

TBPRES TRUMPET



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Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, PCA

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From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

A Report on the 48th General Assembly of the PCA

The 48th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America met June 28 – July 2, 2021 in St. Louis, MO. The following is my brief report of the General Assembly. There were 2,116 commissioners (1,503 Teaching Elders and 613 Ruling Elders) in attendance, by far the largest General Assembly of the PCA.

First, I am grateful to the Lord for the Presbyterian Church in America. The PCA was started in 1973 and its motto is, “Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.” Our denomination is committed to the Word of God, and has for its constitution *The Westminster Standards* and the *Book of Church Order*. Faithfulness to the Scriptures and adherence to the constitution must be conscientiously preserved by each generation of communicant members, particularly as we live in our current secular culture. There was great concern heading in to this 48th General Assembly as our denomination faced a progressive agenda from within our ranks. While much work remains to be done, and we must always be valiant for the truth, I was encouraged that all the votes in this year’s General Assembly were in opposition to the progressive agenda.

Second, the General Assembly elected a new Stated Clerk. Dr. Bryan Chapell was elected as the 4th Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. He succeeded Dr. Roy Taylor who had served as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly for 22 years. He stepped down from that position to take care of his wife, who is battling dementia. Dr. Taylor was unanimously approved to serve as the Moderator of the 48th General Assembly. Dr. Taylor’s proficiency in Scripture, the constitution, and especially in *Robert’s Rules of Order* enabled him to guide the assembly exceedingly well through difficult debates.

Third, I was delighted that Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church sent two commissioners to this year’s General Assembly. Ruling Elder Ed Jordan and Ruling Elder Emeritus Ken Pothoven were able to attend this year’s extremely important General Assembly. Ruling Elder Todd Bayley was scheduled to attend but was unable to do so because of work requirements over which he had no control. RE Ed Jordan served on the most important committee of the General Assembly, the Overtures Committee. I was thankful for his participation and influence.

And fourth, forty-eight overtures were presented to the 48th General Assembly. An overture is ordinarily a request of a Presbytery for the General Assembly to take an action. Two of the important overtures suggested changes to the *Book of Church Order* that essentially clarified the moral requirements for church office as well as the prohibition to church office for men who self-identify as “gay Christians,” “same-sex attracted Christians,” “homosexual Christians,” or like terms. These overtures were overwhelmingly approved by the General Assembly. However, two thirds of the Presbyteries must also approve these overtures this coming year, before they can be approved at next year’s General Assembly, and only then become part of the *Book of Church Order*. Another important overture revised the Mission to the World Manual to ensure that leaders in line authority over church planting or church development ministry shall be ordained elders.

As mentioned above, much work remains. In fact, we must always remain on guard against theological and pastoral slippage, error, and heresy. Let us continue to pray that the Lord will bless this branch of his Church.

Freddy

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Once Upon a Ladies' Luncheon

The St. Louis Marriott hotel ballroom was filled with bright blue table-clothed rounds of eight, all adorned with orchids. I was glad to be greeted with music of cheerful chatter of the women already cushioned on comfy chairs. Ruling Elders' wives. Teaching Elders' wives. PCA women from St. Louis. Covenant Seminary alums. All waiting for the Women's Ministry Luncheon program to proceed.

After a few minutes of contributing to the conversation where I found a place to park myself, I noted that, once-upon-a-time, I had met the Give-Away Lady noted in print on the program, but only once thirty-two years before in Beaver Falls, PA. No need for my AWOL neurons because her notable name was in front of my face. I was way in the back of the ballroom, so I couldn't see her well because of her short stature. So, I would try to track the partly-hidden-behind-the-podium, vivacious Give-Away Lady with the white dress and the short, blondish hair when she sat somewhere.

When we moved from the delightfully decorated luncheon tables to the even aisles of other cushioned chairs for the rest of the anticipated agenda, I sat in the second row, carefully close, but sufficiently sociable, near the Give-Away Lady with the short, blondish hair, and the white dress. But alas, she was not the Give-Away Lady, according to another very nice lady in a red dress with a red shoulder scarf who came and sat in between us.

Soon the In-Between Lady pointed to another lady with a white denim jacket and a red dress and short, blondish hair who was just sitting down across from me at the end of the expansive aisle and a row ahead. The In-Between Lady pointed to her and said, "That's the Give-Away Lady." BINGO! Then I saw that the Give-Away Lady suddenly set her white L. L. BEAN bag on her aisle-side with her last name DORIANI embroidered in bright blue as if to tell MOI that she was THE ONE, even though the DEBBIE had been deleted.

Unexpectedly, with the MC's voice now coming clearly through the sound system, the Give-Away Lady turned right around and looked at MOI! She clearly motioned with face and hands, "Don't I know you?" (Contrary to the menacing of my mirrors, I must not have changed a bit in thirty-two years . . .) I grabbed my lanyard-ed name tag from where it had been leisurely lying on my pale pink top and thrust it out over the expansive aisle toward the Give-Away Lady as quickly as I could. The perplexed look on her face, told me that no bells were going off behind it. While the rest of the luncheon program was rapidly rolling on, the hands and face of the Give-Away Lady said, "Where do I know you from?" Using all my expressive efforts this time, especially my loud-less lips, I answered across the expansive aisle between us, "Beaver Falls!" Still no bells bonged. Once more, with my hands moving musically near my loud-less lips, and mouthing mightily, I answered across the expansive aisle, "You sang at my daughter's Baptism!" The bells could not seem to bong about what happened in Beaver Falls thirty-two years ago.

So, I had to wait as patiently as possible through the interesting intros, meaningful music, and the benedictory blessing, before I made a pleasant parting with the In-Between Lady and darted in the direction of the Give-Away Lady. Oops! Full stop. Waited my turn.

"Beaver Falls! I must know you . . . ," said the Give-Away Lady. "How do I know you?"

"You sang at our daughter's Baptism." (No bells bonging yet.)

"Do you know the song, *Find us Faithful*? Did you ever sing it? (Maybe a slight bong?)

"The Baptism was in a home. Dr. Jack White baptized two little baby girls—our daughter and the daughter of a music professor at Geneva College." (A bong! Quite a BONG!)

"Oh, yes! I remember! Stephen and Susan Crist! They are dear friends of ours!"

"Well, our daughter Lauren is now thirty-two. She and her husband Peter Dishman and their three children are with MTW/RUF-Global in Bogotá."

The Give-Away Lady indeed seemed to be even more sparkly and smiley on hearing the rest of this surprising story I thought maybe that had added a special sweetness to an already delightful day, thinking that she had a small share in the life of a Covenant Child who was now serving the Savior as she was.

Often it occurs that way at the PCA General Assembly annually But just imagine being at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in our Heavenly Home where you will be reminded of all the God-given gifts that truly touched a special someone that you had fully forgotten. Why? Because “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).

Eileen Fritz

July, 2021

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

(Romans 12:3-21, NKJV)

Empty Nesters

Alisa Carrier

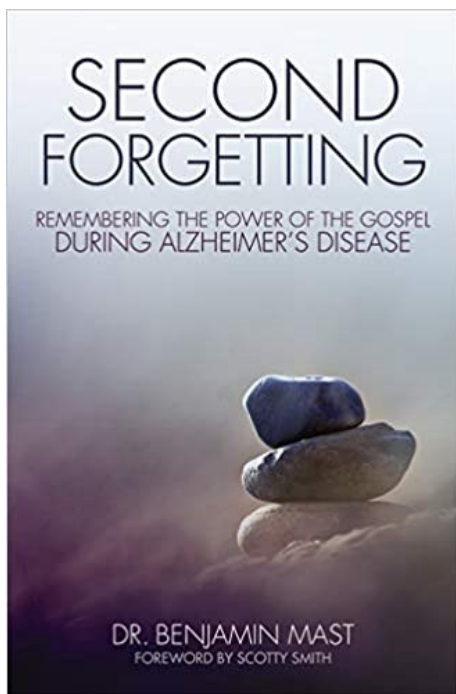
Many of us are enjoying the fellowship after church on the third Sunday of every month at different restaurants in the area. July's outing was at the Texas Road House. We had a very slim attendance but we know that in July there are a lot of people that go on vacation to get ready for the up-coming second half of the year!

Please join us at our next lunch on the third Sunday in August. The more the merrier! Great food and fellowship! I will be putting an announcement in the bulletin and sending out emails for the August event.

If you are not getting the emails, please contact me at Jastod9291@yahoo.com or 813-600-0209 to provide me with your email so I can add you to the list.

Hope to see all there!





Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group

Clydia Craig

My dear husband died of Alzheimer's in 2014 after 14 years of suffering. He loved the Lord and at times he was comforted.

The Alzheimer's/Dementia road is not an easy journey for the patient or the family and friends. Many times you feel that you are totally alone—and it is discouraging and overwhelming.

There is a book I found that is very helpful: *The Second Forgetting*, by Dr Benjamin Mast. It is available through Amazon, Zondervan, Barnes and Nobles, and Christianbook.com. There is a discussion by Dr. Mast on YouTube if you want to learn more.

Please join me in a support group on Tuesday nights, 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss this book and share our caregivers' sorrows as well as joys. The agenda is to read a chapter in the book each week and then discuss the several questions at the end of the chapter as well as have a general time of discussion and prayer .

For more information, please call or email me at 813-335-6320 or Clydia.craig2019@gmail.com. If you need help with Zoom, please let me know and we can arrange someone to come and help with that.

I am looking forward to coming together to encourage and build up one another in our faith. God bless you.



Dear TBPC Family,

It's almost time for the new school year at NTCA, our preschool ministry, to start. We are very excited and we are looking forward to the new year which begins for students on Monday, August 16.

Our team at NTCA has grown! I would like to welcome Laura Highfill (Pre-K 4 teacher) and Amanda Randall (Pre-K 4 teacher), and welcome back Jennifer Carrillo (Pre-K 2 teacher) and Azeb Habtemariam (Teacher Assistant). They join our current team made up of: Suly Acosta (Assistant Director and Pre-K 3 teacher); Lizaida Pabon (Pre-K 2 teacher); and, Lucita McLean (Teacher Assistant).

We need your help! Please will you consider helping NTCA in any of the following ways:

We have expanded our new curriculum to include the Pre-K 4 curriculum. This means we have a number of specific reading books that we need to purchase as part of this new curriculum. **Please will you consider purchasing a book for us.** I will be inserting stickers inside the cover of the books to name the donor, so feel free to add a message to your Amazon delivery and I'll include that message too! Here is a link to the Amazon list of books: [Link to NTCA book list](#).

We are still looking for two Teacher Assistants. Please pray that God will lead the right people to us who will have a heart for our ministry. If you know of anyone interested in these roles, here's the link to advertisements on indeed.com: [Link to Assistant Teacher advertisements](#).

We are also looking for anyone who is willing and has the flexibility to join our **Substitute Teacher list**. This can either be on a volunteer basis (which is limited to 10 hours per month), or on a paid basis (paid staff must also do some basic online training). Our substitutes assist in the classrooms when our permanent staff are unavailable due to illness, or other personal commitments. The responsibilities of our substitutes are that of an assistant teacher, as our Assistant Teachers take over the teaching if the Teacher is off. Please let me know if you are available to assist in this way! (Email me at director@ntcafamily.org).

It's time to refresh the mulch on our playground! **We will be spreading new mulch on the playground on Saturday, August 7 @ 8:00 a.m.** Please let me know if you are able to assist with this. The more men, and young men, that we have to help, the faster it goes! We are normally able to get it done within two hours. Please email me at director@ntcafamily.org, or text me at 813-362-8530 if you are able to assist.

Thank you for your continuous support and prayers for the ministry of NTCA. We are very grateful and thankful to God for the protection, financial contributions, and direction he provided us during this past school year. May everything we do continue to be for his glory!

Yours in Christ,

Ashleigh Kemp
Director

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**

August Birthdays

Jason Skopp	August 01
Nathaniel Adawonu	August 04
Joanne Campbell	August 06
Lillian Ordahl	August 07
Deborah Osibodu	August 08
Lilly Porter	August 09
Averil Massie	August 10
Emily Kosanovich	August 11
John Otto	August 11
Lenny Chew	August 15
Derk Shultz	August 17
Peter Dishman	August 21
Brandi Shultz	August 21
Wicke Egbert	August 24
Wes Mollard	August 25
Mary Ann Peterson	August 26
Don Vander Ploeg	August 26
Peter Wu	August 26
Joe Burns	August 27
Bert Barber	August 29
George Noel	August 31
Suzanne Swenson	August 31

August Anniversaries

Massie, Jonathan & Averil	August 01, 1999	22 Years
Hess, Larry & Barbara	August 06, 1966	55 Years
Newman, Andrew & Meghan	August 13, 2011	10 Years
DeStefano, Bob & LeeAnn	August 14, 1971	50 Years
Pothoven, Ken & Betty	August 14, 1964	57 Years
Simmons, Scott & Valerie	August 18, 1979	42 Years
Proctor, Rod & Andrea	August 20, 2015	6 Years
Hutton, John & Bonnie	August 21, 1971	50 Years
Tyler, Craig & Jane	August 21, 2004	17 Years
DeJesus, Adalberto & Mindy	August 25, 1996	25 Years
Cunningham, David & Sharon	August 26, 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 by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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