



## From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

### 5 Things Every Christian Needs to Grow

The title for this article is borrowed from R. C. Sproul's book by the same title. The title is self-explanatory. Sproul writes, "Being a Christian is not an acquired skill or discipline like diving or ice skating. It is a living, vital relationship with the God of the universe, a relationship that begins when a person becomes a new creation in Him and receives Jesus as Lord by faith. But like Olympic athletes, Christians are called upon to train, to make sacrifices, and to embrace certain disciplines in order to give God 'our utmost for His highest.'"<sup>1</sup>

As we begin 2023, I want to encourage you, dear Christian. Make a commitment to discipline yourself in the following five areas:

1. **Bible study.** God has revealed his truth to us in his word, the Bible. Get involved in personal Bible study and a group Bible study, such as the Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, or Adult Bible Fellowship. You will never grow as a Christian unless you are growing in your understanding of God's word.
2. **Prayer.** Prayer is talking to God. You need to grow in your relationship with God and, in addition to reading the Bible, prayer is essential to that end. Let me encourage you to develop a prayer list to aid you in prayer.
3. **Worship.** You need to worship God personally, with your family, and with your church. You should never miss a Lord's Day worship service—unless you are providentially hindered.

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<sup>1</sup> R. C. Sproul, *5 Things Every Christian Needs to Grow* (Lake Mary, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2008), 2.

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4. **Service.** If you are a Christian, God has given you a spiritual gift that is to be used in service to him and his family. If you are not sure what your spiritual gift is, don't worry. Just volunteer to serve in some ministry. Eventually, you will find you are better at some things, and that is likely an indication of your spiritual gift.
5. **Stewardship.** God has given every Christian time, talents, and treasure. Every Christian is going to give an account to God for the use of his or her time, talents, and treasure. So, use them to glorify God in every area of your life.

My prayer is that when you get to the end of 2023, you will be able to look back over the year and see noticeable ways in which you have grown as a Christian.

*Freddy*

Save the Date

February 17-19, 2023

# MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Serving God's Purpose in Our Own Generation  
Acts 13:36-52

The Missions Conference will be held on February 17-19.  
Please put the Missions Conference on your calendar and plan to  
take part, especially Saturday evening at our All-Church dinner.

Dr. Herb Ward is our Keynote Speaker and several of  
our missionaries are planning to attend the conference.

Further details to come!



## 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 enjoyed additional blessings through the Christmas season, including our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Beginning in December, the Hospitality Ministry also resumed 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 in which they have been planted for this season. Please pray for John, Karen, and their family and flock. Thank you!

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.



# 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Brunch for Women

Theme: Grace

Speaker: Paula Smith

Testimony: Valerie Simmons

Our 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Christmas Brunch at Tampa Bay Presbyterian was a hit! With over 75 women attending, women of all ages enjoyed an amazing time of fellowship.

We welcomed speaker Paula Smith with her wonderful message on this year's theme of Grace. She dug into the scripture and touched so many of our hearts. Paula reminded us that we would never understand the magnitude of the gift of the baby in the manger until we see the reason he was born and the depth of the rebellion and sin in our hearts and encouraged us to focus on the birth of Christ during this busy holiday season. A beautiful testimonial given by Valerie Simmons allowed us to relate and learn more about a fellow sister in Christ. A huge thank you to both of these women for blessing us at the brunch.

We thank the brunch committee and the many volunteers who helped make this event a success. It was so affirming and encouraging to witness our church family operating as one body with many parts in blessing the TBPC women and their guests with the ultimate purpose of giving glory to God for his precious gift of grace to us through his Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.





Theme Verses: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-6









## **FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The 2023 Missions Conference will take place **February 17 thru 19**. *Please put the Missions Conference on your calendar and plan to take part, especially Saturday evening at our All-Church dinner.*

The theme is: **Serving God's Purpose in Our Own Generation**. The scripture is Acts 13:36–52. Dr. Herb Ward is our Keynote Speaker. Plans are being made for nursery care, for our children and for our youth. Several of our missionaries are planning to attend the conference. It is a great way to meet those for whom you pray and support in the great work of world-wide missions. There will be more information on the conference during January and February.

At the Conference, you will hear about the TBPC Short-Term missions trip to Belize with John and Karen Stodghill. The need is for rebuilding and recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Lisa. We are planning the trip for July with the specific date to be announced.

The base cost is estimated at \$1,350 as follows: \$600 for Airfare, \$700 which includes ground transportation, food, and a/c accommodations, and \$50 for evacuation insurance. According to the TBPC operations manual, 10% of the 2023-24 Missions Budget will be set aside for the Short-Term Trip. In addition, there will be fundraising. We hope you will prayerfully consider going on this Missions Trip. There is an application for the trip, which according to the TBPC operations manual needs to be filled out and submitted to the Missions Committee.

Missions is one of the great works of Christ's Church. Please consider being a member of the of the Missions Committee. However, it may be you are interested in the work of missions, but would rather serve with the committee rather than be on the committee. Not surprisingly, there has been a decline in missions interest following the covid pandemic. At TBPC, we want to "buck-the-trend" since covid and see our missions emphasis grow. It is not a question of local verses global. Rather the two go "hand-in-glove" as the world draws closer together. Missions helps the local church's work and ministry. Without the local church having an emphasis on Missions, there can be no global outreach. So, do consider becoming part of Missions at TBPC, which is one important means of fulfilling the Great Commission.

# Discover Jesus Within Deuteronomy!

## Women's Bible Study (updated info)



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 Meeting Times to Choose From

Monday evenings via Zoom, 6:30-8:30pm, January 9—May 22

Tuesday mornings in person, 10:00am-noon, January 10—May 23

### Features:

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

### Additional Details:

- Study Guides are available for purchase for \$16 after Worship most Sundays through Jan 8th.
- Sign up by purchasing a Study Guide, writing "WBS-M" or "WBS-T" on your Welcome Card in worship, or contacting Debbie Jordan at (813) 368-7513 or [DebbieJordan1@gmail.com](mailto:DebbieJordan1@gmail.com).



## January Birthdays

<i>Cheryl Barber</i>	<i>Jan 6</i>	<i>Lilli Palacio</i>	<i>Jan 23</i>
<i>Ron Whitley</i>	<i>Jan 8</i>	<i>Abby Mondin</i>	<i>Jan 26</i>
<i>Vern Yu</i>	<i>Jan 8</i>	<i>Natacha Etienne</i>	<i>Jan 28</i>
<i>Rene Palacio</i>	<i>Jan 9</i>	<i>Christopher Powe</i>	<i>Jan 29</i>
<i>Alexander Mas-Beazel</i>	<i>Jan 10</i>	<i>Melissa McNulty</i>	<i>Jan 31</i>
<i>Nuji Kunanayagam</i>	<i>Jan 12</i>		
<i>Richard Gainer</i>	<i>Jan 18</i>		
<i>Toney Sauls</i>	<i>Jan 18</i>		
<i>John McNulty</i>	<i>Jan 20</i>		
<i>Andrea Proctor</i>	<i>Jan 22</i>		

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV)

As we celebrate your birthdays and anniversary, we thank God with joy that He has brought us together with you in this church family as we remember how we have been blessed by your friendship and service and encouraged by God's work in your lives and marriage.



## January Anniversary

*Scott & Patricia Harshfield*      *January 12, 2002*

# 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**



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## Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz,  
*Senior Pastor*

Melissa Bayley,  
*Office Administrator*

Abigail Vincent,  
*Nursery*

LeeAnn DeStefano,  
*Office Assistant*

Yanet Bermudez Ortiz,  
*Music Director / Pianist*

Bob Morrison,  
*Bookkeeper*

Patricia Harshfield,  
*Custodian*

Ashleigh Kemp,  
*NTCA Director*

## TBPC Ministries

*Adult Bible Fellowship*  
Ed Jordan

*Nursery*  
Abigail Vincent

*Children*  
Vacant

*Outreach*  
Bert Barber

*Brunch Bunch*  
Alisa Carrier

*Pastoral Care*  
Rev. Freddy Fritz

*Greeters & Welcome Table*  
Brian Carrier

*Ushers*  
Jennifer Schumm

*Hospitality*  
Joan M. Kosanovich

*Women's Bible Study*  
Eileen Fritz &  
Debbie Jordan

*Men's Bible Study*  
Rod Proctor

*Women's Ministry*  
Brandi Shultz

*Men's Ministry*  
Brian Carrier

*Workshop Ministry*  
Melissa Bayley &  
Stephanie Smoot

*Missions*  
Scott Simmons

*NTCA*  
Ashleigh Kemp

*Youth*  
Bert Barber

## Trumpet Staff

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

Grace Lee, *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 [grace76548@gmail.com](mailto:grace76548@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

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