

The Vision

From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick
Senior Pastor



The Elder-Led Committee has had two meetings. The first meeting assigned each person to interview a Baptist church that had transitioned to Elder-Led governance. The interview included the pitfalls of making this transition as well as how Elders are chosen, trained and how long they serve. All of these churches are in the area. There are many Baptist churches that are Elder-Led. Most of them transitioned to this model. I asked Lynn Hardaway, the area missionary for the Bridge Network of Churches, if there were any Baptist churches that went back to the congregational governance his answer was, "Absolutely not."

The second meeting began with reports from those who had completed their interviews. We only got to three of them in that meeting. We are also gathering the Constitution and By-laws of these churches.

So far, we have learned that each church has a different model of Elder-Led governance. That should not be unusual since Baptist churches are autonomous. (How dare anyone say that there is only one way for a Baptist church to do anything!) We are evaluating each one. We may take some of each churches' methods or create our own from scratch. This is definitely going to take some time.

The committee is given these instructions: Share everything with the church. Make sure everyone knows what is going on. The only time to be confidential is if we learn something from another church that they say is confidential.

Of course, each member of the committee is willing to answer any questions that any church member has. The problem right now is that they don't know a lot as yet. So, don't be surprised if they say, "I don't know." They are not trying to cover up anything.

There are other groups that use congregational governance than Baptist. Quakers, Congregational Methodist and Congregational Churches all use this model. Many Baptist churches have returned to the Elder-Led model. It is a biblical method of governance.

The Bible does not state what method of governance should be used in a church. Voting was not one that was mentioned but it also wasn't prohibited. New Testament churches affirmed the decisions of leaders rather than voted for or against them.

So, I will write something each month as we make progress toward an Elder-Led church. (Even that name is not adequate for there are Elder-led and Elder-Ruled churches. This is just something else we learned in this process.) Ask those on the committee. Read the newsletter. Keep yourself informed.



IMB MISSIONS COLLEGE

**Wednesday, Jan 4, 2023—Saturday, Jan 7, 2023 at
the International Learning Center (Richmond, VA)**

*Registration for the International Mission Board
Missions College 2023 is CLOSED*

Julie Phelps, Children's Minister
Serving August 1, 2006 – January 15, 2023

Julie Phelps, Children's Minister at Thalia Lynn, will retire in 2023, ending 17 years of illustrious service to our Lord and, on His behalf, to our children as well as to our congregation. The “—” “between her beginning date and retirement date represents the many hats Julie has worn over the years: Teacher, Counselor, Administrator, Mentor, Coordinator, Event Planner, Camp Counselor, Encourager, Co-worker, Chef, Life Coach, Caregiver . . . And those are in addition to Friend, Daughter, Sister, Mother, and Grandmother. Her ministry has reached not only the children from infants to teens but has included individuals and families. She has made participating in church activities and learning about Jesus positive experiences for the children and for the teachers. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that all classes and events were staffed.

As a member of Thalia Lynn since childhood, Julie has established relationships with multiple generations. She warmly welcomes and connects to all, visitors and members alike. She exhibits wisdom in decision-making and counseling others in various situations. Another of Julie's assets has been her wonderful partner in ministry—Jerry, her husband. He has supported her weekly on Sundays and Wednesdays, as well as for special events.

Julie's decision to retire was based on advancing the Children's Ministry. (Of course, the recent arrival of a second grandchild in the Phelps family might have had a bit to do with the final decision—and we applaud that.)

Thank you, Julie, for all you have done to advance the Kingdom of Christ at Thalia Lynn and to bless all of us! May the Lord bless you as you continue to follow His leading.

YOUTH F.O.C.U.S.

Wednesday nights at 6pm

**With Minister
Shane Faircloth**

snacks, bible study, movies,
worship, games, and more!

Beginning in 2023 reimbursements for church-related expenditures will need to be signed by the cognizant budget line “owner” in order to be processed by the church Financial Office. Moreover the receipt and a full description of the purchase must accompany the reimbursement request form. This is to ensure that the budget line “owner” is also aware of an expenditures being charged to his/her budget line and why. For example, a Missions reimbursement expense would be signed by the Missions Committee Chair; a Men on Missions reimbursement request would be signed by the Men on Missions Leader. Reimbursement checks are generally signed on Tuesdays for requests received during the previous week. Checks will be mailed to the requester unless indicated otherwise.

FINANCIAL FAITHFULNESS

Jan 4 - Feb 8, 2023 (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

Course is taught by Coulson
Thomas as part of the TLBC
Wednesday Night Spiritual
Formations series.



FOLLOW ME BIBLE STUDY

What did Jesus really mean
when He said, “Follow Me?”



Next Session
Beginning Jan 8th

Sundays at 4:00 pm
at the church

The XP Corner

David Doyle
Executive Pastor

Every leader wants healthy volunteers who are reaching their full potential. There is nothing worse than losing a great volunteer. Many people simply disappear when they are struggling rather than reaching out for help. Fortunately, great leaders can notice symptoms and make positive changes that lead to healthy teams. So how do you know if your volunteers are getting discouraged, burning out or struggling to fulfill their responsibilities? Your volunteer teams might be struggling if...

1. They Have Limited Margin. Today, people are attending church far less than they ever have before. Sports, school activities, weekend travel and other events are certainly competing for people's time. If people are struggling just to get to church, they are also less likely to have time to serve. Instead of recognizing this trend, many churches continue adding even more programs and events. The more ministry programs and events you try to pull off, the more volunteers it will take. And, unfortunately, when people feel overwhelmed, serving is one of the first areas to go. Great volunteer teams have leaders who are intentional about reducing programs and events to produce paths that lead to healthy growth.

2. They Don't Have a Clear Growth Plan. Volunteers, particularly high-capacity leaders, can easily get discouraged once they master a given responsibility. Many times, once a volunteer can fulfill a need, they quickly get bored with doing the same task again and again. Great volunteer teams are intentional about establishing a clear strategy for equipping and empowering leaders to grow their leadership capacity. Consistently give your teams basic training and resources to help them be fantastic at what they're doing.

3. They Are Not Living Life Together. People will not volunteer long-term without community. It is very important for teams to be intentional about providing volunteers with opportunities to develop relationships. Yes, they need to learn about serving and accomplishing their roles, but they also need to understand the importance of living life together.

4. They Don't Know How What They're Doing Fits Into the Bigger Picture. Every volunteer has made huge sacrifices to be on the team. They already have "normal" jobs. Some of them work in manual labor positions every day, ten hours a day, five or six days a week. Obviously, by the time they finish their work week, they are wiped. But something energizes them: They live for their roles on Sunday. They live to be with and pray with their teams. So great teams always take time out to share the "why" behind what they are doing. People need to know that what they are doing is making a difference.

Over the past five years we've reduced the number of Church Committees by half. We did this by doing away with some, combining a few, and redefining most as Ministry Teams. Why? Because Church Committees typically sit around and just talk about what others should be doing in ministry, while Ministry Teams are more apt to go do it (ministry). The season for just talking about ministry has gone; the time for really doing ministry has come. Find your Ministry Team - Food, Guest Services (Greeters), Health and Safety, Bereavement, Hospitality, Special Needs Adults, Community Events, Worship Guild, Sound Production, Video Production, Building and Grounds. (Points 1 through 4 above are adapted from an article by "The Unstuck Group".



What a church does says a lot about the church values. Behaviors need to reflect the church values. When we start measuring our own church culture in terms of behaviors rather than a list of values, it is then that our culture will begin to align better with our values. Moving from values to behaviors makes our culture more tangible and practical. Culture-shaping-leadership behaviors not only define what we will do, but also define what we will not do. In healthy churches, behaviors are intentionally and strategically decided upon, articulated frequently, inspected regularly, and celebrated always. The end goal is not to create a list of church behaviors. The goal is the implementation and integration of desired behaviors that reflect our stated values.

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church
4392 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462
Phone: 757-499-0557 Fax: 757-499-5226
www.thalialynn.com

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
VIRGINIA BEACH VA
PERMIT NO 51



Church Council Meeting
PLEASE TURN IN ALL REPORTS BY 12/31
Thalia Lynn it is time again for our Church Council to meet. If you are a member of Church Council, please make plans to attend.

For more information, email the office at office@mytowncenterchurch.com