



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.

Gospel Obedience

The Spirit of God is the Holy Spirit. Wherever He comes, He comes with holiness and sanctification. Here we see that the loving goal of our sanctification is that the Spirit will change us. God is making us new. The purpose in election is not just eternity with God in sinless bliss, but it is the everyday outworking of our salvation with the fear of God in our lives. If we are elect, it will show in our progression toward God in holiness and reverence: "he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him" (Eph. 1:4). God chose us in holiness, and He chose us to holiness. Election is the love and grace of God to us. Sanctification is the Spirit of God working through us to make that election, calling, and choice sure (2 Peter 1:10).

Yet, as we all know, often before we can make something new, we have to tear down the old. As God is making us new, He is also tearing down the old, and it does not always feel good. He is giving us new minds, new affections, new priorities, even new habits of speech. As Paul says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Joyful obedience is the only faithful response to the gospel

Joyful obedience is the only faithful response to the gospel and the right response to election. The Bible reminds us that our obedience is an obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5; 16:26). It is the necessary and faithful consequence of the love of God in choosing sinners to be saved in Christ Jesus. If we love Christ, we joyfully obey Him (John 14:15). The commands of Christ are the loving edicts of a faithful Master. Like Peter (2 Peter 1:1), Paul (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1), and James (James 1:1), we have no problem in calling ourselves slaves of Christ, who alone is worthy of our loving, unquestioned obedience.

When I was a boy, I obeyed my parents because of what I thought they would do to me if I did not (as most kids do). As I have matured, so has my obedience. Today I obey my mother not because I am afraid of what she will do to me, but because now I realize all that she has done for me. This is the obedience of faith—gospel obedience. We obey God not because we are afraid of what He will do to us if we do not. Rather, we obey Him because we are moved by all that He has done for us in Jesus Christ. He has lovingly elected us and sprinkled us with the sin-forgiving, grace-abounding blood of Jesus.

Excerpt from *Blood Work* by Rev. Anthony Carter
(found at Ligonier.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,

One of my prayers as a pastor is that we as a church will recognize how much God cares about and values our ordinary obedience. Most of the time we don't think about ordinary obedience, we think about extraordinary obedience. Extraordinary obedience is the kind of obedience we read about in Christian biographies. Obedience like Carrie Ten Boom hiding Jews from the Nazis and holding onto faith while imprisoned. Obedience like David Brainerd becoming the first American missionary to the Indians. Obedience like Polycarp refusing to deny Christ and being burned alive in Rome. These stories inspire and encourage us.

For most of us, our days are not filled with extraordinary works. Our days are filled with activities like managing our toddler's emotions, working in the garden, or brushing our teeth. It is hard to feel like a spiritual hero when our days are spent in retirement trying to stay busy, but these ordinary moments are eternally significant.

Every single moment of our lives is a choice. There are 1,440 minutes in every day. Your time will vary depending on how you sleep, but all of us have hundreds of minutes each day. Hundreds of opportunities to become more like Jesus. Hundreds of chances to follow Jesus. Hundreds of chances to fellowship with Jesus. And each of those hundreds of chances adds up as we conform more and more to the image of Christ. It is the small moments where we are sanctified. The small moments make up our lives.

What makes these moments valuable is not constantly listening to worship music or continually praying, though those are valuable habits. We do not have to add something "Christian" to our work to make it valuable to Christ. We simply need to be faithful. We should honor Jesus in everything we do, down to the very small and forgettable minutia.

I want to encourage you that your ordinary obedience in small moments matters to Jesus. He sees it. He will reward it. 1 Corinthians 15:58 reminds us that "in the Lord your labor is not in vain..." even when that work seems mundane or lacking much value. Anything we do for Christ with a Christian heart is not in vain whether it is something as small as washing the dishes or making our beds. Each of these moments can have eternal value.

Jesus spent thirty years of His earthly life doing ordinary, completely forgotten things. He ate, He slept, He worked, He cleaned, and more. He did not believe they were a waste of time. Neither should we.

Pastor David Shields

*Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God
and God in him. And by this we know that He abides in us,
by the Spirit whom He has given us.
I John 3:24*

What's Happening at TBF

- ✚ WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND SHARE Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Join us for a time of prayer and praise followed by a lesson from Pastor David.
- ✚ DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- ✚ MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ DICIPLESHIP CLASS - Starts September 8th
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Starts September 9th
- ✚ WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY: September 5th 9:30 AM
- ✚ PARENTING CLASS - Starts September 3rd
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 5:30 PM (Jam Session) and 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ AWANA CLUBS - Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM Ages 2 yr. old - 5th Grade
- ✚ COMMUNION - September 22nd
- ✚ KINDRED COMMUNITY - 10th Anniversary Celebration September 24th
- ✚ BEAUTY FROM ORDINARY THINGS - October 5th
- ✚ PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY - October 13th

Opportunities to Serve

Awana Volunteers Needed Fall 2024

Looking for fun on Wednesday nights? Have a love for God and want to plant seeds in the lives of children? Be a TBF AWANA Volunteer. There's something for everyone. Please see Pastor Rob Girvin for details.

Let's give our moms a break....

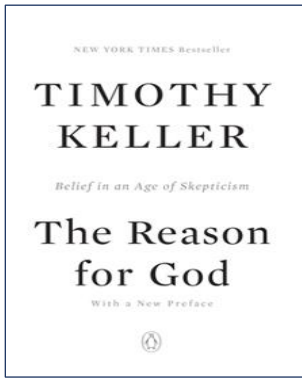
Volunteers needed in the nursery and pre-school areas on Sunday mornings. Sign-up Sheet in the Foyer. Please see Pastor Rob Girvin.

Bible Study Childcare worker needed

We are in need of childcare for the Thursday morning study. Please let us know if you know of someone available on Thursday mornings who loves kids and could use a little extra spending money. See Jean Crow if you know of someone or want to volunteer.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

I Peter 4:10



Discipleship Class

September 8th and 22nd

The Reason for God

by Timothy Keller.

How could a loving God send people to hell? Why does he allow suffering? Can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong"? Responding to the questions of open skeptics and ardent believers, Keller's writing draws from literature, philosophy, reason, and real-life conversations to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly, rational belief.

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.



TBF Men's Ministries

Lamentations

PAIN POURED OUT --- A GOD WHO COMFORTS
Starts September 9 TBF Youth Room 6:30-7:30 PM
Led by Wolfgang Deeg

When tragedy strikes, where do you turn? As his world crumbled around him, the prophet Jeremiah poured out his pain to God. In his poetic expression of pain, the book of Lamentations, we discover a God who knows our suffering and welcomes the honest cries of our hearts. In this study, learn from Jeremiah's example of lament and bring your own pain, loss, and doubt before the God who sees you.

- **Sept 9:** Intro to Lamentations. Background on the author of Lamentations - Jeremiah - when he lived, the kings under whom he lived, what he went through, what he experienced.
- **Sept. 23:** Witness Jeremiah's mourning as he watches the destruction of Jerusalem, his beloved city. Will he blame God for this suffering? Or will Jeremiah identify the nation's sin and God's righteous judgement upon it?
- **Oct 7:** Watch as Jeremiah recounts his personal suffering yet remembers the faithfulness and compassion of God. Like Jeremiah, we can find comfort in God's presence and trust Him through trials.
- **Oct. 21:** Experience Jeremiah's hope for redemption. As Jeremiah pleads for God's mercy toward His people, we remember our own yearning for future restoration.
- The book of Lamentations reminds us that turning to prayer in tragedy demonstrates our faith. Will you turn to God with your pain?

The book of Lamentations reminds us that turning to prayer in tragedy demonstrates our faith. Will you turn to God with your pain?

TBF *Women's Ministries*



FALL BIBLE STUDY

Jonah - Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer

What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run! In this 7-session Bible study, Priscilla redefines interruption and shows that interruption is actually God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams. When Jonah was willing to allow God to interrupt his life, the result was revival in an entire city.

Meets Every Other Thursday Morning 6 PM
Starts September 5th

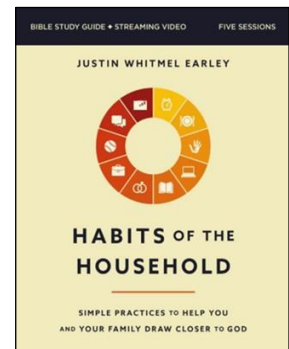
WOMEN'S MINISTRY ORGANIZATION MEETING

Organization meeting on September 10th at 10:30 in the youth room. We'll have a preliminary discussion about our fall and Christmas outreach projects. We value everyone's input so join us if you are interested and able.

Parenting Class

Tuesdays at 6 PM Starting September 3rd
Meets at TBF in classroom

Habits of the Household
Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms
By Justin Whitmel Early



TBF 101

Sunday, September 29th After Sunday Service

Interested in learning more about TBF? Join Pastor David to learn more about our church and its history, doctrine, and beliefs. Lunch Provided.

Sign-up Sheet in the Foyer

TBF Family Ministries

Happy September church family!

This month we are going to begin talking about heart emotions. What are heart emotions? We are a lot like a boiling pot of water. Our emotions like anger, jealousy, sadness, or any other emotions we have discussed so far are like the water bubbling out of the pot. We can stop the water from boiling over, but that is not going to stop the fact that the water is boiling. We can maintain the boil and clean up the mess, but without turning off the element, anything we do will not fix our issues but only masks the symptoms of the bigger issue. When we realize that we are feeling; anger, sadness, or another emotion, it is important to pause and look at why we are feeling the way that we are. Are we feeling holy sadness where our spirit is grieved by the situation of those around us, or are we sad because we are not getting what we want? Are we angry because of an injustice of others or are we angry because we did not get our way? Other times we feel jealousy or other wrong emotions, and maybe we don't even understand the cause. This month, I want to talk about the emotion of pride.

Pride is such an interesting term. If you are prideful, then you are haughty and vain. You should have pride in your country, but pride can also mean a multitude of other things as well depending on the context. Gregory the Great, back in the 6th century, called pride the queen of all vice, and that is the best definition I have seen for pride. Pride is placing our desires above everything else. Adam and Eve's sin was pride. The serpent asked them if they wanted to be like God, and they acted upon the lie so no one else could tell them how to live their lives. Pride is looking at God and others and saying they do not matter; to attempt to stare at the creator of everything and tell Him that He is miniscule, and we are great. Pride is to look at our fellow broken neighbors and say you do not matter, and I will destroy you to have what I want. Pride is a toxic root that creeps into every aspect of our lives and poisons everything that it touches. It is an idol of self that we create every time that the serpent asks us, "Do you want to be like God?" and we say, "Yes".

Pride comes from an inflated love of self, which includes being overly nitpicky of ourselves. The greatest commandment that Jesus gives us is to love God and love our neighbor like ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). We do not need help loving ourselves, rather, we need help loving others, and that can only come from loving God and trusting that He has a plan for our lives that is greater than any of our hopes or desires for our lives. This month, despite what you may hear on the news or how people around you make you feel, check your feelings. What is driving your response? Is it a desire to love God and love others, or is it a desire to love yourself?

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Rob

One's pride will bring him low,
but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.
Proverbs 29:23

****Youth Bible Study -- Sundays 6-7 PM TBF Youth Room -- Journey Through the Bible**



All Nations Missions

Jacob and Callie Ferguson

Jacob and Callie are missionaries serving in Germany. They are home in the US for a short time and shared with us details of their ministries in Hamburg, Germany within the refugee camps. They have made great progress sharing the gospel with those who are lost and hungry for the Gospel.

Callie is the daughter of David and Belinda Yeager.

AWANA KICK OFF 2024



Kindred Community

September 24th 6-8 PM

Hosted by Heritage Oaks Nazarene Church

Duncan, OK

10-year Celebration Event

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 - Jan Palovik 580.786.6009

COMING IN OCTOBER

Beauty from Ordinary Things

October 5th: Women's Ministry Event: *Beauty from Ordinary Things*. Kyleen will be demonstrating some outdoor winter arrangements made from common, ordinary items found readily in nature and Jan will bless us with a devotional on how God uses the ordinary person to do extraordinary things. Stay tuned for further details.

Pastor Appreciation Day

Sunday, October 13th

8 Reasons to Give Thanks and Pray for our Pastors

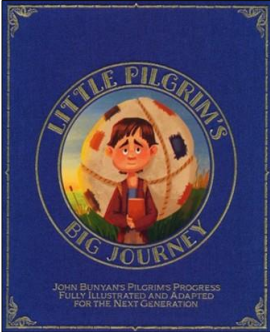
1. **They're following an incredible calling to care for the souls of people.** They not only keep watch over your souls and will give an account. Hebrews 13:17
2. **Their work is never fully done.** Even when they go home at night, they're still on call at some level. Crises seldom happen according to our schedules.
3. **They shoulder burdens few people know.** In fact, they sometimes must carry them alone, and they often weep more over the sin of congregation members than those members do over their own sin.
4. **They do much of their work "behind the scenes."** We see them publicly when they preach, but that assignment isn't the bulk of their work. They spend countless hours preparing sermons, visiting the sick, evangelizing the lost, counseling the hurting, and raising up leaders.
5. **They work hard at balancing their personal and family time with congregational time.** Not all pastors find this balance well—and their family often pays a price.
6. **They bear the responsibility of preaching the Word.** That work requires seeking God's face, interpreting the Word, scripting a sermon, and delivering it. 2 Timothy 4:2-5
7. **They must deal with critique and criticism.** Sometimes it's warranted, but often it's not. Most pastors handle them with grace. 1 Thes. 5:12 calls for us to respect those who are over us.
8. **They share all of life with their members.** Not even a family physician shares all of life – birth, conversion, baptism, graduation, marriage, parenthood, death, and every major struggle and celebration between birth and death. Only pastors have that privilege, and we greatly appreciate their investment in our lives.

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor,
especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

1 Timothy 5:17

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.



Little Pilgrim's Big Journey by Tyler Van Halteren

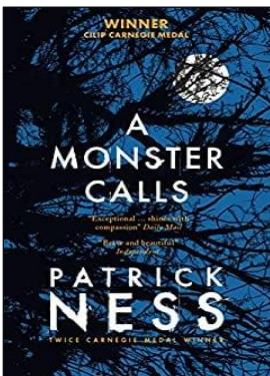
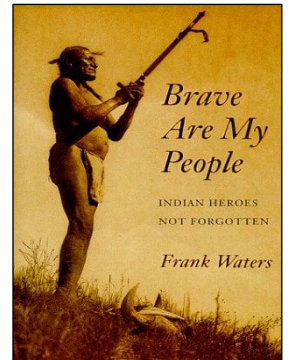
This is an illustrated children's book of John Bunyan's famous novel "Pilgrim's Progress." I read this one to my children and they both loved it. They begged to read it every day and couldn't get enough of the story. The adaptation shortens the story but keeps it digestible for kids. It led to a lot of great conversations with my children. It also helped and encouraged me. I enjoyed this one just as much as the regular version.

Brave Are My People: Indian Heroes Not Forgotten by Frank Waters

I randomly picked this one up at a library sale and I am so glad I did. The book is dozens of short biographies of Indian heroes. It starts in the days of the first European immigrants to America and moves forward through history. The danger of these kinds of short biography books is that you only get surface ideas of people and they never really come to life. This book brought each hero to life in all of their glory and tragedy. The prose itself was often hauntingly beautiful.

Over and over in these stories, I kept thinking to myself that our history did not have to be this way. There were thousands of chances to make different choices. Thousands of opportunities to begin again in peace instead of committing genocide. I think white Americans have to reckon with and face the stories of our history.

The main part that sticks with me is how often the tribes would say they had no interest in converting to Christianity because of how Christians treated them. Or, they would wait and see if Christianity made white people any more loving towards them. The church failed over and over. May it not be so again.



A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

I finally found a copy of this one after having it recommended for years and it did not disappoint. I went into it fairly blind. All I knew about the book was that it deals with grief and is a middle-grade novel. This book has one of the best and most emotionally moving depictions of grief I have ever read. It might be the best children's/middle-grade book I have ever read. I wish I had been able to read this when I was in high school trying to grieve the death of friends. This book is not Christian, but I can't recommend it enough. It is a heavy book and you might want to be in a good place emotionally before diving into it.