



## From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

### That You May Know That You Have Eternal Life

Lord willing, I plan to begin a new series of sermons in May. This series will be on three letters of John, and I am calling the series “That You May Know That You Have Eternal Life.” John was the elder statesman for a group of churches centered in Ephesus. A number of people had left the church because they denied that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God (*cf.* 1 John 2:18-23; 4:1-3). So, John wrote the letters to do damage control and also to tell believers how they may know that they have eternal life.

These wonderful letters are very important for us to study at this time. Many of the concerns that John addressed to his people will help us with present-day concerns. Let me suggest a few that come to mind.

*John's letters teach us how to handle conflict.* How do church leaders deal with those who teach views contrary to the word of God? At what point do leaders say that the error goes beyond what is orthodox? What happens when the dissent becomes so significant that it inevitably splits the congregation? These were issues that faced John and he shows us how to deal with them theologically and pastorally.

*John's letters teach us how to confront wrong teaching when it is buttressed by claims of spiritual authority.* John's opponents claimed to be filled with the Spirit, and this was the basis of their claims of their teaching. How then do we equip God's people to answer error?

*John's letters teach us to test true faith.* People claim to be Christians and even affirm that Jesus is the Son of God. Is the Christian faith merely experiential? Or is there a truth component to Christian faith?

*And finally, John's letters show us the heart of a pastor for his people.* The reason John wrote these letters was not merely to correct error. He cared deeply for the flock that God had entrusted to him. He wanted his people to stand firm in the faith so that they may have assurance of salvation.

I am excited about studying the letters of John. I think you will enjoy this extremely practical study of God's word.

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

## **Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff**

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# Men's Ministry

## Men's Game Night

On April 8, 2021, Men's Ministry had its very first Men's Game Night at the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church courtyard. It was a new event for the men and young men of TBPC. The young men teamed up with one of the senior men. We had three fun outdoor games of Cornhole, Badminton, and Horseshoes. It was an event that was never done before and we had hoped for a good turn-out. It was very successful. There were nine teams with two per team and one spectator, Jonathan Massie. We needed to have the youth involved so that they could enjoy some good competition with either a guest or dad. We had the chance to fight the Covid pandemic by providing outdoor games for everyone. There was a lot of competition from all nine teams with two teams dominating the top spot.



The first team was team one with John Hutton and Ken Pothoven being the Masters of Cornhole and beating most every team that met their competition. The other team was team four consisting of Andrew Otero and his son Roger Otero who became the Masters of Badminton for the evening. Many of the other teams put up a good fight, but were not as successful as teams one and four. The other teams were team two consisting of Rev. Scott Simmons and Daniel Kemp, team three consisting of Waldo Kemp and son Christiaan Kemp, team five consisting of Todd Bayley and William Otero, team six consisting of Ed Jordan and Ken Smoot, team seven consisting of Josiah Massie and David Otero, team eight consisting of Brian Carrier and Caleb Massie, and team nine consisting of David and Kevin (friends of Josiah Massie).

The games were scheduled to start at approximately 5:30 p.m. but we decided to have dinner first as everyone received a free sandwich and a drink that came to this event. Each team was assigned one adult and one young man with some teams having two adults. It was very competitive as everyone was trying to help their teams. We did have some teams that were especially good in their sport. It created some good competition, but especially a lot of fun for all and great fellowship between the men and young men of the church.



The night was perfect for this event as the temperature was right around 75 degrees. We played until dark, approximately 9:00 p.m., as teams were competing for the top spot. There were lots of corn hole direct hits, ringers for the horseshoes, and aces for the badminton. This was a very fun event for everyone and there was lots of talk to do it once again.

Congratulations to team one with John Hutton and Ken Pothoven who tied first place with four victories through the evening and were Masters at the Play of Cornhole. In addition, team four with Andrew Otero and son Roger Otero who also tied first place and who were the Masters in Badminton. You are both the Game Night Champions of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Men's Game Night for 2021. Congratulations to all of the teams playing these games so consistently throughout the evening.



We are hoping to have another event sometime in May. 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 like to attend, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Carrier as Men's Ministry has money for these events if you need us to cover them. We do not want anyone who would like to participate be denied because of finances. The budget in Men's Ministry is for those that would like to come out and enjoy fun and fellowship with the men of the church.



Please also come to our Men's Bible Study every Saturday morning at 7:45 a.m. 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 the book by years-end.

Thank you again for the supporting Men's Ministry and Men's Bible Study.





# ESL

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

“Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38).

The ESL Program has really grown this year! Due to the pandemic, all of our classes this year are held on Zoom. This has allowed our students to take classes from home. We offer six classes (beginner, intermediate, and advanced) each week.

Beginner class: Meets on Thursday mornings and evenings. An advanced beginner class meets on Friday afternoons. Both beginner classes have reached their optimal capacity and are not accepting any new students. All new inquirers are being placed on a waiting list. We currently have 7 students on the waiting list.

Intermediate class: Meets on Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. The Friday morning class only has a few spots available for new students.

Advanced class: Meets on Monday afternoons.

Following each English class, we have a Bible Study. We read Scripture, give a devotion, play a hymn/praise song, and conclude with prayer. All students stay for the Bible study and learn about the Gospel with us.

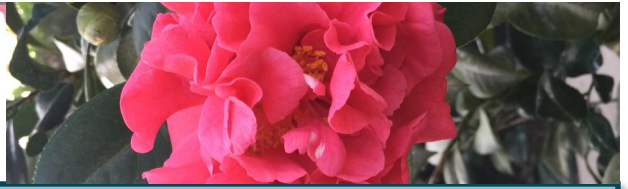
The ESL Program can continue to grow if we are able to add new volunteers. Please prayerfully consider joining the ESL program mission. Our greatest need is to start another beginner class. We have students waiting to start class right now! Two volunteers are needed to start a new class.

Our Books are easy to follow and teach from, and all of the information for the Bible Study is provided to the teachers in each class. The students receive their Bible Study documents by mail.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can join the team, please consider observing a class on Zoom! Contact Karen Cross by phone or email: [karencross38@hotmail.com](mailto:karencross38@hotmail.com) or 813-714-9921.



# TBPRES WOMEN



*By Suzanne Swenson*

Hello everyone! I hope this finds you and your family well and able to deal with the Covid-19 issues. Women's Ministry continues to work behind the scene to plan a few events while also checking in with each other. I think we all miss the socializing aspect of our ministry.

## What does WM have on its agenda?

April 25- May 9



Join us in celebrating new life this spring. We will be holding our annual drive to collect baby items to bless the Oasis Pregnancy Center. The Center needs diapers (newborn, size 4, size 5, and size 6) and wipes. Donations may be put in the crib in the west-wing hallway.

Questions? Contact Karen Cross, [karencross38@hotmail.com](mailto:karencross38@hotmail.com).

Oasis Pregnancy Center provides counseling, material assistance, and limited pre-natal care. Their vision is to turn the hearts and minds of all Tampa Bay Area young women and men back to life-affirming choices and sexual integrity. Additionally, they have a "Baby Boutique" to equip and encourage moms and dads with diapers, baby shampoo, clothes, and gear for their little ones.

## June and October 2021 (dates are TBD)

We have two Sister-to-Sister events tentatively scheduled for June and October. Kelly Rogers and Ashley Powe are busy planning the programs. I have heard that the June event will focus on mentoring. This is such a hot topic and based on the attendance at the previous S2S events, this will be another full-house gathering. Details will be provided as they become available. Contact Kelly Rogers, [Kelly.lynn.rogers6@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.lynn.rogers6@gmail.com), or Ashley Powe, [ACpowe@gmail.com](mailto:ACpowe@gmail.com).

## December 4 (Annual Christmas brunch)

Although the event is months away, it does take some planning and organizing to make it happen. We do have a vacancy for the chairman position so if you are interested, please contact Suzanne Swenson, [suzswenson@verizon.net](mailto:suzswenson@verizon.net) for further details. Also, we do hold WM Zoom meetings periodically and they are open to the ladies in the church. Feel free to join us.

Blessings



## 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](mailto:desleea@tampabaypresbyterian.org)**

## *May Birthdays*

Jane Tyler	May 02
Roy Hunter	May 05
Richard Hunter	May 07
Larry Hess	May 10
Mindy DeJesus	May 11
Nancy Morrison	May 11
Cathy Turpen	May 11
Bob Morrison	May 13
Mike Cacioppo	May 15
Judy Weir	May 15
Violet Tigley	May 17
Christy Almonte	May 23
Samuel Busby	May 25
Toni Cacioppo	May 29
James Turpen	May 31

## *May Anniversaries*

Skopp, Jason & Rebekah	May 01, 2009	12 Years
Kirkpatrick, Joe & Nancy	May 08, 1953	68 Years
Powe, Christopher & Ashley	May 19, 2012	9 Years
Mickler, David & Holly	May 21, 2006	15 Years
Diaz, Jack & Cathi	May 22, 1988	33 Years
Hunter, Richard & Michelle	May 25, 1991	30 Years
Tigley, Thom & Violet	May 26, 2007	14 Years
Schmidt, John & Lesley	May 30, 1992	29 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](mailto:andreaproctor@tcforce.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

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