



From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick
Senior Pastor



The Elder led committee completed their reports on six Baptist churches that transitioned from congregational to Elder led meet since the last newsletter. One of the Baptist churches began as Elder led. They are reading and considering the models of the seven Elder led Baptist churches that have been contacted. Their next meeting will come before this newsletter is mailed. They will be considering each of those models at that meeting.

There is a difference between being Elder led and Elder ruled. Elder led churches still bring certain issues to the church for a decision. Often, these churches will bring the buying or selling of property, borrowing money, building and other decisions of significant importance to the church. They do not bring things like church discipline (unless it warrants church action), maintenance, ministries and the like. Elder-led churches are led by super-majority votes among the Elders rather than simple majority. Decisions are made by more people who have a vested interest in the welfare of the church.

Elder-ruled churches are exactly what they appear to be. The Elders make all the decisions of the church without ever bringing them to the church for consideration. Some very large churches are Elder ruled. Only one of the churches the committee surveyed was Elder ruled.

The process toward Elder governance will take a significantly long time. We must decide whether we are to be Elder led or Elder ruled. If we decide we will be Elder led, the determination of each possible category of decision for church action or Elder action must be established. Either of these will require that information be carefully given to the congregation. The Constitution and By-laws will need to be changed to reflect these decisions. The information we have gathered from these other churches indicated that they took from two to four years to transition from congregational voting to Elder led.

Pray for this committee. Every discussion within this committee is free to be discussed with anyone who wants to know what is going on. I am putting their names in the newsletter for a second time so that you can remember who they are as you pray:

Don Bennison
Holly Coggin
Steve Danahy (ad hoc member)
Lil Duggan
Charlie Hurd
Paul McCann
Rick Stephens
Dave Watson



The Week of Prayer for North American Missions is March 5th-12th. During that week and during the month of March and April our church will be collecting the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. But who was Annie Armstrong? And why was the North American Missions Offering named for Annie Armstrong?

Annie Armstrong was born in 1850 in Baltimore, Maryland. She was born in a time when there were few women church leaders. Annie was considered a trailblazer who showed extraordinary mission leadership. Church historians consider her to be one of the most formative figures in Southern Baptist history. Annie helped found the Woman's Missionary Union and was its first

corresponding secretary from 1888 until 1906. During her tenure as secretary, she traveled great distances in her work, once covering 3,300 miles in 21 days, visiting 19 places, stopping at 26 different addresses, according to her biography at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. Annie wrote more than 18,000 letters in a year on behalf of WMU and its mission. During her time as the secretary of the WMU, total receipts for the Foreign Mission Board increased by \$229,000, and under her leadership of the WMU, funding for missionaries increased, thus broadening the Southern Baptist global mission outreach.

Annie was an advocate for the poor and addicted in Baltimore, the Native Americans and the impoverished mountain people. She raised funds for missionaries to Italian and Jewish immigrants, and she even helped to gather funding so that Lottie Moon could come back to the states having served in China for 11 years without a furlough. Annie was tireless in encouraging missionaries and inspiring churches to pray, give, and act. In 1934 the Home Missions Offering was re-named the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and even today every dollar goes to support missions work throughout the United States and Canada.

Nathan Finn, associate professor of historical theology and Baptist studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, said, "Most Southern Baptists think Annie Armstrong is just the name of a missions offering. They have no idea the role she played in raising money for foreign missions, championing home missions, and advocating a Southern Baptist Sunday School ministry—she was a tireless denomination-builder."

Annie Armstrong died on December 20, 1938, the same year that the WMU celebrated its 50th anniversary. Her tombstone reads, "She hath done what she could."

For more information visit:
www.anniearmstrong.com



The Week of Prayer for
North American Missions is
March 5-12, 2023.

This year's theme is: UNITED CALLED TO BE ONE. You may give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the envelopes provided in the Portico or the Narthex or on-line via Realm during the months of March and April. 100% of your Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts support thousands of missionaries serving in church planting and compassion ministry across the United States, Canada, and the territories of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

The XP Corner

David Doyle
Executive Pastor

If you are looking to connect with a church ministry that really needs you, consider investing your time and effort in the Adult Special Needs Ministry. This is a ministry that has thrived for many decades in our church because of the leadership provided by multiple generations of committed leaders who have been called to this special purpose. The Special Needs Ministry focuses not only on the spiritual needs of mentally challenged adults but also their social needs. Every Sunday Pam Doyle leads the 100% Love Class during our Disciple Group hour (9:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.). Except for very brief periods, this class has met (under different names) every Sunday for at least the past 50 years. Lessons are prepared and taught, a music program has been recently added (thank you Cheryl, Sharon, and Ed!), crafts are prepared and made, occasional Sunday lunches at "Famous Uncle Al's" are held – all with the focus of helping this group of very special adults grow spiritually into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Attendance has varied over the years, but generally has been around 15 persons each Sunday. On the more social side, almost two years ago the Special Needs Ministry expanded its ministry not just to our community but to the city. Four or five times each year the Special Needs Ministry host a community-wide event that is open to the special needs community. Attendance at these events (typically dances or bingo) is generally between 75 and 100 special needs adults. These are fun times! But even at these social events, Scripture-based devotions are held to encourage participants to draw nearer to God. The Special Needs Ministry costs are funded through the church budget and through designated donations.

Many of you already know that Pam and I will be moving to Texas sometime this Fall. This ministry has been Pam's life work for the past 20 years. Our prayer is that God will stir within the heart of one person in our church a calling to continue this ministry forward beyond our tenure here. While the ministry has lots of volunteers that assist, it will not survive without a committed leader to direct it. This is real ministry; it impacts families; it impacts our church; it impacts our community; it impacts our city. And it will impact you too if God calls you to serve Him this leadership capacity. And He might be doing just that!



SAFEHOUSE

For the Spring 2023 Mission Project BNoC is partnering with Safe House, and the WOM of Thalia Lynn are joining them in filling backpacks for human trafficking victims in our region. If you would like to join us in helping victims of human trafficking, you can sign up and receive a list on Sunday, March 12th and Sunday, March 19th. We cannot accept any cash donations or gift cards.

We will be collecting all items on Sunday, April 2nd and the last turn in date will be Sunday, April 16th.

For more information: Gina Smith
biblereadergina@gmail.com

CHURCH 101

Sunday, March 12, 2022

9:45 am - 10:45 am

Kids

Birth - 6th Grade

CORNER

Music & Me

**Wednesdays at
10:00am**

For ages Birth-Pre-K
FREE/No registration required
Have fun with your little one
through music & movement.

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day

KIDS ON MISSION

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

3rd Friday of each month from 6:30-8:00

**NEXT MEETING ON
MARCH 17TH**

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

KIDS PRAISE

SINGING, GAMES, AND INSTRUMENTS
for Ages 3 Years through 6th Grade
Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Childcare for 2 & under for
parents attending Bible Study





~Sharon Walpole

We had a sleepover Friday night, complete with one of our favorite suppers: salmon patties and green beans. The children love taking the bones and skin from the fish, breaking the eggs, crushing the crackers, mixing everything, then shaping the patties. They like to be creative with the shapes; since it was near Valentine's Day they made heart shapes. They were delicious! (I would hazard a guess that most children, and many adults, do not like salmon patties—they were not my favorite when I was a child!)

After Jenga and some TV it was time for bed. We read one of our favorite books: "I Can Be a Helper" based on 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. The sweet illustrations depict a young boy going about his daily life, encountering various helpers such as the grocer, his pastor, a baker, his parents . . . He discovers that he is also a helper, putting away groceries and retrieving a toy for his baby sister. He recognizes many helpers in his life including God. I related how on Thursday, I had prayed about the JOY Lunch and the fact that we had over 90 people coming. There are a lot of variables in such an event, not the least of which is if there will be enough food. You see, on Sunday afternoon we counted 60 registrants. By Tuesday morning we had 95! (Then Thursday morning 3 extra people arrived!) Anyway, there were lots of helpers all week to prep green beans and vegetables for the salad, to decorate, to set up and clean up. And, indeed, God provided enough! We had a wonderful time of fellowship and were so thankful!

As we continued to talk, Andrew related how God had helped his Daddy the previous week to have energy to work 12 hour days to get a ship ready to deploy. (He is an engineer at the shipyard.) God helped him "persevere" (Andrew's word!) for 83 hours of work in one week!

Praise God for . . .

those teachable, relatable moments with our grandchildren.
for all the helpers in our lives.
that our children, grandchildren, and we are learning to be helpers.
and, most of all, for God the Father who provides and empowers.

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

Low-Impact Aerobic Exercise Classes

Choose seated or standing exercises according to your need. Enjoy exercise and fellowship with friends!



MONDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.

REHEARSALS - Tuesdays at 9:30:
March 7
March 14
March 21
March 28

OUTREACH
March 16 - 11:00
Sing at Commonwealth

Remember When...

JOY LUNCH & SPEAKER

BARBARA HENLEY

Princess Anne County native, owner of Henley Farm, Virginia Beach City Council member, author of "Glimpses of Down-Country History and Charity - Its Past and Its People"

March 9th at 12:00 p.m.

Menu: Chicken Tenders, Macaroni & Cheese, 7-Layer Salad, Pickled Beets, Pistachio Pudding Cup

Cost: \$10 per person
Reservations are due March 6 in the BLUE ENVELOPES located in the church office.

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church | 4392 Virginia Beach Blvd. | 757.499.0557

Women IN THE Word



The Wednesday afternoon ladies' Disciple Group continues our study of "Daniel & Esther" on Wednesdays at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. It is not too late to join us! Books are available at \$10 each. Those who wish are encouraged to bring a lunch at 12:45 for fellowship before the study begins.

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BNoC Women's Conference

FELLOWSHIP HALL 3/11 AT 9:00AM

Tickets are \$25 until February 14. From February 15 – March 10 they will be \$30 and \$35 at the door.

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