



NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

EIC: Wendy Powers

The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually

Agape

The Greek word agape is often translated “love” in the New Testament. How is “agape love” different from other types of love? The essence of agape love is goodwill, benevolence, and willful delight in the object of love. Unlike our English word love, agape is not used in the New Testament to refer to romantic or sexual love. Nor does it refer to close friendship or brotherly love, for which the Greek word philia is used. Agape love involves faithfulness, commitment, and an act of the will. It is distinguished from the other types of love by its lofty moral nature and strong character. Agape love is beautifully described in 1 Corinthians 13.

Outside of the New Testament, the word agape is used in a variety of contexts, but in the vast majority of instances in the New Testament it carries distinct meaning. Agape is almost always used to describe the love that is of and from God, whose very nature is love itself: “God is love” (1 John 4:8). God does not merely love; He is love itself. Everything God does flows from His love. Agape is also used to describe our love for God (Luke 10:27), a servant’s faithful respect to his master (Matthew 6:24), and a man’s attachment to things (John 3:19).

The type of love that characterizes God is not a sappy, sentimental feeling such as we often hear portrayed. God loves because that is His nature and the expression of His being. He loves the unlovable and the unlovely, not because we deserve to be loved or because of any excellence we possess, but because it is His nature to love and He must be true to His nature.

Agape love is always shown by what it does. God’s love is displayed most clearly at the cross. “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” (Ephesians 2:4–5, ESV). We did not deserve such a sacrifice, “but God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). God’s agape love is unmerited, gracious, and constantly seeking the benefit of the ones He loves. The Bible says we are the undeserving recipients of His lavish agape love (1 John 3:1). God’s demonstration of agape love led to the sacrifice of the Son of God for those He loves.

We are to love others with agape love, whether they are fellow believers (John 13:34) or bitter enemies (Matthew 5:44). Jesus gave the parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of sacrifice for the sake of others, even for those who may care nothing at all for us. Agape love as modeled by Christ is not based on a feeling; rather, it is a determined act of the will, a joyful resolve to put the welfare of others above our own.

Agape love does not come naturally to us. Because of our fallen nature, we are incapable of producing such a love. If we are to love as God loves, that love—that agape—can only come from its Source. This is the love that “has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” when we became His children (Romans 5:5; cf. Galatians 5:22). “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters” (1 John 3:16). Because of God’s love toward us, we are able to love one another.

*****gotquestions.org*****

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM

Adult Services AND Children’s (0-12 years) Programs

Youth (6th -12th grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM

Wednesday P.M. Service: 6:30-7:30 PM

A Word from Pastor David Shields

TBF Family,

We are taking a brief break from the Gospel of Luke to study the book of Malachi. We are going to be in the book of Luke for most of the year and I want us to take period breaks to read the rest of God's Word. Some of you have by now noticed that I have some peculiarities in my preaching. Naturally this leads me to preach on the Old Testament. I wanted to take this chance to explain why I choose the passages and books that I do. After all, most preachers would ignore some of the passages that we dive into.

One of them is that I am drawn towards overlooked passages and books of the Bible. It always frustrated me when preachers skip the hard passages and hard verses. Those were the very passages that I needed someone to explain to me. As a pastor and preacher, I never want to skip over the hard things no matter how confusing or uncomfortable they are.

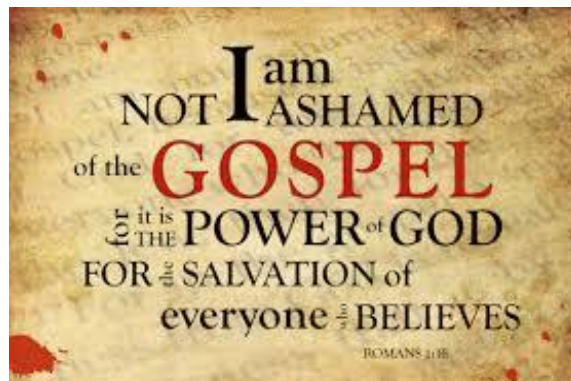
One of the reasons behind this is my firm belief that all of the Bible is useful for our instruction. Even the most boring or confusing passages were divinely chosen by God for our good. It is our duty as Christians to not skip over them. We should study them and look to them like we do any other passage of God's Word.

Another reason that I want you to feel equipped to handle the hard parts of the Bible is that the hard passages of the Bible are often what the world does not understand. People will throw these passages in our faces as if they are untrue. When we have not properly studied them, it leaves us completely unprepared.

The majority of evangelical preaching is in the New Testament and primarily in the epistles. As a result, our faith is often lopsided. We cannot accurately understand the New Testament unless we understand the Old Testament. Everything in the Old Testament leads up to Jesus. All of the stories and sacrifices are what reveals the gospel. We cannot understand them without one another. What does it say about our faith if we ignore half of God's Word?

These are all part of the reasons why I choose the books I do and why I don't skip the hard passages. I try to alternate back and forth between a New Testament book and an Old Testament book. I want us to continue to be a church that preachers and studies God's Word. Every single word.

In Christ,
Pastor David



What's Happening at TBF

- ✚ JOIN OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEETING AT TBF. EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 PM. Hear a lesson from Pastor David and join us for a time of prayer and praise.
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. JOIN US! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- ✚ MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- ✚ MEN'S MINISTRY- Bible Study Attributes of God
- ✚ WOMEN'S MINISTRY - Bible Study Trustworthy
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 5PM (Jam Session) and 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Fundraiser Dinner - Sunday, February 19th 5-7 PM
- ✚ COMMUNION - Sunday, February 19th



TBF Men's Ministries

The Attributes of God

What is the nature of God? How can we recapture a real sense of God's majesty and truly live in the Spirit? How can we more fully recognize and appreciate the divine aspects of God? In this study, we will see that amid the chaos in our lives, God is faithful. Amid our sin and struggles, God's presence remains. We will see God's character is unchanging – both past and present. Even in our darkest moments, God's redemptive plan is secure. This study will bear eloquent witness to God's majesty and show us new ways to experience and understand the wonder and power of God's Spirit in our daily lives.

All men are invited. Through daily Bible reading and questions, group discussion, and study notes, God's Word comes to life in new and unexpected ways. Study led by Wolfgang Deeg.

TBF Youth Room – 6:30 PM

Monday, February 13th Love and Holy
Monday, February 27th Sovereignty and Review

**As iron sharpens iron,
so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.**

Proverbs 27:17

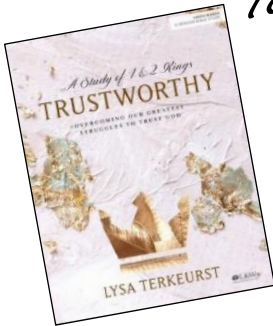
NEWSLETTER 3

TBF *Women's Ministries*

Women's Bible Study

Trustworthy: Overcoming Our Greatest Struggles to Trust God, Bible Study Book

by Lysa TerKeurst



For the month of February, we are going to meet on the first and third weeks of the month.

When hard times come and it seems God is deviating from the plan, we assume our life should follow, we're more likely to want to tame God, not trust Him. It's then that we begin to press into our ways and our own timing. No human can carry the weight of being their own god, but so many of us try.

In this 6-session study of 1 & 2 Kings, join Lysa TerKeurst in Israel as she honestly reveals the places of distrust in her own heart while exploring the deeply applicable Scriptures that will teach us how to truly trust God.

Author Bio:

Lysa TerKeurst is passionate about God's Word. She spends hours each week studying with theological experts and has studied extensively in the Holy Land. She loves to make connections between the Old and New Testaments. Her deepest desire is to help others experience Jesus by unpacking Scripture in the most true and responsible ways that everyone can understand. Lysa is the president of Proverbs 31 Ministries and the #1 New York Times best-selling author of *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*, *Uninvited*, *Finding I AM* and other books. But to those who know her best she's just a simple girl who holds fast to God's Truth and speaks about hope in the midst of her own struggles. Lysa lives with her family in Charlotte, North Carolina. Connect with her at www.LysaTerKeurst.com or on social media @LysaTerKeurst.

Women's Ministry Organization Meeting – Feb 8th

All Tanglewood women are invited to join. We will be reviewing last year's events and planning for the upcoming year. See Jean Crow or Brianna Shields for details on where and what time.

TBF Family Ministries

Happy February Church Family!

This month I want to talk about Love, it is Valentine's month after all. There are two thoughts that I want to flesh out a bit, the first one is God's Love and the second is 'so what'.

My mind has been drawn to the Apostle John's writing quite a bit in the past few months, partly because we are going through John's Gospel in Youth Group and John's letters while talking through life's problems with people, but even in the past few days finding comfort in who Jesus is and his kingdom that is coming that can be found in the Revelation. God is the world's Creator; he is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present but also he is Love. 1 John 4:8 tells us that Love is not only an attribute of God but that it is a defining attribute of God along with his being the Light that casts out all darkness showing the Justice of God (1Jn 1:5). I do not have the space to get into the difference between Justice, injustice, and unjustice at this point. But it can all be boiled down to God's Love and his justice meeting at the mercy of the Cross and the blood that Jesus shed for our sins.

God is Love and not only does that mean that there is no fear but also there cannot be love and hate living together in a believer (1Jn 4:18-9) John also like Matthew, Mark, and Luke, teach the greatest commandment rather John simply ads it here in his letter with a different flair in 4:21: namely "Whoever loves God must also love his brother." Moving towards the great commandment in its more commonly known form speaks of Loving God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and Strength, and loving your neighbor as yourself. While these are sometimes divided into two different aspects, I think they are meant to be put together. Before a person can give the love they have to know what love is. This is not a neo-mystical loving oneself before it can be given to others that puts too much power in the hands of a frail human psyche. Rather if God is love then only by knowing him and loving him are we able to love anyone. Again 'self-love' nor 'self-hate' are not mentioned, each of these is focused on oneself focusing solely on themselves rather than other people. Godly Love is also not self-flagellation in an attempt at fo-humbleness rather it is 1 Corinthians 13, the love passage typically heard at weddings but it is focused on how to live out Godly love by putting others ahead of ourselves.

In Closing I want to ask one not-so-simple question; How is your love life? How are you loving those around you? Do you harbor hate in your heart against someone? Do you fear? Are you more interested in self-preservation or giving freely of what God has given you?

In the Love of Jesus Christ,
Pastor Rob

Let's talk Parenting with Rob Girvin

Something for Everyone. All are Welcome!
See Rob Girvin for Details

TBF Youth Fundraiser



Date:
Sunday, February 19, 2023
from 5-7 PM

Location:
TBF Auditorium

Food will be cooked by Myself, Nichole, and Brooke

Menu:
Salad
Spaghetti with Red sauce with Meatballs
or
Parmesan Chicken



Cost:

Donations: (suggested \$10)

The camp will be between \$160-190 per student depending on the number of students going.

To get a rough number of attendees, please sign the sign-up sheet in the foyer. We will have the nursery open to watch little ones while parents eat.

The youth will bus tables and serve as "waiters"; those who work the fundraiser will have the profits split amongst their "accounts" to attend camp.

Kindred Community February

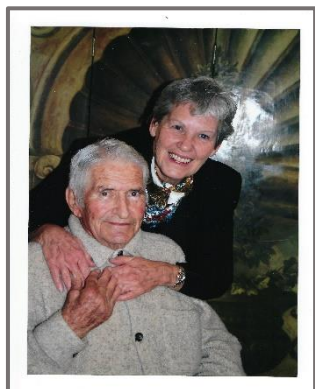
First Baptist Church Duncan
Thursday, February 16th 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Ladies are encouraged to bring a picture of their late sweetheart if they would like.

If you are a TBF woman with a heavenly husband or know of a woman you would like to invite to this event, please RSVP to Jan Palovik.

TBF Memorial Bricks

Paved the way of TBF History -- A Path of Remembrance



Bob Schalit – Bob “Tex” Schalit was a faithful member of Tanglewood Bible Fellowship. He married Jean N. Schalit – then Pastor Brad McCoy officiating. Bob reared 3 daughters -Lynny (Snider), April (Rummel), and Glenna (Donahue) and 2 sons – Bob Schalit, Jr. and Mike Schalit.

A proud descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Bob (a Jew), by the power of the Holy Spirit, teachings of Pastor Brad McCoy, and many, many prayers, trusted Jesus as his Messiah in his early 80s. He has, since that day, been a fruitful disciple of Christ in his local church, Tanglewood Bible Fellowship.

Bob lived an adventure-filled life much too rich and varied for any Hollywood movie to accurately portray. Deeply patriotic, Bob was flying combat missions in Europe before the attack on Pearl Harbor, having volunteered to serve with the RAF. When the rest of his beloved country finally caught up with him after Dec. 7, 1941, he continued to fly for the duration of the war with the U.S. Army Air Corps. After the war, he worked as an aircraft broker and businessman. He once owned and operated a world-class fishing camp in Honduras. Bob was an expert in many areas, including high-level amateur boxing before World War II, yo-yos and card tricks. He was a master storyteller who was never at a loss for words. His skill in using the English language to communicate and to entertain his friends and family has seldom been equaled this side of William Shakespeare himself.



Bob (d. 2008) is buried at Hope Cemetery (Stephens County).



Carolyn Howard – Carolyn June (Newmire) Howard was a long-time member of Tanglewood Bible Fellowship. She and husband James reared two daughters Janice (Skinner) and Arlene (Capiaux).

Carolyn loved the LORD and loved her TBF church family! She especially loved the women of Tanglewood and served them with every ounce of energy in her body! For many, many years, Carolyn served TBF women as Bible study leader and co-organizer of many special retreats and events for women. She was an encouraging and loving friend to everyone. She treasured God’s word in her heart and shared her insights and perspectives eagerly, helping many to grow in their knowledge of the LORD, helping many, as well, to grow in their trust and faith in God’s goodness.

Carolyn loved her family! She was a prayer warrior, ‘praying without ceasing’ for her family, children, and grandchildren. Perseverance was one of her most notable traits. She never grew weary of doing good! She was a good friend to all, never too busy to spend time in loving and encouraging support of anyone and everyone. Words she said frequently, “I’ll see you here, there, or in the air!” Amen, Miss Carolyn!

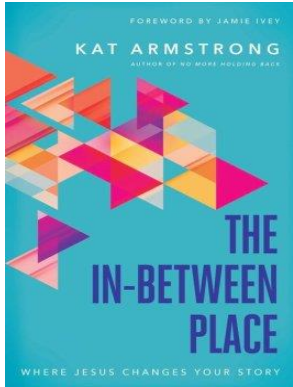
James Allen Howard - James Allen Howard, husband of Carolyn) graduated from Madison Heights High School and received his associates degree from Pasadena City College. He served in the United States Navy from 1948 until 1952. James was employed with Halliburton Services in oilfield sales, retiring in 1993. He and was a member of Tanglewood Bible Fellowship.

Carolyn (d. 2019) and James (d. 2016) are buried at Fort Sill National Cemetery (Elgin, Oklahoma).

David's Book Recommendations

Like many pastors, I am a big fan of books. The following books are all books you can find on my bookshelf, and I would be more than happy to lend them to anyone who would like to read them.

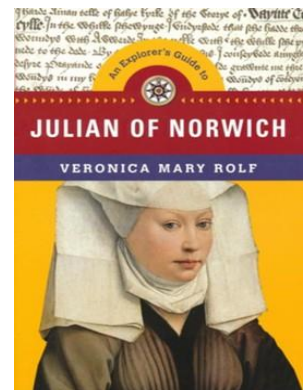
The In-Between Place: Where Jesus Changes Your Story by Kat Armstrong



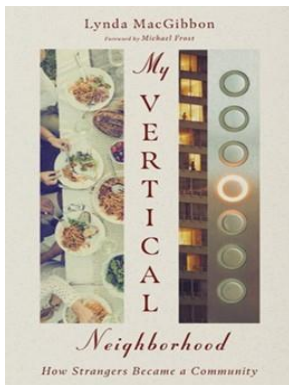
I am generally not a fan of popular-level Christian living books. I typically find them overly relying on stories and theologically anemic. This book is an exception. It is primarily an examination of the story of Jesus with the woman at the well in John 4. The author was trained at Dallas Theological Seminary and their training shines through. While the book is filled with plenty of stories, the book has solid exegetical insight. She mentioned connections between this story, Shechem's history, and the story of Tamar. I've read some scholarly works on this passage and never heard the canonical connections this book makes. I left this book excited and wanting to preach John 4 myself.

Explorers Guide to Julian of Norwich by Veronica Mary Rolf

The heart of the Explorer's Guide series is to introduce you to theologians whose writings may intimidate you. Julian is the first woman to write a book in English. She lived alone in a cell for decades and her book is mix of theology along with visions she received on her deathbed. The book gives you a short biography of her life and then slowly walks through her book explaining why this strange book matters. I would recommend every single book in this series.



My Vertical Neighborhood: How Strangers Became a Community by Lynda MacGibbon



This book is a memoir of Lynda's experience moving into a high rise apartment and trying to intentionally love her neighbors. What I loved about this book is that it showed the extraordinary beauty in ordinary relationships with real people. This book is not about the secret to having the greatest community ever. It is just stories of learning to love real people where they were. The greatest strength of the book was the cast of characters. The book almost reads like a novel because of how alive the people come. My only complaint is that I wish this book was more explicitly Christian instead of it lurking in the background. If you want a beautiful story about how to love your neighbors then I would absolutely recommend this book.