

# The Vision

## From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick  
*Senior Pastor*



It is estimated that 100,000 churches will close by 2050. I believe that might be an underestimation. Churches that forty years ago were vibrant and growing are filled with the same people from forty years ago and dying. Many of these churches thought that they would "hire" someone who would make the church grow. They went through one preacher after another, one youth minister after another while continuing to slide in attendance. Many of members can't remember when someone was baptized. Less than ten people a year visit. Most never come back. People aren't looking for a dying church. These churches have lost the manifest presence of God. In fact, His manifest presence has been gone so long they can't remember how to recognize it.

Why didn't the churches continue to grow? It wasn't something they did. It was something they neglected to do. They failed to ask God for fruit. Yes, they prayed but their prayers were for the sick and dying only. They have no new life in the church because they failed to ask for new life. They spent more time criticizing the staff and pastor for not meeting their needs than praying that they would reach new people. They lost the majesty of God because they simply came to church without crying out for Him to work in themselves and others. They see no miracles because they don't believe in them enough to ask God for them.

Is it over, then? It doesn't have to be. Prayer is something that costs nothing and everything at the same time. People could be praying for their churches. They can even be shut-ins that can't make it to the building. However, these prayers can't simply be for the sick and dying. They must be for spiritual health and living. They must be for fruit.

Would you be one of those that prays for more baptisms because we are reaching people with the gospel? Would you pray that a new fire is stirred up in the church so that the members see the manifest presence of God? Would you be one who genuinely prays beyond the walls of the church building?

I am convinced that the need for prayer in our church is so great that the failure to do so will mean that Thalia Lynn will be one of those 100,000 churches closing her doors by 2050. Don't you want the church to live on after you are gone?

# The XP Corner: Church Growth Comes through Prayer

David Doyle

*Executive Pastor of Administration*

The Bible does not specifically address church growth, but the principle of church growth is the understanding that Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). Paul confirmed that the church has its foundation in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11). Jesus Christ is also the head of the church (Ephesians 1:18-23) and the church's life (John 10:10). It should be remembered that there are different kinds of "growth", many of which have nothing to do with numbers.

A church can be alive and growing even though the number of members/attendees is not changing. If those in the church are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, submitting to His will for their lives, both individually and corporately, that is a church that is experiencing true growth. Likewise, a church can be adding to its rolls weekly, have huge numbers, and still be spiritually stagnant.

Growth of any kind follows a typical pattern. As with a growing organism, the local church has those who plant the seed, those who water the seed, and others who use their spiritual gifts for the growth of those in the local church. But note that it is God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7). Those who plant and those who water will each receive their own reward according to their labor (1 Corinthians 3:8).

There must be a balance between planting and watering for a local church to grow, which means that in a healthy church each person must know what his/her spiritual gift is so that he/she can best function within the body of Christ. Above all, there must be daily dependence upon and obedience to the Holy Spirit so His power can be released in those who plant and water for God's increase to come. This power comes only through prayer and supplication.

The description of a living and growing church is found in Acts 2:42-47 where the believers "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." They were alive and on mission. They were serving one another and reaching out to those who needed to know the Lord, for the Lord "added to their number daily those who were being saved." When these things are present, the church will experience spiritual growth, and even a numerical increase.

**Calling All Men!**

**Men's Prayer Group**

Every Tuesday  
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Room 54

Registration is not required for entry but encouraged.

**Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workshop**

Every Tuesday  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall

Registration is \$25 and includes weekly meals, workbook, and ceremonial dog tag.




# CHURCH 101

Everything you need to know about becoming a member of our church family.

**LED BY DAVID DOYLE**

Sunday, February 8, 2026  
9:45 am - 10:45 am  
Room 61



## Baby BOUTIQUE

**A Ministry of the Bridge Network of Churches**

Did you know there's a place for moms in need to get free items for their children ages newborn thru around age 2? Well, there is and Baby Boutique is that place! AND it's located right here at TLBC! We offer gently used and new clothing and other various items suitable for that age group. Our clothing goes up to size 2/24 months and our inventory relies on donations, so our available items vary day by day. We LOVE helping, so if you know of anyone in your church or community who could use our help, please have them go to [thebridgenet.org](http://thebridgenet.org) and fill out a Baby Boutique application. The application can be found under Resources. Once we receive it, we'll be in touch to set up an appointment. We offer a "One Time Only" visit to get needed items.

Since we depend on donations, we are always happy to receive baby items! We accept gently used or new items. There are a few items that we do not accept such as cribs, car seats, and baby powder. Please contact me directly if you would like to donate or if you have any question about Baby Boutique.

**BONNIE CUTHRIELL, DIRECTOR | 757-681-7056**



# NEXT GEN Ministry Momentum

Written by Executive Pastor of  
Ministries: Peggy Peek

## WELCOME, NATALIE COX

Natalie Cox will begin in mid February as our new Associate Pastor of Student Ministry. We have been praying for her since last Summer when we first found out that Shane had decided to step down. We didn't know her name or anything about her, but we knew if we prayed for God's clear direction and the right person to serve our students here at Thalia Lynn, God would answer with the exact right person at the exact right time.

Hopefully, most of you were able to meet Natalie during some of her early interviews in November and a Meet & Greet in December or during her week of being the Prospective Candidate in View of a Call in January before our Called Business Meeting. She has impressed those who met her as a person of sincere faith, spiritual maturity, gifted communication skills and an understanding of the Youth Generation. We are blessed to have her join our Pastoral Staff!

Natalie comes to us with several years of experience working as the Office Manager with a Christian non-profit focusing on mission efforts in Africa. She grew up in Virginia Beach and graduated from Salem High School before attending Regent University and earning a degree in Christian Ministry with a concentration in Pastoral Care. Her home church is Kings Grant Baptist Church where she has been a Youth Intern, Youth Leader and is a current Deacon.

We will be welcoming Natalie with a Welcome Reception on Sunday, February 15 following the 11am service. Be praying for her as she leaves a job she enjoys and a church she loves as she follows God's Call on her life to be a Student Minister. Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be. 1 Peter 5:2



## JOY SINGERS

### FEBRUARY 2026

Rehearsals - Tuesdays at 9:30  
February 3, 10, 17

Outreach  
February 12 - 11:30 - JOY Luncheon at TLBC  
February 19 - 11:00 - Commonwealth  
February 24 - 10:30 - Bay Lake  
Open to anyone whose schedule permits!  
Come join the fun!

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH

## Music & Me

Wednesdays @ 10:00 a.m.  
January 7, 14, 21, 28 & February 4, 11, 18, 25

Age-appropriate music and movement  
for Children, Birth through pre-K,  
accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Contact the office at 757.499.0557 if you would like more information.



4392 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD.

# Women IN THE Word





# "SOUPER" BOWL CHALLENGE

Bring in your favorite soup and place in the carts in the vestibule outside the fellowship hall.

Each can is a point. Winner will be announced in the March newsletter. Make your team proud!

Please help the Food Pantry collect soup to restock our pantry and support our community.

## centrikid camps

### SUMMER CAMP

Skycroft Conference Center  
Middletown, Maryland  
July 13-17

Centrikid offers overnight camps for 2nd-6th graders to experience the time of their lives and learn more about the message of Jesus Christ!

The Early Bird Registration Cost (before May 3) is \$225 and a deposit of \$75 is due at the time of Registration.

There is a Second Child Discount of \$50 for the second child registered from the same family. (Discount Code "SECOND CHILD")

After May 3, the cost of Centrikids Camp goes up to \$275. A payment of \$100 for each camper is due on June 1 and the balance for each camper is due on June 15.

Scholarships Available

## VOLUNTEER WITH THE FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry serves on average 200 households (700 people) per week. The volunteers prepare over 350 plastic grocery bags of canned goods, plus 200 paper grocery bags of bread goods and 200 boxes of meat goods every week.

Volunteers double the plastic grocery bags to handle these heavy items. Please help us with your support of donated plastic Grocery bags and Grocery paper bags. It is always a blessing to our team to have the Plastic bags doubled rather than shaped into various designs.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Jim Mastin  
pwc114@hotmail.com

Darleen Mastin  
dsanderson19@yahoo.com

## ILLUMINATION STATION

SHINING A LIGHT ON WHO JESUS REALLY IS

JOHN 8:12

You're invited to Thalia Lynn Baptist Church's

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-JUN 26 | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

VBS MEET & GREET | JUNE 21 | 4:00 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE A FREE VBS T-SHIRT.

Next to Princess Anne High  
4392 Virginia Beach Blvd VA Beach, VA 23462

Children, age 4 PreK through completed 6th grade, may attend our annual VBS June 22-26 from 9:30am-12:30pm (Monday-Friday). Preschool children who have attended TLBC's Weekday Learning Preschool (WLP) in 2025-2026 are also eligible to attend. Younger Preschool children of our VBS Volunteers are also eligible to attend.

## VALENTINE'S JOY SENIOR LUNCHEON

COST \$10

TLBC JOY MINISTRY

February 12th at 12:00 p.m.

featuring the JOY Singers

Menu: Sausage, Peppers, Onions & Potatoes, Salad/Bread, Valentine's dessert

Register by turning in a JOY Ministry green envelope to church office or register on Realm by Sunday, Feb. 8th.

## KIDS ON MISSION

FEBRUARY 20, 2026 AT 6:30PM

Third Friday of Each Month  
Fellowship Hall & Preschool Hallway

Mission Friends for Preschool  
"Royal Ambassadors" and "Girls in Action"  
for Grades 1-6

Kids learn to make missions an important part of their daily lives by participating in Bible study, games, and missions projects.

Contact Peggy Peek for any questions at peggy@mytowncenterchurch.com

## Re Fueled BY JOY

CONFERENCE 9-12PM

DOORS OPEN 8AM

AFTERGLOW 12:30PM

\*AFTERGLOW IS A SEPARATE REGISTRATION FOR WOMEN, HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL LADIES.

COST: \$20

Mary Margaret WEST

THE BRIDGE Network of Churches

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH  
4392 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD.  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462

## KIDS Missions CAMPOUT

May 1st 5:00 pm - May 2nd 4:00 pm



# YOUTH F.O.C.U.S.

Written by Interim Director of  
Student Ministries: Cody Mayfield

## Upcoming Activities for the youth

- Sunday morning bible studies (9:45-10:45)
  - Then most youth sit together for the 11am service near the front of the sanctuary
- Sunday Nights 5-7pm Youth Hall (studying the essentials of faith series on Right Now Media)
- Recent Youth Events and Activities
  - Games and family style dinner
- Wednesday Nights 5:30-7pm Youth Hall
- With anticipation of a potential a new youth leader we are pausing any additional events as of now but looking into doing a Super Bowl party and or a Valentines Day party
- Youth Summer camp July 3rd-7th it's not too late to register \$100 deposit /Total cost \$250 (multi kid discount)

## Past events

- \*\*\* We had an incredible Christmas party on dec 13th with 18 youth showing up including 5 visitors. We provided each kid with a Christian themed blanket
- There was also a meet and greet event with the youth parents on Dec. 13th with Ms. Natalie Cox
- On January 2nd we visited Busch Gardens theme park/ Christmas town with 12 youth including 2 visitors

While we have plenty of activities going on, we want to continue to FOCUS on making and being disciples of Christ. Some if not all the activities we plan are made to bring a friend along, so we encourage you all to do so with the growth of the Kingdom in the forefront of your minds.

## YOUTH SUPERBOWL PARTY February 8, 2026

TLBC YOUTH MINISTRY  
**SUMMER FUGE**  
CAMP REGISTRATION IS  
NOW OPEN



**\$100 deposit due January 11, 2026**

Contact Peggy Peek at  
peggy@mytowncenterchurch.com  
for more information.

Free Entry

TLBC PRESENTS  
**SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY  
EVENT CALENDAR**  
**SATURDAY AFTERNOONS**  
TLBC FELLOWSHIP HALL

February 21  
**Adult Special Needs Dance**  
doors open at 1:30 pm

April 18  
**Adult Special Needs Dance**  
doors open at 1:30 pm

# BAPTISM SUNDAY

**Baptisms will be held on February 15, 2026**  
Help us welcome the new members of our Church Family.

**REGISTER NOW**



# WLP PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

**Preschool Hallway**  
**Friday, Feb. 13**  
**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church  
4392 Virginia Beach Boulevard  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462  
Phone: 757-499-0557 Fax: 757-499-5226  
[www.thalialynn.com](http://www.thalialynn.com)

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## New Church Constitution & Bylaws Available

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE OFFICE AT  
[OFFICE@MYTOWNCENTERCHURCH.COM](mailto:OFFICE@MYTOWNCENTERCHURCH.COM)

## New Church Constitution & Bylaws Available

An updated copy of the Constitution and By-Laws dated January 2026 is available in the church office for church member review and reference. The document incorporates the amendments as approved at the January 19, 2025 called business meeting and the November 16, 2025 regular business meeting, including the addition of Elders. This document replaces the previously published document dated January 2023.