

THE BUZZ

October 2011



Welcome
Zelvis Applin,
our new Worship Pastor



Ballast Point Campus:

5101 Bayshore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33611

Islands Campus:

97 Biscayne Ave.
Tampa, FL 33606

www.stfchurch.com

Please mail all correspondence to the Islands Campus address.

Directory

Office	813-251-1515
Fax	813-251-1591
Accounting	x 207
Bible Study	x 208
Celebrate Recovery.....	x 219
Children's Ministry.....	x 308
Food Services.....	x 315
Graphic Arts	x 322
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Student Ministry	x 201
Women's Ministry	x 203
Worship Ministry	x 212

Senior Staff

Craig Rees	Lead Pastor
Todd Roberts	Associate Pastor
Zelvis Applin.....	Worship Pastor
Rob Flint.....	Student Pastor
Kelly Green.....	Missions Pastor
Glyn Norman.....	Service Pastor
Tom Sander	Operations Pastor
Gary Taylor	Singles Pastor
Steve Holland	Student Minister
Liz Burley	Spiritual Formation Director
Tyler Johnston	Technical Arts Director
Karen Levine.....	Children's Director
Kelly Nielsen.....	Graphic Arts Director
Frank Sivard.....	Finance & Administration Director
Jim Weeks	Researcher & Curriculum Developer
Jennifer Clark.....	Executive Assistant

Welcome!

Are you ready for some ... worship?! You thought I was going to say football, didn't you? Of course, most of you know that I am personally more excited over the start of winter sports when the fall rolls around each year. But what I am actually referring to is our new worship pastor, Zelvis Applin. We are very excited to have him join our staff and have been enjoying his leading us in worship on Sunday mornings at the BP Campus. We look forward to his leadership in the days ahead.

I am pleased to include more articles from our members this month. First up is a feature by Becky Coppedge on her experience with the C-HOPE Ministry as her sister faces cancer. Then, in the Missions Ministry, you will find an article by Ric Weibley who attended the pastors' conference with Pastor Craig in Bostwana. Only expecting to be a helper, he stumbled upon an unexpected ministry opportunity in the medical field. Amber Johansen shares an update with us about the backpacks distributed at Madison Middle School. And finally, Michelle McNichols wrote about how her family uses the GodTime Cards given out in the Children's Ministry on Sundays.

As always, be sure to check each page for information on exciting upcoming events. I hope that you will have blessed Sundays in October, filled with Spirit-filled worship at STF, then football in the afternoon, or whatever other past time you enjoy on your day of rest.

Blessings,
Teresa L. Nielsen, Editor
Graphic Arts Associate
TeresaN@stfchurch.com
251-1515, ext. 323

Average Sunday attendance for September

Worship Services: 803
Bible Study: 190

THE BUZZ

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Artwork design by Kelly Nielsen
Photo by Tyler Johnston

Welcome our new Worship Pastor! Check out our special welcome message to Zelvis on page 10.



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Written by:
Becky Coppedge



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"GodTime Cards"
Written by:
Michelle McNichols



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sermon Series

Sundays in October:

October 2 and 9: Forgiveness

October 16 and 23: Baptism and Lord's Supper

October 30: 3-Day DNA

Wednesdays: 2 Timothy — Leadership Series

Baptism

October 16, Ballast Point Campus

October 23, Islands Campus

If you would like to be baptized, or would like more information about baptism, please email Baptism@stfchurch.com or fill out the contact form at www.stfchurch.com/baptism. You can read more about what baptism means at www.stfchurch.com/baptism.

The Lord's Supper

Sunday, October 16, Islands Campus

Sunday, October 23, BP Campus

Join us as we take the Lord's Supper together during the worship service.

Shoreline Membership Classes

One-day marathon class: November 6


12:30 - 3:30 PM, Islands Campus

These classes offer an opportunity to find out more about STF, explore membership opportunities, ask questions, and get connected. A reservation is requested. If you would like to attend the Shoreline classes, or would just like more information, please email Membership@stfchurch.com or fill out the contact form at www.stfchurch.com/membership.

Islands Campus Second-Sunday Potluck Lunch

Sunday, October 9, 12 - 1:30 PM, Islands Campus

Please join us for fellowship after the worship service! Everyone is welcome! Come meet our pastor and STF family. Sign up to bring a dish by sending an email to potluck@stfchurch.com.



Lost and Found
Each week we collect many items that go into our lost and found. Some of them could belong to you. If you are missing an item, check the lost-and-found bin at the Connection Center. We want these items to say, "I once was lost, but now am found!"

Are you in the know?
Do you want more information?
Are you receiving the church-wide emails?

Did you know that we send out church-wide emails every month to tell you about upcoming events and church needs? We also send out special messages from Pastor Craig with important information. If you want to know more about what's going on at church, then you need to go to the church website and sign up for our newsletter. Just go to www.stfchurch.com and click on NEWSLETTER on the top of the page. Enter your email address and select the type of information you'd like to receive. Selecting "General Interest" will sign you up to receive the monthly email newsletter.



South Tampa Fellowship

Our God-given Call

Leading toward life-change through God's Word

Our Mission

To provide opportunities for life-change

Our Vision

To know the Truth of Jesus Christ, to be known in Family and to make Him known through Service

Individual life-change occurs through encounters with God's Word. We share God's Word as a large-church family with a smaller-church feel, meeting people where they are because God met us where we were. Global life-change takes place one life at a time. We intentionally share across the table, walk along the bay, confer across the country and reach around the world.

Our Corporate Habits

At the heart of our mission statement are five ministry values:

VALUE #1: CAMPUS APPROACH (1 Corinthians 9:19-27)

We want to connect communities in South Tampa through neighborhood campuses, because we believe you don't need a big building to build a strong community. The makeup of the population in South Tampa leads us to the conclusion that we must reach different people different ways. One style does not suit all, so we will use various means – and various campuses – to reach as many people as possible.

VALUE #2: FAMILY FEEL (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

STF will be a place where your name is known and His name is made known. We want you to feel that you are worshiping in a large church but fellowshipping in a small church. We want to meet your needs in an environment where you don't have to "take a number."

VALUE #3: GLOCAL (Acts 1:8)

We believe we have received a local commission for a global mission. Global + local = glocal. We are glocal because to us success is not determined by seating capacity but by sending capacity – our capacity to reach out. We are glocal because we believe you can have worldwide appeal without neglecting the local feel. Meaningful change happens one life at a time, and so we are also glocal because everyone is our neighbor.

VALUE #4: CONNECTED (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Life-change most often happens in the company of friends. We believe that the fruit of loving God and loving others is connection. We believe that to be a light a person needs to be plugged in to a community and turned on to God's mission.

VALUE #5: LEADERSHIP (Proverbs 29:18; 2 Timothy 2:2)

Without vision people perish, and without leadership people fail. Every believer is called to serve where placed and bloom where planted. Leadership involves influence. We believe in leadership because we are called to guide people along the pathway of spiritual pursuit. We are challenged not to follow the easy path but rather to lead toward places where there is no path, blazing a trail for others to follow!

In short, the vision of STF is to live out our name: S = Service T = Truth F = Family

FINANCIAL UPDATE as of 8/31/11

	Actual	Budget	Better(Worse) than Budget
Operating Income:			
Tithes & Offerings	\$2,481,758	\$2,452,000	\$29,758
Other Income/(Loss)	397	1,000	(603)
Total Operating Income	\$2,482,155	\$2,453,000	\$29,155
Operating Expenses:			
Compensation & Benefits	1,245,605	1,255,928	10,323
Missions, Pastoral Care & Benevolence	260,587	257,160	(3,427)
Family Life Ministries	176,502	184,284	7,782
Worship Ministries	39,921	40,160	239
General & Administrative Expenses	180,237	182,795	2,558
Technical, Media & Graphic Arts	89,489	91,964	2,475
Operations	232,841	274,801	41,960
Food Service	22,766	24,200	1,434
Equipment Purchases/Capital Projects	17,615	21,000	3,385
Interest Expense	162,794	156,199	(6,595)
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,428,357	\$2,488,491	\$60,134
Operating Surplus/(Shortage)	\$53,798	(\$35,491)	\$89,289
Construction Loan:			
Original Loan Balance	\$5,768,025	\$5,768,025	
Repayments to Date	2,553,025	2,618,025	
Balance Outstanding - End of Month	\$3,215,000	\$3,150,000	

Notes to Financial Statement:

Tithes and offerings for the month of August were slightly less than budget, but we are still better than budget for the fiscal year to date. Operating expenses for the year to date are \$60,000 better than budget, leaving us with an operating surplus that is \$89,000 better than budget. For the 10-month period ending August 31, we have made principal payments on our construction debt in the amount of \$635,000.

Online Giving Available

1. Go to the church home page at www.stfchurch.com, click on the Giving Login link at the bottom of the page and watch the three short tutorial videos.
2. Request your member number and password.
3. After receiving your member number and password, log in and follow the on-screen instructions to set up your e-giving. You can make one-time gifts, or you can set it up for automatic recurring payments (weekly, monthly, etc.).

When mailing in tithes and offerings, please send them to the Islands Campus at 97 Biscayne Ave., Tampa, FL 33606.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

Congratulations to:

Lee Sheldon and Christyna Doege in the birth of their son, Rhe Lee-Jantz, on July 27.

Colette and Tony Black in the birth of their twin girls, Keira Elaine (4 lbs., 11 oz.) and Chloe Elizabeth (2 lbs., 10 oz.) on September 1.

Deaths

Condolences to:

Liz Burley and family in the death of her father, Wade Burley, on September 2.

Bob and Susan Johnson in the death of Bob's mother, Gertie Stephens, on September 12.

Dinah Dees in the death of her brother, James Raffield, on September 13.

If you or your immediate family members are hospitalized, delivering a baby or experience the loss of a family member, please notify the church office at 251-1515, or email us at PrayerRequest@stfchurch.com.

Parking at BP Campus

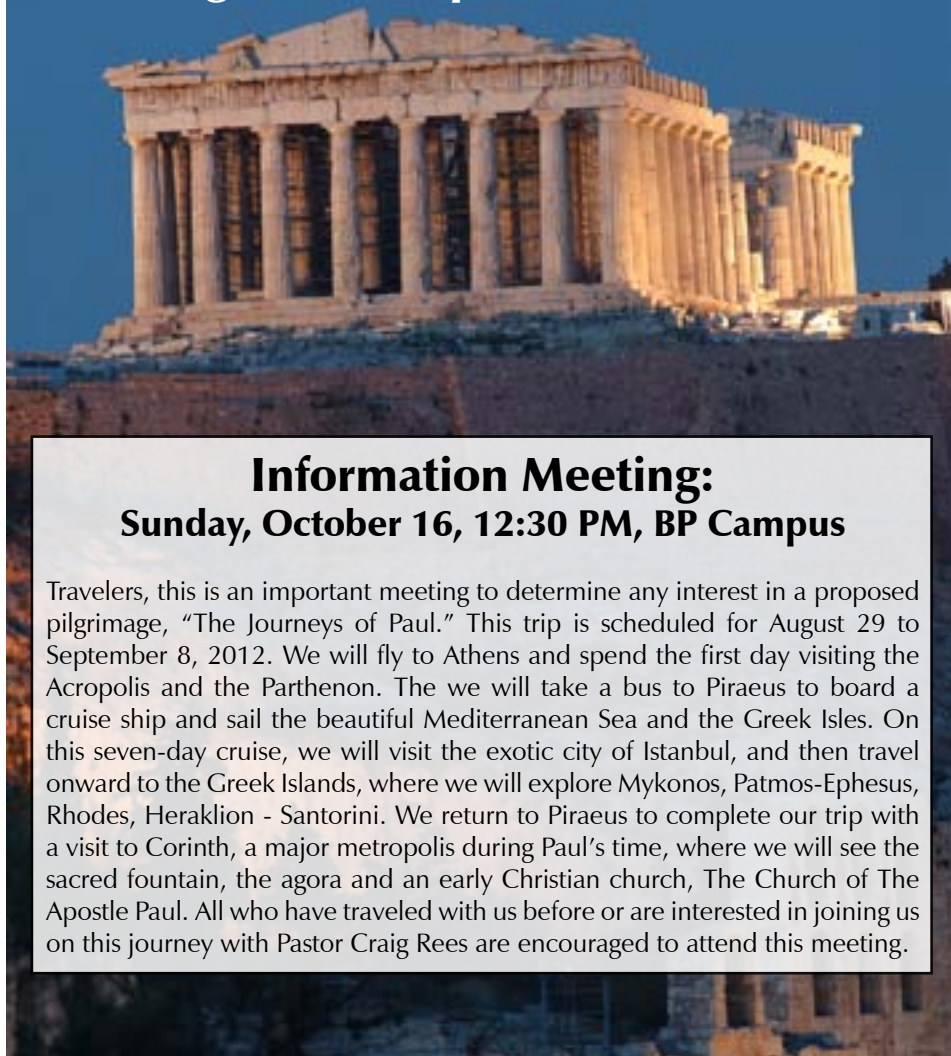
Please be courteous in reserving our on-site parking spaces for visitors, handicapped, individual parents with small children, and senior adults. There is plenty of parking available just across the street at the elementary school. Please use those spaces and hop on one of our parking shuttles!

Meals Ministry

We serve those who have recently had a death in the family, a new baby, surgery, or just need extra help for a variety of reasons. We are using a free online tool to help schedule those meals at www.TakeThemAMeal.com. If you volunteer to take a family a meal, you will be provided a link to the website with the sign-up details. If you are in need of meals, or would like to volunteer to provide meals to those in need, please email MealsMinistry@stfchurch.com. We can provide you with the names of our STF family members who are currently in need of assistance, or set up a web page to have meals delivered to you.

The Journeys of Paul

a proposed trip for
August 29 - September 8, 2012



Information Meeting: Sunday, October 16, 12:30 PM, BP Campus

Travelers, this is an important meeting to determine any interest in a proposed pilgrimage, "The Journeys of Paul." This trip is scheduled for August 29 to September 8, 2012. We will fly to Athens and spend the first day visiting the Acropolis and the Parthenon. Then we will take a bus to Piraeus to board a cruise ship and sail the beautiful Mediterranean Sea and the Greek Isles. On this seven-day cruise, we will visit the exotic city of Istanbul, and then travel onward to the Greek Islands, where we will explore Mykonos, Patmos-Ephesus, Rhodes, Heraklion - Santorini. We return to Piraeus to complete our trip with a visit to Corinth, a major metropolis during Paul's time, where we will see the sacred fountain, the agora and an early Christian church, The Church of The Apostle Paul. All who have traveled with us before or are interested in joining us on this journey with Pastor Craig Rees are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Wednesday Dinner 4:30 - 6 PM Ballast Point Campus

Join us before the Wednesday night activities for a great meal. Entrees are just \$6 and include two sides. A vegetarian plate is also offered. Call 251-1515, ext. 402, after 12 PM on Wednesday for that night's full menu.



Part-time Operations Position Open

Flexible hours, mostly evenings
Handyman skills needed
Contact Pastor Tom Sander at Tom@stfchurch.com to apply.



Escape from the everyday at a Women of Faith weekend and be refreshed, encouraged and inspired. Because the God who loves you can do far more than you can ever *Imagine*.



WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE

October 14 - 15, St. Pete Times Forum

Over 50 women from STF attended this life-changing event last October. STF has a group of tickets beginning on the front row, but they are going fast. Tickets are \$89 and include lunch for both days. Scholarships may be available for those needing financial assistance. Email Women@stfchurch.com to reserve your tickets or call 251-1515, ext. 203.

Friday: 10 AM - 3:30 PM
and 7 - 10 PM
Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Adults

Open Door Luncheon

Thursday, October 27

12 PM, BP Campus

Speaker: Pastor Glyn Norman



All are invited to our Open Door Luncheon this month when our speaker will be Pastor Glyn Norman. Join us for a wonderful meal, singing hymns, and a time of fellowship as Pastor Glyn gives us an encouraging message. Reservations required. Sign up at the Connection Center, in your Sunday Bible study class, or call Teresa Ryan at 251-1515, ext. 219.

Game Day

Friday, October 7

10 AM - 12 PM, BP Campus Café



Join us at 10 AM for fun and games like Chicken Foot. Bring a game that you would like to play. Afterward, stay and enjoy lunch with us. Bring your own sandwich; salad and dessert will be provided (what a great deal!). If you plan to stay for lunch, please call Teresa Ryan in the church office at 251-1515, ext. 219.



Conference for Widows October 27-29

Bell Shoals Baptist Church

Are you a widow looking for encouragement on your journey or for ways to minister? This conference is designed for ministry professionals, lay leaders, widows and those who care for and serve widows. Cost is \$55 and includes all workshop materials and meals. Contact Jaca DePriest at 689-4229, ext. 314, or email jdepriest@bellshoals.com.

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Spanish Ministry

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
2804 W. San Isidro Street, Tampa
Led by Karen and Angel Oyola

Bienvenido

Join us for a great time of breaking bread, fellowship and Bible study. Invite your Latino friends! For more information, email Angel Oyola at SpanishMinistry@stfchurch.com.

C-HOPE

Cancer First-Response Ministry

Do you have a loved one or friend walking through the journey of cancer?

C-HOPE is a ministry that can offer hope, encouragement and prayer. We equip patients, families and caregivers with the tools that can provide confidence and trust in Christ and the power of His Word. C-HOPE comes alongside our partners with fellowship, encouragement, the power of intercessory prayer, and most importantly, hope.

A C-HOPE backpack is an ideal gift for a cancer patient. If you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry, please stop by the Connection Center and pick up a brochure. The brochure provides instructions on how to request prayer and a C-HOPE backpack.

For more information, contact Susan Sivard at chope@stfchurch.com.

The C-HOPE backpack includes a cozy fleece, devotional materials, medical book, inspirational book, a Scripture card case that can fit in your pocket, plus a C-HOPE First-Aid Booklet. The contents will offer hope, comfort and encouragement. Bible study classes, small groups, friends or families may order a backpack.



My Sister's Miracle

Written and photos by: Becky Coppedge

She is six years my junior, and we have no family history. Cancer is the trip she didn't plan. She wasn't prepared. And she had no choice but to go. Those of us who love her struggled to keep up. The road to healing was filled with switch-backs and steep inclines, and there was no itinerary beyond the next destination point. Only God could provide the miracle.

I prayed often for my sister. How could I share the Lord with her when I had no experience in this foreign desert myself? God answered by sending a fellow journeyman. Susan had traveled this way before, and she gave us the provisions we needed to experience the miracle.

Susan left the blue C-hope bundle by my front door, and I packed it away in my car as I prepared for my first trip into this unfamiliar territory. I wondered how my sister would respond to the Christ-centered materials. I decided that I would give God the wheel and wait.

I arrived in Alabama, and we began the exhausting process. By day we met with surgeons and oncologists, and at night we read on-line cancer blogs and forums. My sister would work -- stop -- cry and then press on in her need for information.

At the end of my stay, I was packing to leave. My sister saw the blue bundle and inquired. I explained that someone who understood sent this to her. She took it and tearfully hugged me good-bye. I was on the road for a couple of hours when my cell rang. It was an ecstatic sister exclaiming gratitude for the books she had been absorbing from the blue bundle.

And there it was -- the miracle! Her voice full of joy spoke of the gift so big only God could be its giver. Joy -- the gift of a grateful heart. God gave her of Himself; she received it with gratitude and then the joy -- especially wondrous when given in the driest of deserts.



A few days later, I received a note from my sister. Tucked inside was a psalm card from the blue bundle. She had signed it in her usual way: a funny pen drawing of herself, only with less hair and a happy smile. I keep it on my kitchen shelf just as she does, a new psalm for each day. It reminds me of the miracle of joy.

This journey is not done. There are more appointments and radiation ahead, but I am grateful to Susan and the wonderful C-HOPE ministry for getting us off to a grateful start. May God be magnified and glorified in our gratitude.

Love to all who travel the hard roads,
Becky ■

Welcome to our new Worship Pastor, Zelvis Applin!!

Here's what our members are saying on Facebook ...

“Awesome Praise & Worship with Zelvis. Welcome to South Tampa Fellowship” – Cynthia Lindsley-Reynolds

“YEAH!” – Patti Silver

“Welcome Zelvis & Family!!! An Answered Prayer” – Dianna Lott



Unexpected Opportunity in Botswana Leads to a New Ministry

Written by: Ric Weibley

Photos by: Jeff Sukup

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord ... – Jeremiah 29:11

Recently, Terrie and I attended the Pastors' Conference at Open Baptist Church (OBC) in Gaborone, Botswana, with Pastor Craig. For months leading up to it, Terrie had been immersed in helping Pastor Craig prepare for the conference by working on the printed companion teaching guide that each attendee would receive.

My role was really to pray for their work, the conference itself, those who would be attending, and occasionally offer feedback on some small item about which Terrie might ask for my thoughts. Then, after a phone call from Craig to Terrie just a few weeks before the conference, we found ourselves going, too!

My initial reaction was, "Why me, God?" Yet, something else had just happened the week before which I came to see as providential timing. My practice partners had been pestering me about taking my two weeks off during the summer, but I wanted to wait until later in the year.

Finally, the week before Pastor Craig called, I had reluctantly agreed to take off the first two weeks in August. This was the exact time that was needed to go along to Botswana. So, like Abraham, "going not knowing," God changed my heart attitude to one of trusting Him and His plans. I was excited to just go and serve others in whatever ways I could. Still, in my daily quiet time I would ask God to reveal to me what His specific purpose was for me there.

The morning after we arrived in Gaborone, we met a wonderful couple, Andy and Gail, and their son, Matthew. They are friends and fellow OBC members with Jeff and April. Matthew has special needs due to congenital hydrocephalus, which is a buildup of

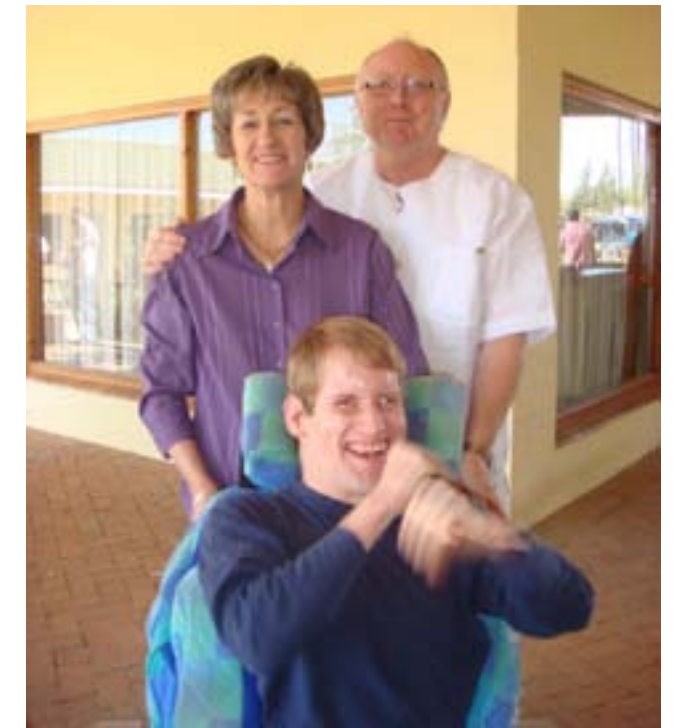
fluid in the brain because of an obstruction. Many patients with this condition have developmental delays requiring speech, physical and occupational therapies to help them maximize their functional abilities.

Gail coordinates a fantastic ministry of OBC called Face the Nation. It is an HIV/AIDS education, prevention and evangelism program taught in every secondary school in the country with the government's blessing! As a pediatric critical-care physician, I was drawn to learn more about Matthew, about Face the Nation, and about health care in general in Botswana. From the perspective of hindsight, it was no accident that God had me meet this family first.

As the hours and days went on, I had many opportunities to talk with Gail while we served and encouraged those attending the Pastors' Conference. I learned from her that speech, physical and occupational therapy services don't exist in Botswana. In her love and devotion to Matthew, Gail has taught herself to be a therapist. She was fortunate enough to be able to spend one to two weeks in South Africa every six weeks for three years.

Gail read and networked and signed up with therapists, workshops and courses that she believed would work for Matthew. When learning the therapy, Gail would film the therapist. Then she would film the therapist showing Gail and correcting what she was doing.

At home, Gail worked with Matthew, repeating what she saw on the video until she felt competent in that exercise.



Gail and Andy with their son, Matthew

At that point, Gail would then teach her house helpers to do some of the exercises. She has become so experienced that other mothers and children are now being referred to her!

I had the opportunity to meet Tino, one of her "clients" who is a young boy from Zimbabwe disabled after meningitis was brought on by untreated HIV. He and his mom come to Gail's home, where she ministers to them, both physically and spiritually. Gail let me know that there are many children like Matthew and Tino.

While I felt a restlessness in my spirit about this, I didn't know what to do. So, I prayed, asking God what He wanted me to do with this information. Here was His answer: "Ric, in your church, STF, there are pediatric speech, physical and occupational therapists."

At first I was perplexed, thinking there is no way that they could go and continuously provide therapy services. Then clarity came. An evaluation and the teaching of exercises and positioning techniques to parents, that they could learn and do themselves in their homes,

Continued on page 12 ...

Backpacks for Madison Students

Written and photo by: Amber Johansen

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

– Matthew 25:40

Being on the mission field for Christ is exciting! You are never sure where He will take you or who you will meet. For South Tampa Fellowship the mission field has extended as far as Africa and, most recently, right around the corner.

We all know that our slow economy has taken its toll on many families, including many inside our church. A number of these families are particularly stressed during back-to-school time. The list of school items seems never ending, and this can place a huge burden on a family.

This year, STF decided to help ease this burden by providing

100 backpacks to needy students at Madison Middle School. Located just a few miles from the Ballast Point campus, Madison has many low-income students in need.

Working through the new interventionist at Madison, Lynn Lavallee, we were able to meet the needs of many of these students. It was a joy to watch them pick from among six different colors and styles and to realize it was a gift. Even more exciting was when they realized the backpacks were filled with school supplies.

Several of us from STF were able to attend the backpack distribution. What a joy it was to meet some of the students and to share the love of Christ with them! Hopefully, the Lord will continue to expand our mission field, and we will have more opportunities to share with those in need. ■



Lynn Lavallee (the new Interventionist at Madison Middle School) with Amber Johansen at the distribution of the backpacks to students at Madison Middle School

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Unexpected ... continued from page 11

is possible. Then, these same parents may teach others.

Before leaving Botswana, I told Gail what God had placed on my heart. I asked her to pray about this idea, let it percolate and see if she felt God was really in this. On my return, I spoke to a few of the therapists, just to see what kind of reaction I would get. Each one was immediately enthusiastic; one told me she has wanted to go on a mission trip but felt there was really no role for therapists. Another said that her life dream has been to be able to use her therapy skills in a third-world setting! If you are a therapist and I have not met or spoken with you, please seek me out!

Just recently, I received an email from Gail. She has identified a trust that is

being started by a woman in Gaborone whose goal it is to open a center where parents can take their children to have an assessment, receive therapy and learn basic therapy and handling skills. This encounter happened while standing in a line for something completely unrelated, as she began to talk with the lady next to her. That woman is on the committee of the trust and in charge of the parent support group! Like Gail and like me, do you see that as a God moment?

There are many thresholds still to be crossed, but as long as God keeps opening doors, I feel it is my responsibility to keep praying and walking my way through them. I'm reminded of Proverbs 16:9, which says, "The mind of the man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."

I am so excited to see where God will direct our steps in this undertaking, which He will do. I'm thankful that I trusted Him when I went to Botswana, not fully knowing why. In faith, I believe that He will continue to make clear to us how we can join in to the work He is already doing. Is the Lord prompting you, too?

There are so many lessons I learned on my trip. Here's the one I want to share: Don't wait to follow God's leading until you have all the answers. He will give you all the light you need to take that first step, in faith. Then, He will provide more light with each faith step along the journey. Take that first step, in faith. Go on a mission trip. You'll thank God you did! ■

Update From Brazil Church Plant

Written by: Teresa L. Nielsen

Photos by: Bobby Wacaser

During their 25 years in ministry in Brazil, Bobby and Charlene Wacaser have been instrumental in planting five churches. In the March edition of *The Buzz* we published "Church Plant in Southern Brazil," which gave an update about Bobby becoming the missionary/pastor in a new church plant in Curitiba, the capital of the state of Paraná, Brazil. Plans were established to build a new church facility, and since March, construction has begun, which was made possible by their partnership with churches in the U.S., including South Tampa Fellowship. Most recently, the inside walls have been finished, and they will soon be holding services in the building.

Once the facilities are built, they plan to coordinate a weekly evangelistic outreach in the public schools, the university next door, and in their new building. They will also partner with Projeto Vida, which specializes in evangelism to the masses through drama skits and personal testimonies.

In August, Pastor Todd Roberts and Pastor Kelly Green visited the Wacasers in Brazil. The purpose of their trip was to establish plans for our STF students to take a mission trip there next August. The student mission team will partner with the Wacasers and Projeto Vida to

minister in public schools and public venues, as well as perform community outreach with the members of the new Curitiba church.

During their time in Brazil, Todd shared the gospel with students at a school near Curitiba after Projeto Vida presented several skits on abstinence, drugs and alcohol. Bobby acted as translator for Todd. Following that event, Todd and Kelly shared the gospel in four more schools, including one where Brazilians are learning English.

Bobby sent us the following update in September:

"Early this month we were blessed with a contribution to purchase our doors and windows and had a little left over to partially plaster our walls. Our leadership team is heartily working to put together two more evangelistic events before the end of the year, one in October and another around Christmas time. We have had many new visitors from the surrounding community, all as a result of one-on-one face-time with neighbors or business contacts. Our team members



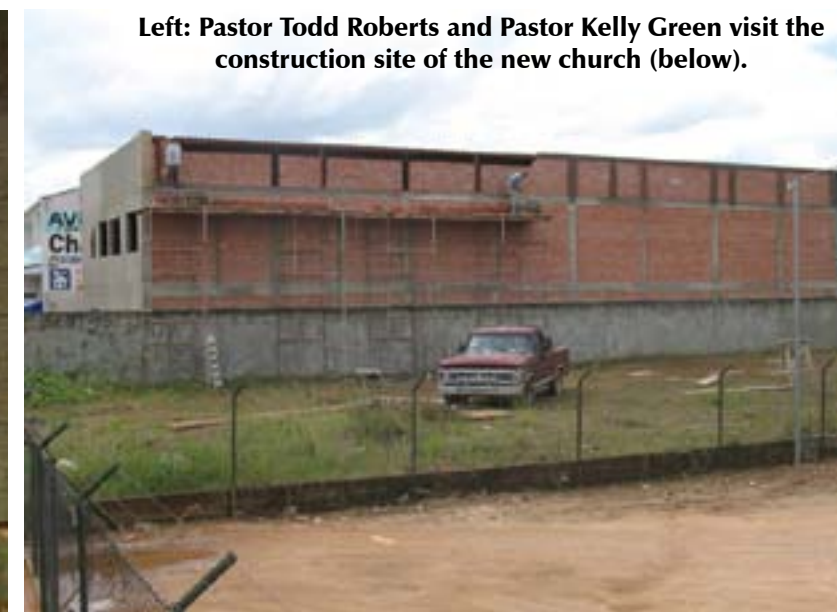
Bobby Wacaser helps with the construction

(three couples and one single man) have accepted the challenge to provide the funds to complete our bathrooms. Our next important phase is to pour the concrete floor and install our ceiling as the funds come available. We will continue to meet and reach out to our community even as we carry on our construction activities."

Please continue to be in prayer for the Wacasers and the new church in Curitiba, as well as the planning for our Student Ministry mission trip to take place next August. ■



Left: Pastor Todd Roberts and Pastor Kelly Green visit the construction site of the new church (below).





New Name for the Preschool Ministry

Written by: Heather Agee

How fun is that?! STF's Preschool Ministry has a new name: The Tide Pool.

I like the idea that tide pools are shallow puddles found near the sea. It's the safe place at the edge of the shore, yet a lot of life flourishes in them, too. It's fun to explore and find all the treasures that a tide pool has to offer.

That's the type of place I imagine our STF preschool classrooms to be for the

children who attend each Sunday. The Tide Pool is an area to feel protected from rough waters of life and to find the greatest treasure – God's Word. Splash on over to our Tide Pool classrooms to see all the great adventures happening as we teach children God loves them, God made them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever. ■

Preschool Lessons in October

Written by: Heather Agee

Hello, Tide Pool Friends!

Perhaps a lot of you are familiar with the store, Build-A-Bear. It's a place where you can take children to be a part of the process of designing their very own stuffed animal. My daughter loves Build-A-Bear. Some of the animals she has designed there are her absolute favorite and most loved, probably because



she played a significant role in creating them. For each one she was able to choose their special outfits and accessories to make them unique.

Well, this month in the Tide Pool, we want our preschoolers to know without a doubt that their heavenly Father made them and adores them. We want our preschoolers to know that God made them wonderfully. He made them with a plan and a purpose. He made them to praise Him. We want our preschoolers to know that they are unique and special creations and that God loves them oh, so much. ■

Easy peasy lemon squeezy is the way to describe this volunteer opportunity! Short-term volunteers needed in the Children's Ministry on Thursdays from 10 AM - 12 PM at the BP Campus. Duties include making copies, freshening up bulletin boards, and doing tasks like making die cuts! Contact Cassie@stfchurch.com.

October's Key Lingo

Basic Truth: God made me.

Key Question: What does God love about you?

Bottom Line: God loves everything about me.

Memory Verse: "I am wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14, NIV

GodTime Cards

Written and photos by: Michelle McNichols

GodTime Cards are those colorful Bible time sheets that come home with your child each Sunday. Let's be honest: Sometimes they get lost in the shuffle of papers that come home on a daily basis. It can feel like another thing to do that we don't have time for. However, our family has had a positive experience with the GodTime Cards, and I would like to share that with you.

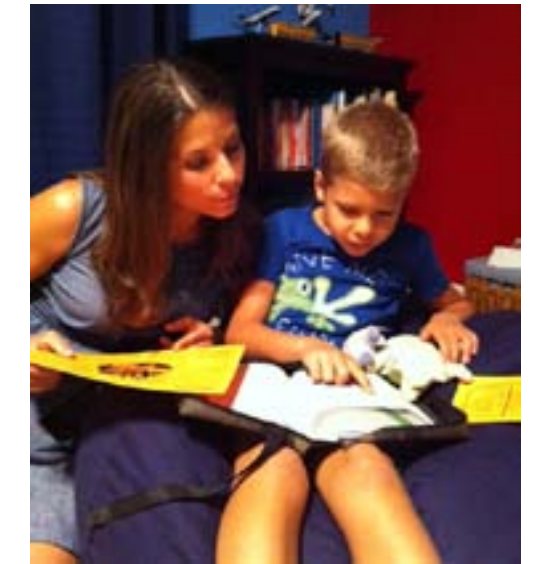
My son, Nathan, started bringing them home last year when he entered 1st grade. I thought it was a neat way to help him get in the habit of spending time with God a few days during the week. I really wish I had these when I was growing up!

The cards have a virtue and memory verse to learn each month. The cards have four days for each week with a verse to look up and an activity to do that only takes about 10 minutes. It took us a few weeks to get into a routine and to find the time of day that would work

best for us. We found that it was a nice thing to do with him as sort of an evening "devotion" time together.

Over this past year Nathan has really amazed me with the virtues he has learned and the Bible verses he has memorized! A big thank you to his teachers, Ms. Carolyn and Mr. Bill. They reinforce these virtues and memory verses each week with Bible stories and activities during class. This repetition at church and at home really helps the virtues and verses stick with him.

Nathan enjoys our devotion time, and I cherish our special time together, watching him learn important life lessons. When I asked him why he likes his GodTime, he told me that he wants to look up the Bible verse for that day. He also mentioned that he likes to play the games on the cards and hear the exciting stories!



Michelle with her son Nathan enjoy a GodTime devotion together

Each evening we always make sure we have GodTime before bed, even if we are in a rush. I believe that as he gets older and more independent, he will be equipped to continue his quiet time on his own. A little God time can go a long way toward making a big impact in the spiritual growth of your children! ■

Sunday Morning Bible Study – Kindergarten through 5th Grade September virtue: Creativity -- "IMAGINE THAT!"

Written by: Karen Levine

October 2: We're going back to the beginning to explore the original Creator, and it's no surprise that there we find a very imaginative God (Genesis 1:1-2:1). The bottom line is that "You were created so you can be creative." In fact, we'd go so far as to say that Christians have unlimited potential to be the most creative people on earth!

October 9: We'll expand our definition of creativity to include the idea that God empowers us to solve problems and lead in out-of-the-box ways. The bottom line is, "Use your imagination to think BIG." We'll discover noteworthy examples in Miriam and her mother as they work together to save baby Moses for the future God intended, even though it seemed impossible at first (Exodus 1:22-2:10).

October 16: We'll learn about how we can creatively express ourselves

through our words, music, art and more to point people to God. We'll study the life of David, one of the most creative examples in God's big story (2 Samuel 23:1-2). The bottom line is, "Use your imagination to make your mark."

October 23: God created us to reflect Him and be the type of light that helps others see Him more clearly. We can do that when we learn what Jesus shared in His Sermon on the Mount about salt and light (Matthew 5:14-16). Bottom line: "Use your imagination to do more good."

October 30: We can make more of an impact when we get creative and share our resources (Acts 2:1-47). Bottom line: "Imagine what could happen if everyone used their gifts together." It's such a timely faith skill to focus on this fifth week of October – what worshipping with your life looks like – praising God

and giving generously every day with other believers.

We think Operation Christmas Child is one of the most creative organizations out there encouraging people to make a difference in the world around them. Each year they facilitate the packing and delivery of millions of shoe box gifts to children in crisis areas and third-world countries around the globe. They use a lot of red and green, but we know that deep down underneath it all ... they're orange!

So again this year, we will partner with Operation Christmas Child to provide our families with an amazing, creative channel for helping kids in need. All it takes is a shoe box – and a little creativity! ■

Fall 2011

EPIC groups

High School Home Groups

Meet weekly in homes for spiritual growth.
Check website for lists and locations.

LIFE

Wednesday nights, 6:15 – 7:45 PM, BP Campus

Sunday Morning Groups

(Middle School Only)
10:30 AM, BP Campus

EPIC events

EPIC service project

11/24 9 AM, Islands Campus

Middle School All-Nighter

11/4

Inside | Out Weekend & Parent Seminar

11/5

EPIC Sundays every week 6:30-9 PM

Islands Campus

Christmas bash

12/11 @ EPIC

EPIC STUDENT MINISTRY

to receive EPIC texts about upcoming events and sign-ups, text your name and service provider to (910) 777-7330

thestudentwebsite.com | facebook.com/epicstudents

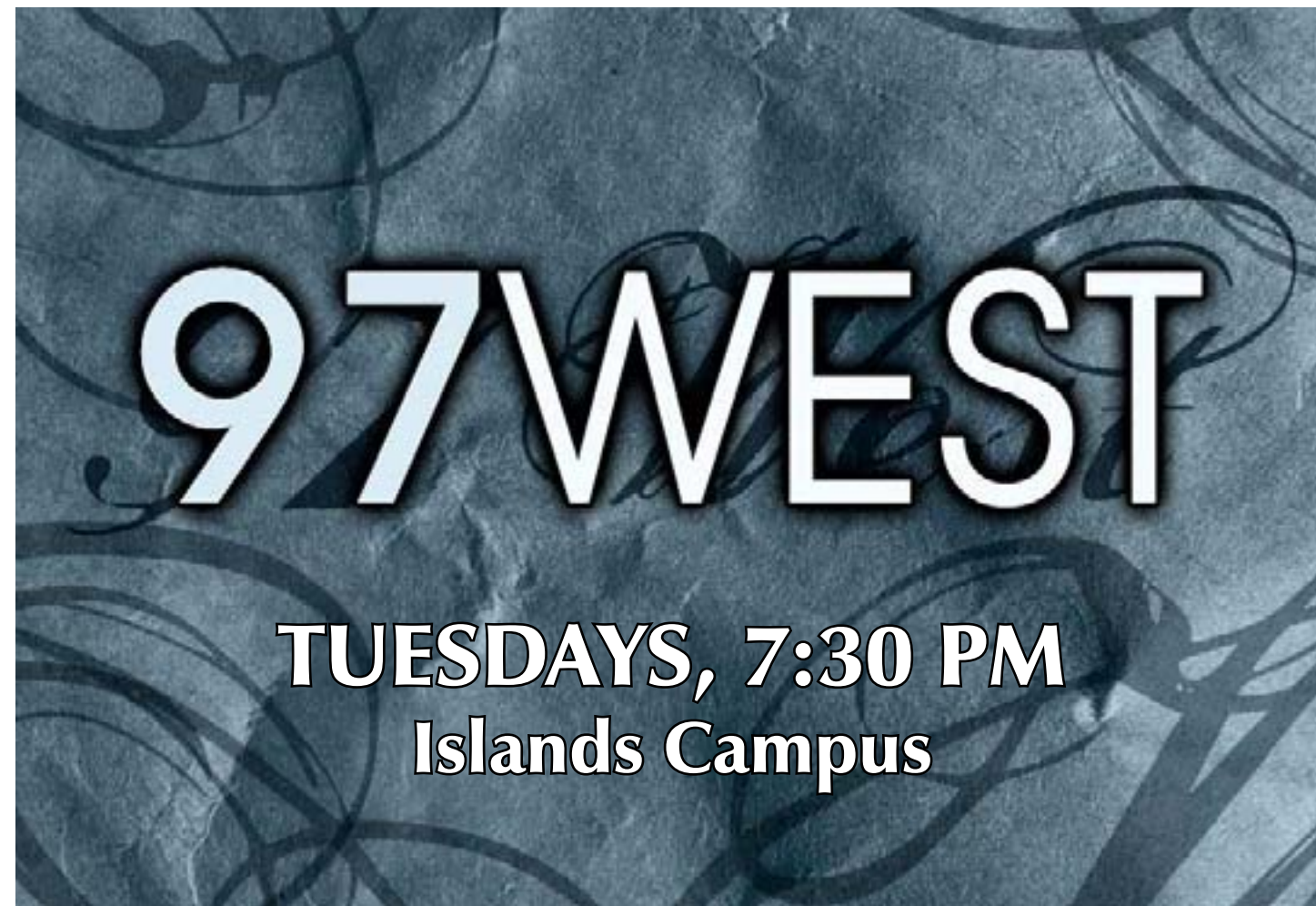
MIDDLE SCHOOL ALL NIGHTER

November 4
6pm-7am
\$75 register online @
www.thestudentwebsite.com

How to Turn Heads
October 2 & 9

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

Focusing on the biblical story found in Luke 16, "How to Turn Heads" is about discipleship. We will help our students stand out in the crowd by being completely sold out to Jesus. We will equip them to be a light for Christ on their campuses and in their communities by covering two areas of life which, if adopted, will make them both unusual and attractive – real head-turners.



Thursdays at 6:30 PM
BP Campus, Room A218

For more information, contact
 Lindsey@stfchurch.com, or call
 251-1515, ext. 214.

Divorce Hurts.

Find help at DivorceCare.

About DivorceCare

Divorced? Separated? You don't have to go through it alone. At DivorceCare, you will become part of a small support group of people who are also experiencing separation and divorce. By interacting with these people, you'll learn that there are others who understand what you are feeling and who will be able to offer you encouragement. Through the series of seminars and support groups, you'll learn how to deal with the pain of the past and look forward to rebuilding your life. DivorceCare is nondenominational and features biblical teaching for recovering from divorce and separation.



We also offer a program for children of divorced families, ages 5 to 12. These children will find healing and encouragement, and develop coping skills during this difficult time in their lives. DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K) meets at the same time as the adult DivorceCare group.

Getting Rid of the Masks

Written by: Grace Blake



The first time I saw "Phantom of the Opera" I was mesmerized by the masquerade ball. The feathers, glitter, and intrigue were inviting. Never had hiding looked more beautiful. But, the best thing about hiding is being found out! I believe that is true for those of us who wear masks in real life. Our real desire is to know others and be known, especially by God!

Many of us have spent a lifetime creating the mask that we wear out in public. We want people to respond to us in a certain way based on the mask we wear. For example, if we project a loving mother to world, we hope to be treated tenderly. If our mask is one of a ruthless corporate executive, we expect others' response to be fear. But the real purpose of our masks is to safeguard our hurts, hang-ups and habits so that people can't get to know the "real us."

In recovery, we can put aside our masks once and for all, and allow people to get to know the "real us." We do that by completing Principle Six: "Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others." Forgiveness is clearly God's prescription for the broken. No matter how dreadful the offense or abuse, along the path to healing lies forgiveness.

We all need to learn to ask for and accept God's forgiveness. In addition, we all need to model His forgiveness with respect to ourselves before we can begin to truly forgive others and experience God's love. Self-forgiveness isn't a matter of assigning the blame to someone else and letting ourselves off the hook; nor is it a license for irresponsibility. It is simply an acknowledgement that we're human, just like everybody else, and that we've reached the stage in our recovery where we're able to give ourselves greater respect.

This breaks the cycle. It doesn't settle all the questions about blame, justice or fairness, but it does allow relationships to heal and possibly even start afresh. This is the essence of God's invitation in Isaiah 1:18, "'Come now, let us reason together,' says the LORD, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'"

As we take the necessary steps of forgiveness, we'll discover that we're letting go of the guilt and shame. We'll be able to acknowledge, "I'm not perfect, but Christ is. God and I are still working on me. I still fall down, but with my Savior's help, I can get up, brush myself off and try again."

Watch for new step studies to be announced.

By offering our forgiveness we can't change our past, but we most definitely can brighten our future. Join us in the month of October to learn more about forgiveness and grace. ■

Follow us!

Facebook: CR Tampa



Twitter: @CRTampa



Mark Your Calendar:
October 13 — TEAM Meeting
October 16 — CR in the atrium
October 27 — Leaders' Meeting

Thursday Night Schedule

CR meets 52 weeks a year, every Thursday night at the BP Campus.

5:30 – 6:30 PM, Dinner
 \$6 for ages 5 and up

6:30 – 7:30 PM, Large Group
 Worship and teaching or a testimony

7:30 – 8:30 PM, Open Share Groups and Newcomer's Orientation
 During this time we break up into small discussion groups, which are gender- and issue-specific.

8:30 – 9 PM, Coffeehouse
 Come fellowship and meet new people!

Newcomer's Orientation

Are you a first-time visitor? Newcomer's 101 meets every Thursday night during small-group time. If you are new to Celebrate Recovery, have questions, or just need to get connected, this is the group for you!

Contact Information

Celebrate Recovery Coordinator
 Grace Blake, 251-1515, ext. 403,
 CR@stfchurch.com

Celebration Station (Child Care)

This is a fun and engaging program for kids that will prepare them to overcome the obstacles that could lead to hurts, hang-ups, or habits in their lives — now and in the future. It is based on the eight recovery principles found in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10), so children can learn the same biblical truths that adults are digging into in Celebrate Recovery. Contact the Preschool Ministry at 251-1515, ext. 314, for children through 5th grade.

Visit us on the Web!
 www.CRTampa.com

Schedule:

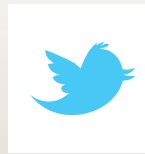
- October 6 — Lesson 18 (Forgiveness)***
- October 13 — Testimony (man - anger)**
- October 20 — Lesson 19 (Grace)***
- October 27 — Testimony (woman - codependency)**

*Pastor Todd teaching

For a list of all the October events, pick up a copy of the Events Calendar at the Connection Center.



Follow STF online!



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STFChurch



epicstudents

Pier 3:16



GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays at 6:30 PM
BP Campus, Room B209

Workbook needed: \$12
Child care available

For more information, contact
GriefShare@stfchurch.com.



YOUR JOURNEY FROM
MOURNING TO JOY

What is GriefShare?

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life. GriefShare is open to all adults, church members or not, who have had someone close to them die, whether that occurred recently or years ago.

Don't be alone at this painful time! Join with others who understand the pain.