

## July starts with a bang at Channelside for Singles



July means fireworks and the PCUMC Spiritual Singles have an explosive month of events planned -- starting with the 4th of July. We will meet at the Empedrado lot at 5:45 p.m. Sunday and carpool to Channelside. After dinner at Bennigan's, we'll **watch the fireworks** as they are launched from Garrison Channel at 9 p.m.

The singles are planning the rest of the year's events at a cookout this Saturday 7/3 at 3:30 p.m. at Jim Hooper's home, 4123 W. Obispo St. We'll plan for a couple of hours, enjoy a **pot-luck cookout** at 5:30 p.m. and wrap up the evening with the Living Single Bible Study after dinner. Feel free to drop in for all or part of the day.

If this summer's heat's got you down, cool off with the PCUMC Spiritual Singles as they plunge into the **Rainbow River** (near Ocala) Saturday 7/10. Cost of the tubes and exact meeting time for carpool is yet to be determined. <http://bit.ly/b7hHml>



But if Christian contemporary music is more your speed, we're taking in two concerts this month. Spirit FM is hosting a **Disney Night of Joy preview party** Monday 7/12 at St. Andrew's UMC in Brandon. It's a night of Acoustic Music with Britt Nicole & Audrey Assad. <<http://bit.ly/cuXDN4>>

Also Jupiter Wind is one of several bands performing at a special book release party for **Thirty Three, The Story of Hope**, written by Tampa native Eddie Flom, at the Intercontinental Hotel on Thursday 7/29 from 6-10 p.m. <<http://bit.ly/9FlbdD>>. For more information on any of the above events AND to RSVP, please call Jim Hooper at 813-230-1768 or email him at [jghooper7@gmail.com](mailto:jghooper7@gmail.com)



Grab your popcorn and join us for **Movie Night** on the big screen TV Friday 7/23 at 7 p.m. We'll watch a great flick and fellowship at a member's home. Contact Tom Chastain at 813-832-3520 for more info on Movie Night.

And Dennis Steele will lead the next installment of the **Living Single Bible Study** on Sunday 7/25 at 4 p.m. in Parlor I. Contact Dennis at 813-505-8086 or [dsteale20@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dsteale20@tampabay.rr.com) to RSVP.

<b>Sat 7/3</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>PotLuck Supper/Bible Study</b>
<b>Sun 7/4</b>	<b>5:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner &amp; Fireworks @ Channelside</b>
<b>Sat 7/10</b>	<b>Time TBD</b>	<b>Tubing down Rainbow River &lt;<a href="http://bit.ly/8ZVNsZ">http://bit.ly/8ZVNsZ</a>&gt;</b>
<b>Mon 7/12</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>	<b>Britt Nicole and Audrey Assad concert &lt;<a href="http://bit.ly/cuXDN4">http://bit.ly/cuXDN4</a>&gt;</b>
<b>Fri 7/23</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Movie Night @ Member's home on the big-screen TV</b>
<b>Sun 7/26</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>	<b>Living Single Bible Study @ Parlor I (call Dennis 505-8086 for info)</b>
<b>Thu 7/29</b>	<b>6-10 p.m.</b>	<b>33 Hope Book Release Party featuring concerts by Jupiter Wind. &lt;<a href="http://bit.ly/9FlbdD">http://bit.ly/9FlbdD</a>&gt;</b>

Live performance and multimedia bring the words of **Isalah** and **Jeremiah** to life in an extraordinary evening of theater.

# PROPHETS

BRAD SHERRILL

"PROPHETS is marked by courage, imagination and a passion for truth telling. Brad Sherrill has used shrewdness in selecting his texts, wisdom in weaving them into a compelling unity and imagination in presenting them in contemporary ways. His performance is a faithful, evocative rendering of the prophets. Powerful."

— **Walter Brueggemann**, world-renowned Old Testament scholar and author of "The Prophetic Imagination"

"Sherrill entertains and cajoles, moves and mesmerizes"

— **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

COMING SOON!  
**BRAD SHERRILL**  
 PERFORMING  
**PROPHETS**  
 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH  
 AND  
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

## FINANCE

Periodically we will feature articles from national financial advisors. This month's article comes from Dave Ramsey's website, [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com).

### Tired of Keeping Up with the Joneses?

#### They don't want you to know that they're actually broke!

We all know the Joneses. They're the ones who just got back from a two-week trip to Europe dragging suitcases stuffed with souvenirs. They drive their 2.5 kids to private school in their new car, and every weekend, they head out on the town—fashionably dressed—to eat at their favorite restaurants.

No budget. No worries. They've got it all. Or so it seems...

**"How do people do that?"** you may be wondering. That was Rachel's question when she took *Financial Peace University* with her husband, Eric. As a newlywed, she didn't understand how other couples in their early twenties were buying big houses and driving new cars while *they* were renting an apartment and having to say no to going out to eat with their friends.

Like Dave says, most young couples expect to attain their parents' standard of living within about five years. Only it took their folks 25 years to get there! It's a trap. Don't fall for it.

When Rachel asked some of her friends how they had all that stuff, she quickly found out **they didn't really own anything**. All of their "toys," like motorcycles, boats and cars, were financed like crazy. They admitted to only putting \$700 down on their fancy new home—after living free in a family member's extra home for three years! They were building a house of cards that wouldn't even stand up to a light breeze, let alone a rainy day!

**It's easy to look like you have more than you do.** That's what credit lures us into. But spending your life trying to look like something you're not isn't all it's cracked up to be.

At the end of the day, you're the one stuck with the bill.

#### Grass That Isn't Greener

You see, seven out of 10 families in America are living from paycheck to paycheck. That means that if they missed one paycheck, bills would literally go unpaid. They may look like they've got it all together, but realistically—and statistically—it's just not the case.

Life may seem peachy on the outside of that perfect house in the perfect neighborhood, but if you knew what was really going on behind closed doors, you *wouldn't* want to trade places with them! What you're likely to find inside is a lot of heartache, money fights and fear about how the bills will get paid.

Vacation isn't so much fun when you're paying it off two years later. And driving that new car isn't that much fun when you're wondering how to come up with the \$450 car payment with the family business going under and the house on the brink of foreclosure. It's no way to live.

#### Lessons Worth Living

It's time to take some pressure off yourself and stop trying to keep up with the Joneses—or anyone else for that matter. Who cares what they think, anyway?

It's not worth it! It only leads to disappointment in the end—even if you get what you're after. You'll have a better life if you just **forget about what other people think** and hold onto what you know is true:

**Stuff will never make you happy.** "We used to have everything you could want—the big house, the nice cars, the whole nine yards—but we were *miserable*," Travis said. "I was working up to 90 hours a week to cover our payments." But after going through *Financial Peace University* and getting out of debt, he and his wife, Lisa, are happier than they've ever been in their lives—renting a two-bedroom apartment.

- **More is never enough.** If you are trying to earn money for the sake of having more money, you will never be satisfied. Do some soul searching and ask yourself what "enough" really looks like. If you can't put a cap on it, you're chasing the wind. Learn to be happy with what you have. Just remember that if you can't buy it outright, you can't afford it. And it won't really be yours if you buy it on credit.

- **Contentment comes from within.** It's easy to blame feelings of discontentment on outside sources like money or stuff, but true contentment and lasting joy don't come from anything money can buy. Think of the times you've felt most satisfied in life. Think of the moments you look back on as your fondest memories. Would you trade those for a pile of cash?

*Like Dave always says, "Live like no one else now so later you can live like no one else." That way you'll own your stuff instead of letting it hold you, and you'll have true financial peace.*