenge. The first game was a close one between 2 teams but team # 1, consisting of Waldo Kemp, John Hutton, Pastor Freddy Fritz and Cole Busby, had a total score of 458. Team # 2 came in with a good score of 425 and team # 3 came in with a score of 340. The first game was won by the Team # 1 who prevailed, by a margin of 33 pins.



In game 2 team # 2 bowled well again. They managed to get the exact same score as they did in the first game with a total of 425. That is very hard to do; talk about consistency team # 2. Team # 1 was trying hard to run with the title but came up a little shorter this time with a score of 388. They lost the second game to team # 2 by only 37 pins. Team # 3 gave it a fight but again came in third with a score of 366. The scores between Team # 1 and Team # 2 had a difference of only 4 pins. Team # 2 won the night with a combined score of 850 pins to team # 1 with a total of 846 pins. Team # 3 picked up the back by achieving 706 pins to complete the evening.

Congratulations to Team # 2: Todd Bayley, Andrew Otero, Rev. Scott Simmons and Jason Skopp. You are the bowling champions of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Men's Bowling night. Team # 1 gave them a good fight for number 1. We hope to have another bowling night later in the year.

We had 2 bowlers that did exceptionally well: Mr. Waldo Kemp who had an average of 148 pins for the 2 games and Rev. Scott Simmons who was our top bowler with a 152 average for the evening. Congratulations to both of you for bowling so consistently and well for your teams.

This event was good time for the men in a great battle for supremacy in bowling. We want to congratulate all the men who participated in our bowling night and we plan on having another bowling adventure in the future. We hope that the others that came out for the evening enjoyed themselves as well.

1 End of game

00:30

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot.
WALDO	X 3 / 5	4 7	1 8	1 5	/ 9	- 6	/ 9	/ 9	X		147
	20	35	44	52	61	80	89	108	127	147	
JOHN	5 - 8 - 8	1 9	/ 7	2 3	- 9	- 8	- 9	/ 4	5		91
	5	13	22	39	48	51	60	68	82	91	
FREDDY	X - 5	8 / 7	2 1	3 9	/ 6	-	X - 3	9 -			91
	15	20	37	46	50	66	72	82	82	91	
COLE	- 8	3 3	9 - 2	1 -	1 -	1 -	9 3	- 5	/ 1	8	59
	8	14	23	26	26	27	36	39	50	59	

Player WALDO m.p.h. 10.90



2

CURRENT PLAYER JASON Team2

00:25

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot.
TODD	6 1 3 3	9 / 7	- 9	/ 7	- 6	/ 5	3 4	/ 7	1		109
	7	13	30	37	54	61	76	84	101	109	
ANDREW	7 / 3	5 8	-	X 9	/ 7	- 7	1 4	2 7	1 7	-	102
	13	21	29	49	66	73	81	87	95	102	
SCOTT	8 / 6	/ 9	/ 8	- 6	-	X 7	1 9	/ 6	/ 9	/ 7	159
	16	35	53	61	81	99	107	123	142	159	
JASON	- - 1	- 7	2 5	4 -	- 5	- 6	- 9	- - 7	9		55
	0	1	10	19	19	24	30	39	46	55	

Player JASON m.p.h. 13.75



3 End of game

00:23

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot.
MARK	9 - 9	- 7	2 1	7 5	2 9	/ 4	2 9	-	X 9	/ 8	109
	9	18	27	35	42	56	62	71	91	109	
DAVID	6 - 6	- 5	- -	- -	- -	- 8	- -	- -	4 1	-	30
	6	12	17	17	17	17	25	25	29	30	
DIRK	- 9	4 - 3	- 7	/ X	- 4	6 - 6	- 1	5 9	-		81
	9	13	16	36	50	54	60	66	72	81	
BRIAN	X X	X 7	- 8	/ 9	/ 7	- 6	- 8	- 8			146
	30	57	74	81	100	117	124	130	138	146	

Player BRIAN m.p.h. 15.10

We are hoping to have another event sometime in March or April. We are going to try golf and see how many will participate from the church. Please let everyone know to look in the bulletin for the upcoming golf tournament. If you have any questions about this event or would still like to attend, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Carrier as the Men's ministry has money for these events if you need us to cover the cost. We do not want anyone who would like to participate to be denied because of finances. The budget in the Men's Ministry is for those that would like to come out and enjoy fun and fellowship with the other men of the church.

Please also try to come to our Men's Bible Study every Saturday morning at 7:45 a.m. which is led by our own Dr. Jeff Beams. We are now studying "Wisdom for Living" by Jack B. Scott Volume 2 Book 12. We are working our way through the book of Proverbs and hope to finish by year end. 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**

TBPRES WOMEN



By Suzanne Swenson

On Saturday, February 13, 2021, the TBPC WM held a [Sister-to-Sister event](#) at the church with twenty in attendance. The event was hosted by Kelly Rogers and her co-chair, Ashley Powe. They decorated the Youth Room in red and white in honor of Valentine's Day and had a lovely refreshment table arranged. What a sweet gathering emphasizing friendship and fellowship. The program was based on *Choosing Gratitude, "Your Journey to Joy,"* a book authored by Nancy Leigh DeMoss.

Marianne Cali led the group in prayer, followed by Suzanne Swenson recognizing Marianne for her having mentored not only Suzanne but others as well. Kelly presented Marianne with a lovely bouquet of Valentine flowers. Marianne is relocating in March to Lakeland, Florida to be closer to family.

Ashley Powe provided the devotion basing her comments on two Scriptures, 1 John 3:17-18 and 1 Timothy 5:8. "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 John 3:17-18). "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in-deed and in truth" (1 Timothy 5:8).

Kelly introduced the spirit of gratitude by sharing with us a review written by June Kezziah of Stafford, Virginia. How do we choose to be grateful? The author highlights two questions on the back cover. They are:

- What if we responded with worship instead of protesting or whining?
- What if we moved beyond an occasional "thank you" to cultivate a lifestyle of appreciating God's goodness every day of our lives—despite the circumstances?

The book explores all the ways we can be grateful, but it goes one step further and makes sure we understand that gratitude is not really about just saying "thank you" all the time—it's about having a heart that seeks to appreciate the seemingly mundane, the things that are not necessarily things you would be thankful for otherwise, but those things that make life easier/better/more fun/happier/etc./etc./etc. It made me think about the things I'm grateful for, and how often I am grateful for big things—but isn't life filled up with those little things, small moments, "trivial" things? Shouldn't I be grateful for those as well?

The author, Nancy Leigh DeMoss, established that gratitude is the pure, appropriate response to the saving and keeping grace of God. Why choose gratitude over ingratitude? Ms. DeMoss provides us with eight reasons:

- Gratitude is a matter of obedience.
- Gratitude draws us close.
- Gratitude is a sure path to peace.
- Gratitude is a gauge of the heart.
- Gratitude is the will of God.
- Gratitude is an evidence of being filled with the Spirit.
- Gratitude reflects Jesus' heart.
- Gratitude gets us ready for heaven.

PCA Women's Ministry Leadership Training

As I mentioned in earlier Trumpet articles, the annual PCA LT meeting is being held virtually. I did sign up as a participant and had the opportunity to join the Florida regional meeting with Jamie Burton, the Floridian regional leader for a break-out session. The LT meeting will be a 12-week session and I hope to provide information from the sessions in the Trumpet.

A personal note from Suzanne

Thank you very much for all the prayers, flowers, cards, notes, visitors, those that hung out with me during the day, surprise packages, and phone calls as I continue to recover from my total knee replacement. I am doing well and although I have not started driving yet, I do have permission to do so. I am very grateful to be part of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church family. Thank you.

Blessings

March Birthdays

Cindy Burns	March 01
Millie Myers	March 04
Ken Pothoven	March 08
Craig Tyler	March 08
David Cross	March 09
Luke Egbert	March 09
Ashleigh Kemp	March 12
Joe Kirkpatrick	March 17
Jena Barber	March 20
James Barber	March 20
Jeff Beams	March 23
Becky Jordan	March 23
Nancy Kirkpatrick	March 23
Rebekah Skopp	March 23
Gary Smith	March 25
Stephanie Smoot	March 25
Esaie Etienne	March 26
Andrew Newman	March 26
Roger Kaiser	March 27
Jennie Roque	March 27
Coleen Knecht	March 30
David Mickler	March 30
David Cunningham	March 31

March Anniversaries

Robert & Christy Almonte March 03, 2008 13 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.

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