



Youth & Children's/Next Gen or Family-Life Associate

1001 Buchanan St • Topeka • KS • 66604 • (785) 232-3316 • Visit our website at www.tfnaz.org

About TFN & The Lead Pastor

Our stated identity is:

***At Topeka First Church of the Nazarene, we are a community of believers
broken by sin but bound together by God's love.
We are on a Spirit-led journey to know Christ, grow in Christ,
serve Christ, and share Christ.***

We like to shorten it to:

***Believers, broken by sin but bound by God's love.
Knowing, growing, serving, and sharing Christ.***

Even more simply, we are about living toward Jesus and helping others do the same.

The engagement of this identity and finding God's specific vision has been more involved over these last 5 years, more so these last 3 years. We are starting to envision how God wants us to more intentionally live our identity and begin to envision ways in which we can become a part of God's Work in Central Topeka and then, beyond.

To introduce TFN to you, here are some data points about our history and present frame of reference and ministry:

- Based on how you read our history, TFN is 113-119 yrs old. Seventy-seven of those years have been on the corner where we now reside.
- Being committed to Central Topeka because of God's calling to our place in this world, the leadership and congregation voted about 25 years ago to remain in our present location.
- Our facility is in an older, inner city environment.
- Like many "inner-city" churches, TFN had its heyday in the hundreds but has averaged 91 the last two years.
- TFN has a dedicated group of leaders, who are mostly older – 60+.
- Most of our leaders and many of our regular attendees have been part of the congregation 40, 50, 60, & one almost 70 yrs. Some of these have raised their families at TFN but most all of those younger family members relocated.

- Therefore, we are mostly older (50-years old plus) with a smattering of younger individuals and families. Most of the younger individuals and families are not heavily involved.
- Of the younger individuals and families, the breakdown of age groups are approximately:
 - 9 singles 30-ish and under of which only 1 is rather connected, another is only semi-connected due to operating the A/V twice a month, and another attends sporadically. 2 are at out-of-state colleges, 1 is a local law student, and the other 3 just do not attend.
 - 7 “younger” families w/children and/or teens: 5 families attend regularly but are not very connected beyond Sunday services. 1 family is that of our worship pastor, 1 is our nursery director, and another is our head tech person. These 5 families represent 11 of our regular kids and 4 of our pool of teens.
 - 2 other families (2 “teens” & 3 kids) attend sporadically; one mother is involved in our junior quiz program alongside her son.
 - 6 other families either attend once in a great while or have not attended for quite a number of months. These families represent 6 kids & 7 teens.
 - Averaged 16 kids over the last 3 months: 1 in the nursery, 2-3 in preschool, and the balance of 12-13 in elementary-aged children’s church. With our junior quiz practice being established as a Sunday School class, we just started a small, elementary-aged Sunday School class for those siblings who are not quizzing.
 - Across the age groups there is a pool of about 24 children.
 - Averaged only 5 teens for youth group & activities from Sept. thru Nov.; 2-4 more, who are not involved in mid-week or other events/activities, come on Sundays.
 - There are 7 teens who make an attempt to attend youth group. 2 of these regular “teens” graduated this past May but are still “adolescent”. Another teen group “regular” is 18 and wrestling with finishing school and working; yet another attendee, who is sporadic, has dropped out of school and is working.
 - There is a pool of another 7 teens (or teen-group-aged kids: 6th graders can begin becoming involved in teen group & activities, locally and across our district).
 - There is yet another pool of another 10 teens who have not attended in quite some time.

- We have not had a teen Sunday School class since prior to COVID.
- We have a great facility for kids and youth with a nice gym, stage, and youth room.
- God has blessed TFN with faithful givers. So, our finances are steady and we have no mortgage. However, older buildings in a city jurisdiction are EXPENSIVE.
- TFN has willing, cooperative people, who are ready and willing to get involved in ministry.
- We have some slight racial diversity.
- Our worship is more traditional in style with a balance of hymns and more meditative, low-key contemporary songs.
- We are presently struggling in ministry to and through our young adults, younger families, children, and teens. We need to strengthen our youth & children's ministries and disciple parents and younger adults to become involved in both programs. We have faithful, older lay people leading programming now but they need a break and we need more energy and new vision.
- Presently, we envision some open-gym events to reach our immediate community as well as separate family nights with open gym & teen room, possibly & prayerfully eventually incorporating a brief, more contemporary worship service.
- We engage a fair amount of low-level compassionate ministry to the homeless who venture to our door.

Now that you know a little about TFN, here is some information about our present lead pastor, Terry Frizzell:

- Terry is a simple man but can be rather perfectionistic in many ways. He aims to be the best he can be ... TFN can be ... and he desires the same from others.
- Terry has been married for 38 years and has 4 adult daughters.
- As a pastor, Terry is hands-on, get-in-and-get-dirty type of leader.
- He is semi-effective at administrator matters but more relational. He can become bogged in either, particularly the admin part, to the detriment of the other
- He aims to be strong on biblical truth in practice and preaching.
- Terry and TFN are conservative on cultural & moral issues – marriage, sexuality, etc.
- Both are also concerned about the compassionate needs in our congregation and neighborhood.

- Terry strives to pray, preach, and minister toward seeing more lives transformed by Jesus ... growing deeper, getting “serious” about being disciples, and loving new people toward finding that Jesus is The Answer!
- Terry has only pastored 3 separate churches (rural KS, CT, & now, Topeka) for a total of 21 years. He also served as interim pastor in 3 Kansas churches – 1 larger, 1 very small, and TFN itself.
- After spending 19 years at TFN, Terry was called to be the lead pastor. Terry’s first 4 years at TFN found him serving as the children’s pastor, and then, the other 15 as a “bump on the log” member, who tried to be a tangible support to the pastor and people. Now, after nearly 3 years as the lead pastor, Terry is striving to lead TFN toward envisioning how God wants us to more intentionally live our identity and begin to prayerfully strategize ways in which we can become a part of God’s Work in Central Topeka and then, beyond.

If after reading about TFN God stirs your soul to consider further conversation with Pastor Terry, reach out to him via tfnaz1@gmail.com or send a message to him via our [CONTACT PAGE](#).