



From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

“The Characters of Christ's Birth”

In 1963, Andy Williams released a new song titled “It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” just in time for Christmas. The song is a celebration of the activities associated with the Christmas season, focusing primarily on get-togethers with friends and family, sledding with children, roasting marshmallows, sharing stories about previous Christmases, and singing Christmas carols in winter weather. It is very nostalgic and we still hear that song played many times each Christmas season.

While there is much that we know about Christmas, there is also a lot that we don't know. We have created so many traditions and stories that we often miss what really happened at the birth of Christ.

This coming Advent Season, I would like to preach a series of sermons that I am calling “The Characters of Christ's Birth.” There are many people who feature in the events leading up to and in the birth of Christ. However, this year I would like to focus on just a few. (Perhaps next year we may look at a few others.) I would like to examine the birth of Christ from the perspective of Joseph (actually, Pastor Simmons will preach about Joseph), Zechariah and Elizabeth, the wise men, and Mary. Each of these persons were used by God to play a significant role in the birth of Christ. At first, they struggled to understand all that God was doing. But over time, they came to understand God's incredible plan and they participated in a most wonderful manner.

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Finally, on the Lord's Day, December 25, we will examine the birth of Christ. His birth changed the course of history as God sent his Son to be born of Mary. The God-Man, Jesus Christ, was born in Bethlehem to Mary. He lived in obscure Nazareth. His short ministry of three years in Israel rocked the nation. He was eventually crucified on a Roman cross in Jerusalem. But, astonishingly, three days later he was raised back to life. And the world has never been the same!

I hope you will join Pastor Scott Simmons and me as we examine "The Characters of Christ's Birth" this Advent Season.

Freddy

Hospitality by Joan Kosanovich

**"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."
(Romans 12:13)**

Our church family enjoyed another blessed annual Thanksgiving dinner this year, and look forward to additional blessings through the Christmas season. Beginning in December, the Hospitality Ministry also will resume offering light snacks with the coffee and tea each week. Items will be purchased (rather than homemade) and kept in the original packaging, for folks to help themselves as they choose.

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church ministries each receive a missionary to sponsor, through prayer, encouragement, and other types of support. Hospitality is privileged to sponsor the Stodghill family, who serve the Lord in Belize. As they navigate the recent loss of John's father and care for his mother, the Stodghill family has experienced some wonderful ministry opportunities in the community where they have been planted for this season. Please pray for John, Karen, and their family and flock. Thank you!

Our most recent New Members' Class enjoyed a wonderful home-cooked meal provided by Marisa and Joel Braschler. Meatloaf, vegetables, cheesecake, and lovely autumnal table decorations gave the class members a warm welcome to our church family. Many thanks to Marisa and Joel for their loving generosity and time!

There is no pressure to join this ministry, ever, but anyone interested in serving, or if anyone would like more information, please contact Joan Kosanovich or LeeAnn DeStefano.

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

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Men's Ministry
Brian Carrier

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Melissa Bayley &
Stephanie Smoot

Missions
Scott Simmons

Youth
Bert Barber

NTCA
Ashleigh Kemp



34th Annual Christmas Brunch for Women

The Christmas Brunch Committee has been diligently preparing for an engaging, endearing, and energizing brunch! We are excited for every woman to join this special time together.

Saturday, December 3

at the church

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Sunday, November 6, through Sunday, November 20, in the narthex. Tickets are eighteen dollars for girls 8 and older and ten dollars for girls under age 8. For ticket questions, please contact Debbie Jordan (debbiejordan1@gmail.com or 813-368-7513).

Childcare will only be available by registering with Abigail Vincent (425-757-2774 or abigail-taverne@gmail.com) by Sunday, November 20.

Questions about the brunch, please contact Melissa Bayley (melbay4@gmail.com or 813-528-2830) or Brandi Shultz (brandishultz83@gmail.com or 724-422-0247).



Christmas Caroling

Come bless some folks in our congregation by singing
to them at their homes their beloved Christmas carols!

All joyful noises and happy faces are welcome including your little ones.

We'll meet at church at 5:00pm, Sunday, December 18

for printed instructions and caroling sheets.

(A bite to eat in advance at home is a good idea.)

Christmas Goodies!

Carolers are invited to meet after caroling for hot chocolate and Christmas goodies.

Join us!

RSVP on the Welcome Card (Please write "C & G" for caroling and goodies.)

or contact Eileen Fritz with a call/text at (813) 731-0457

or at EileenMFritz@icloud.com.

Let us know, if at all possible, by Sunday, December 11:

- If you plan to go caroling. (Names)
- If you can drive and how many TOTAL seats.
- If you can give the first note to lead the carols.
- If you can play familiar carols on your guitar.
- If you and yours will stay for goodies after caroling.

*Festival of
Lessons and Carols*

Saturday, December 24, 2022

6:00 PM

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church

19911 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.

Tampa, FL 33647



**LET EVERY HEART
PREPARE HIM ROOM!**

How are you preparing your heart this
Advent Season?

Join Women's Bible Study for the Spring/Summer



At first glance, the ancient book of Deuteronomy may seem irrelevant. Yet Jesus and the Apostles taught from Deuteronomy often. Dr. W. Robert Godfrey takes a closer look. In this teaching series, he connects the land, laws, and leaders of Deuteronomy to the Christian life. We will join him and discover how Deuteronomy points to the Savior and helps prepare our hearts for Jesus.

Two Sessions to Choose From

- Monday evenings via Zoom, 6:30-8:30pm, beginning January 3rd
- Tuesday mornings in person, 10:00am-noon, beginning January 4th

Both Sessions Feature:

- Video lessons by W. Robert Godfrey
- Study Guide with discussion questions and answers
- Discussion among women participants
- Small group prayer

Additional Details:

- Study Guides will be available for purchase for \$20 in December. Timing will be announced by church-wide email and in the Worship Guide. Contact Debbie Jordan for further information at (813) 368-7513.
- Sign ups will also be announced in December.



December Anniversaries

<i>Freddy & Eileen Fritz</i>	<i>December 14, 1985</i>
<i>Kevin & Sandy Carruth</i>	<i>December 17, 1988</i>
<i>Michael & Carol Bridges</i>	<i>December 18, 1981</i>
<i>Esaie & Natacha Etienne</i>	<i>December 20, 1997</i>
<i>Bob Brown & Ruth Shannon</i>	<i>December 22, 2010</i>
<i>Pete & Laura Rotolo</i>	<i>December 22, 1997</i>
<i>Peter & Lauren Dishman</i>	<i>December 28, 2013</i>
<i>Aldo & Abby Mondin</i>	<i>December 28</i>

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

We thank God for his faithfulness in your lives and your marriages. May you delight all the more in the steadfast love, new mercies, and faithfulness of the Lord this year!

December Birthdays

<i>Connor Turpen</i>	<i>Dec 1</i>	<i>John Hutton</i>	<i>Dec 13</i>
<i>Jennifer Isaac</i>	<i>Dec 5</i>	<i>Betty Pothoven</i>	<i>Dec 14</i>
<i>Christiaan Kemp</i>	<i>Dec 5</i>	<i>Alba Skopp</i>	<i>Dec 16</i>
<i>Pete Rotolo</i>	<i>Dec 8</i>	<i>Melissa Bayley</i>	<i>Dec 20</i>
<i>Abigail Vincent</i>	<i>Dec 8</i>	<i>Emalin Henry</i>	<i>Dec 24</i>
<i>Gabriella Shultz</i>	<i>Dec 9</i>	<i>Krystal Bailey</i>	<i>Dec 25</i>
<i>Kiera Shultz</i>	<i>Dec 9</i>	<i>Zainab Karibi-Whyte</i>	<i>Dec 27</i>
<i>Dee Kaiser</i>	<i>Dec 10</i>	<i>Stevie Riley</i>	<i>Dec 27</i>
<i>Rachel Contrata</i>	<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>Sandy Carruth</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>
<i>Senny Karibi-Whyte</i>	<i>Dec 12</i>	<i>Susan Newkirk</i>	<i>Dec 31</i>

Church Retreat

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Church Retreat in October. I hope you enjoyed the time of relaxation, fellowship and digging into God's word. Thank you to Scott who led the sessions, looking at Proverbs 2:1-5. Also to Rachel, for coordinating the children's program, and to Melissa for coordinating pretty much everything else! It was a wonderful opportunity to get away, and spend time with our church family.

We are hoping to hold our 2023 retreat on the same weekend next year, 6-8 October 2023. So put that in your diaries and we hope to see you there. If you would like to be involved with the planning, or have ideas for the schedule, then please just drop me an email at: kempash@gmail.com.

Ashleigh Kemp

Family Retreat Planning team



My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, ² making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; ³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:1-5

English as a Second Language Program

by Karen Cross and Grace Lee



This month, the ESL Program will wrap up the First Semester of 2022-2023. This semester 54 students from 21 countries participated in 8 classes each week.

We are so grateful for our new ESL Administrative Team, which includes Barb Hess, Andrea Proctor, and Melissa Noel. The ESL Administrative Team mails class materials, devotions, and announcements to students. Their efforts not only support effective instruction but also provide students with printed Bible verses

The ESL teachers and ESL Administrative Team met in November to plan events, review student feedback, and discuss current needs. The verse that comes to mind is Matthew 9:37 (ESV): Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." God has blessed the ESL Program and new students continue to join every week. For the Second Semester, there is a need for an additional Beginner Class and interest in Conversation Classes at both the Beginner Level and the Intermediate/Advanced Level. By offering English classes, we have the opportunity to build relationships with people from many countries and backgrounds, share Bible verses and devotions with them, and pray for them. Please pray with us that our students' hearts will be like good soil where the small seeds we sow can grow and that God will provide more teachers as needs arise. If you are interested in serving as an ESL teacher, please let Karen Cross know.



Calendar of Events: 2022-23



Fall

Winter

Spring

Summer

Women's Bible Study
8/22- 11/15

Men's Breakfast
8/27

Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
9/4 - 12/18

Men's Bible Study
9/3 - 12/17

The Workshop Ministry
9/10

Church Retreat
10/7 - 10/9

Men's Fishing Trip
11/5

Membership Class
11/13

Thanksgiving Dinner &
Service
11/20

Beginning of Advent
11/27

Women's Christmas
Brunch
12/3

Men's Breakfast
12/10

Christmas Eve Service
12/24

Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
1/8 - 3/26

Men's Bible Study
1/7 - 3/25

Women's Bible Study
1/9 - 3/28

Missions Conference
2/17 - 2/19

Membership Class
2/19

Adult Bible Fellowship
Children & Youth SS
4/2 - 5/28

Men's Bible Study
4/1 - 5/27

Women's Bible Study
4/3 - 5/9

Passion Week
Maundy Thursday
Service
4/6

Good Friday Service
4/7

Easter Sunday
4/9

Membership Class
5/21

Vacation Bible School
TBD

Membership Class
8/20

Contact us



facebook.com/tbpres



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Trumpet Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz, *Editor-in-Chief*

Melissa McNulty and Grace Lee, *Co-editors*

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 grace76548@gmail.com by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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