

The Vision

From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick
Senior Pastor



My wife says that no one over the age of eighty should be handed a microphone. I think she is right. Age or maturity releases us from caring what people think of us. It isn't that we want to be disliked but we are more willing to say what is really on our minds. I, for one, can identify with this.

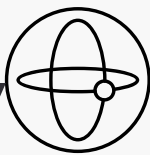
I no longer care much about what others say in their biblical doctrine when they are manipulating the scriptures to agree with their doctrine. They seem to say, "This is what I believe, Now, let's make the scripture agree with what I believe." That is totally the opposite of how things should be. Scripture should determine doctrine.

Culture and tradition mean less to me, as well. I certainly preached some things that I wasn't actually sure of but did so because I was told this is what I should believe. I didn't think about the consequences. I just wanted to get along with the people in our denomination. Now, those things that I "learned" are scrutinized by scripture. I don't buy what I thought I knew because I know I could be wrong. I understand why other denominations may not agree with what I once believed. I don't necessarily believe what they believe, but I understand why they came to their conclusions.

Many matters of doctrine are maintained through politics. Again, here is something that I have no interest in. The politics I speak of are denominational politics. I have had more than one Baptist say that he could not serve in a certain church because that would lock him into the group that welded less power and, thus, less ability to help him climb the Baptist ladder to a more prominent church (and salary).

So, I guess I am a loose cannon. A salary doesn't entice me to give up my principles. The only thing I cling to is the Bible. The only person I want to serve and please is God. The only law I must obey is the law of love. I may be considered dangerous because I can't be controlled by any human invention. I may be in the same condition as the early church leaders. None of these things of this world kept them from obeying God either. I just wish it didn't take me so long to get here.

NEXT GEN Ministry Momentum



Peggy Peek
Executive Pastor of Ministries
NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19
Welcome to September. School is back in session and our Fall Programming has started back. The new Sunday School year is off to a great start and our Wednesday evening **KidsPraise** (preschool & kids) has started back with some returning AND new leaders. Our Wednesday Morning **Music and Me** Preschool Ministry has also started back.

This Fall, we are also planning a new ministry for Preschoolers and their families and caregivers in our community. It is called **Stay-n-Play** and will be meeting on the 2nd Mondays of the Month in the Preschool area and Library. It is led by Melody Phelps and her team of volunteers. This summer we have refreshed some of Preschool rooms with new carpet and paint and furnished the indoor playroom with new equipment. Last year, our **Music and Me** Preschool Ministry reached 190+ preschoolers and their families. We are hoping to build on those connections with our **Stay-n-Play** ministry. If you are interested in serving these great outreach ministries, please reach out to Melody or me.

Another new thing springing up is our Missions Committee is planning a **Drive-Thru Prayer** in our church parking lot on Saturday, **October 10** at 10am. **10-10 at 10am**. The **Drive-Thru Prayer** is simple: if someone needs prayer, they drive up. A small group meets them at their car, prays with them, and sends them on their way. No forms. No pressure. No strings attached. Just the church showing up for our community the way Jesus did. This is not just an outreach event. It is an opportunity to show people who may not know Jesus that someone cares enough to stop and pray. We need volunteers of all ages. There is a sign up for volunteers on Realm and in person on Sundays and you can ask Pam Mills, our Missions Committee Chair or other Mission Committee members if you have additional questions.

I read this verse this morning in Colossians that Paul wrote about the value of our prayers for one another: Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Colossians 4:12

Grace and peace and wrestling in prayer for you,
Peggy

2ND MONDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 10:00AM

FIRST SESSION IS ON
SEPTEMBER 14TH



QUESTIONS? EMAIL PEGGY AT
PEGGY@MYTOWNCENTERCHURCH.COM

PRAYER DRIVE THRU

Scheduled for
OCT. 10, 10 AM-2 PM

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church
Parking Lot



Volunteers Register on
Realm or Scan QR Code

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH

Music & Me

Wednesdays @ 10:00 a.m.

August 26th | September 2nd, 9th,
16th, 23rd and 30th

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
next to Princess Anne High School

Childcare for
2 & under for
parents
attending
Bible Study

KIDS PRAISE

KIDS PRAISE - ROOM 18
PRESCHOOL KIDS PRAISE - ROOM 35
SINGING, GAMES, AND INSTRUMENTS
for Ages 3 Years through 6th Grade
Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m.



KIDS ON MISSION

SEPTEMBER 18, 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

YOUTH F.O.C.U.S.

Natalie Cox

Associate Pastor of Student Ministry

Many families this week are in the midst of preparing to send their students back to school in the very near future. They are out shopping for new school supplies, texting friends to coordinate class schedules, and easing back into earlier bedtimes. There are many things to consider at the beginning of a new school year. In the midst of the busyness, it can be easy to forget the things even more important.

According to Barna's The Open Generation: United States report, over three in four teens in the United States are motivated to continue learning more about Jesus Christ. Of those teens, two of the three were "very motivated" to do so. Your students, in just the next few weeks, will be sitting in classes each day with people "very motivated" to hear the Gospel. They will be practicing with them on the sports field, engaging with them during clubs and extracurriculars. Encourage your students this week to look at their classmates with fresh eyes, knowing that many of them may be longing to have the same relationship with Jesus that they themselves possess. "...For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15 NIV)

Christian teenagers are a blessing to the ministry and body of Christ. They also have the potential, and the opportunity, to be a great blessing to the students in their schools this coming school year by sharing the Gospel. Please join me in praying for all the students this year preparing to bring good news to their schools!

Blessings to you,
Natalie

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

With Natalie Cox

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30PM

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



TLBC YOUTH MINISTRY

BIBLE STUDY &

APEX

ENTERTAINMENT®

FOOD • ATTRACTIONS • EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 16TH AT 5:30 PM

For more information contact Natalie Cox
at natalie@mytowncenterchurch.com.

TLBC YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH FALL PARENT MEETING

FELLOWSHIP HALL
SEPT 13TH AFTER 12:15PM

Contact Natalie Cox at
natalie@mytowncenterchurch.com
for more information.

The XP Corner: The Truth About Designated Funds

David Doyle

Executive Pastor of Administration

Impactful ministries don't happen without support for the Unified Budget (a.k.a. General Fund) that keeps the church operating. Designated gifts are often viewed as blessings for local churches, but they come generally at the expense of regular support for the church's strategic priorities.

Churches, ours included, have developed entire "cottage industries" around Designated Funds. In the past, TLBC has relied heavily on designated giving to either fully or partially fund ministries. Caution needs to be exercised when anyone wants to convert their regular giving from giving to the Unified Budget to a designated gift that funds one cause alone. Here are five reasons this is true:

1. Designated Funds undermine the Unified Budget. When giving flows only to visible causes, less visible but essential areas are neglected. Over time, this imbalance will cause friction.
2. Designated gifts shift the power dynamics in the church. Designated Funds are locked in. A congregation might find itself with ample funds for choir robes but without a means to repair a leaking roof or replace a failing HVAC system.
3. Designated gifts encourage a consumer approach to giving. When giving is driven by personal preference rather than communal purpose, stewardship is transactional. The church shifts from being a shared mission to a "marketplace" of competing causes.
4. Designated gifts pull the church off mission. Well-intentioned gifts sometimes fund projects that don't align with the church's mission or strategic priorities. Accepting such gifts can quietly but significantly shift a church's direction.
5. Designated gifts distort the church's financial picture. When a portion of income is designated and unusable for everyday expenses, financial statements may appear healthier than they are. This can confuse leaders and mislead the congregation.

Ideally the Unified Budget should be central to every church operating need. Said another way, the church budget should be the church's strategic priorities written in dollars and cents. It is the church that prioritizes its ministries, not the ministries themselves. This is done best and most practically by way of the Unified Budget. While our church has always had a church budget, its ministries have very often operated outside the Unified Budget by soliciting funds over which the church has neither approved nor has real oversight.

Over the past several years, the Finance Committee has made progress in reducing the number of Designated Funds. That work continues. The goal is to retain a very small handful of "necessary" Designated Funds, but to move to a point where all other church needs are funded by way of the General Fund. By the end of this year the Finance Committee will have established clear guidelines for when and how designated gifts will be considered or accepted. This document will help protect both the church and the donors from the risks of unbalanced giving.

Our church must walk a careful path, being grateful for generosity but committed to stewardship that honors both the donor and the strategic priorities of the church. Enabling generous giving to the Unified Budget and not to designated giving "silos" is a huge challenge that requires the church itself to develop a new mindset. But it's one worth meeting with clarity, compassion, and consistency. Giving must be reframed within a larger vision of shared purpose and spiritual growth. That's the kind of giving that will sustain our church. Getting there is the challenge.



HOPE RISING

...THE HOPE TO WHICH GOD HAS CALLED YOU

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people. Ephesians 1:18

The Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions is September 13-20. The special offering that we collect every September and October is called the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions. Our church concentrates our giving during those two months, but your offering can be given anytime during the year. Envelopes for your offering and Week of Prayer guides are available for you to use. You may also give your offering online in Realm.

Alma Hunt (1909-2008), a native Virginian, served as Executive Director for the Woman's Missionary Union for twenty-six years, being the youngest woman to hold that position. During her long-term service of promoting mission endeavors, she inspired women and girls all over the world to lead, pray, and love people as God loves them. She will be remembered as one of Baptists' best-known missions' advocates who selflessly served others and actively sought to develop woman leaders. Alma Hunt was Virginia Baptists' first champion for shaping a new missions' vision for the 21st century.

The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions is a joint venture of the Woman's Missionary Union (now called HerMission) and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). Every dollar that you give to the Alma Hunt Offering touches lives across the world and enables people to live out the call God has placed on their lives by providing scholarship assistance for female seminary students in India, enabling a Venturer (voluntary missionary) to serve in South Africa, supporting the work of summer camp counselors at CrossRoads in Virginia, equipping first responders with disaster relief in Louisiana, supporting a chaplain in a female correctional facility in Virginia, funding allocations in Virginia for deaf ministry, planting churches, providing for the Hope Tree Development Disabilities Ministries, and also enabling many other ministries. This year's offering directly empowers ministries that provide hope to those who are searching.

TLBC JOY MINISTRY

SENIOR ZOO DAY

3500 GRANBY STREET

Come join the Senior JOY Ministry for a fun time at the Zoo! Wednesdays during the month of Sept. is free Senior Days! You can stay for a short time or all day! Feel free to walk all through the ZOO or just sit and relax and enjoy the surroundings.

WED. SEPTEMBER 9TH

Rain date: Wed. September 16th

Meet inside of gate at 10:00 am

We will meet for LUNCH inside of the Zoo at the African Village Restaurant @ 12:00



ADMISSION is FREE (\$18 savings)

For 62 yr. olds & up Must show ID at gate

ALL DAY ADMISSION



FALL 2026 SCHEDULE MIDWEEK UPLIFT

WEDNESDAYS
AT 6:00 P.M.

BIBLE
STUDY &
PRAYER MEETING
ROOM 63

CALLING ALL MEN!

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Every Tuesday
Room 54 | 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Registration is not required for entry but encouraged.



SCAN TO REGISTER

KNIGHTS OF THE 21ST CENTURY WORKSHOP

Every Tuesday
Fellowship Hall | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Registration is \$25 and includes weekly meals, workbook, and ceremonial dog tag.



SCAN TO REGISTER

SOUTHEASTERN

MYELOMA NETWORKING GROUP

Saturday, Sept 19th at 10:00 am Room 63

For more information contact Brenda Riggs

www.thallalynn.com

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 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

TLBC JOY MINISTRY

SENIOR JOY SIGHT & SOUND TRIP

OCTOBER 12TH & 13TH

LANCASTER, PA
EXPERIENCE THE CAPTIVATING LIVE PERFORMANCE OF "JOSHUA" ON STAGE

THE PRICE INCLUDES BUS FARE, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, THEATER TICKETS FOR "JOSHUA", SNACKS FOR THE BUS, LUNCH FOR THE RETURN TRIP, AND A HOT BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL. AN ITINERARY WILL BE PROVIDED CLOSER TO THE TRIP DATE. NON-REFUNDABLE. Sign up on location or use "JOY" green envelopes located in the church office by August 1st. A seat will need to be filled out if using green envelopes. Contact Joie for any questions.

JOSHUA
LIVE ON STAGE



COYS
\$290.00 SINGLE OCCUPANCY PER PERSON
\$140.00 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY PER PERSON
ONLY ONE SPOT LEFT!

UNDERSTAND, EXPERIENCE, AND REFLECT ALL YOU CAN OF GOD'S GLORY!

COMING THIS FALL!
CONTACT TOM DONAHUE FOR MORE INFO
TOMDONAHUE@INTERNET



Women
IN THE
Word

Join other women for a weekly study on Isaiah beginning on Wednesday, Sept 1, 2026 at 1:30pm. Our study is facilitated by Cheryl Foster. Workbooks cost \$5 and may be paid for here on the Registration as an additional item or you may pay with cash/check at the first Bible Study.

This study by Howard Psekett explores the powerful message of the Old Testament book of Isaiah. In the midst of trouble and suffering, Isaiah calls God's people to repentance, forgiveness and hope, reminding us that God can triumph even in the worst of times.

You are invited to bring a lunch and join us for fellowship at 12:45 p.m. The Bible study will begin at 1:30 p.m.

BAPTISM Sunday

Baptisms will be held on September 20, 2026
Help us welcome the new members of our Church Family.

CHURCH 101

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

LED BY DAVID DOYLE

Sunday, September 13, 2026

9:45 am - 10:45 am
Room 61

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



Meal of Remembrance

SAVE THE DATE

The Lord's Supper is a memorial supper, a ceremony of remembrance. When we partake of the unleavened bread, we remember that Christ's body was cruelly treated and nailed to the cross. When we partake of the fruit of the vine, we remember that the blood of Christ was poured out of his body.