

# The Vision

## From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick  
Senior Pastor



Welcome to the world of AI. Artificial Intelligence, we are told, is the path to the future. It can answer your phone, give you advice and fix your problems. Companies are letting us all become AI beta testers and we are discovering the failures of AI as the companies who use it are ignoring us.

I get it, we live in a global economy that is increasingly competitive. Everything produced today must be more, faster, cheaper and better tomorrow. The problem is that there are too many variables to program when encountering problems. AI may say it understands but it can't when it comes to multiple problems. There are just too many to program. And even when you set AI to learn, it coldly responds

This week I had a huge problem that a company tried to solve with AI. Microsoft in their immense wisdom stopped allowing me to use the programs that I pay a subscription for by terminating automatic logins. It has been so long since I have used the login that I can't remember what the password is. They also added an app that I must put on my phone called "Authenticator" to verify my password. I don't have that app. When I put in the password, I still couldn't get verified. When I asked for help, I was asked to login. When I tried to login, I was sent to the Authenticator app. I couldn't get help and Microsoft has no person that can be called. Even their phone is answered by AI who says that the problem I am experiencing must be done online. I merely have to login.

AI can't understand what a person can! It seems that Microsoft has gotten so large that they don't need my business. It isn't like they haven't made a boat load of money from all of us. I am so frustrated that I am

cancelling my Microsoft account. So, I am writing this article using an alternative word processor and feeling pretty good about it.

Recently someone showed me a text that was received from a church she was considered visiting. It said it was from the pastor. It said her name in the text but it was obviously AI generated. Yes, it is efficient but it has no more concern about the person than a generic flyer. I can assure you that when someone asks for me to text them, I am the one who texts them. Computers will never be concerned. Computers will never be spiritual no matter how many science fiction films say that they will.

Churches are also businesses. They want it to attract people. They are looking at ways to do so without needing people to do it. Some think it will multiply their efforts. I wonder how long it will be before AI will be writing the sermons. Honestly, the sermons may be better than mine but they will never be spiritual.

I suppose that many people will flock to the churches whose AI has attracted them with fast, clever texts that appear to come from someone. They will gather in crowds to sing music generated by AI. They may hear sermons written and directed by AI. It will all be fine until they need a human who will care about them. Maybe by then, the church will be as big as Microsoft that doesn't really need their business.

If people are to be reached to trust in Christ rather than attend an event, it will take people reaching them. That will never change. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. AI can't do that. You are absolutely needed to accomplish the mission. The church can never replace you with technology. We might just be the last business left that knows that.



# The XP Corner: Cultural Christianity A Satanic Strategy

David Doyle

Executive Pastor of Administration

Perhaps Jonathan Leeman says it best in his book, "Church Membership", when he speaks about one of Satan's favorite strategies for undercutting the Kingdom of Christ:

"Local churches, remember, are embassies. They don't dwell in neutral or friendly territory but behind enemy lines. That's why Paul, in 1 Corinthians 5 equates excommunicating a man caught in adultery with handing him over to Satan. Satan is the prince of this world, and the kingdoms of the world temporarily belong to him (John 12:31; 14:30; Matt 4:8-9).

Satan uses different devices in different locations to undermine Christ's Kingdom. A favorite device of his in the West is cultural Christianity. The American brand of cultural Christianity results from well-intentioned adults handing out candy of cheap grace to five-year-old and twenty-five-year-olds alike. You ask them if they want to be with mommy and daddy in heaven or pressure them into walking an aisle. The point is, you play on their fears, emotions or appetites in order to get quick, unconsidered professions of faith. Then you immediately affirm those professions of faith."

"The genius of this device is that it always allows Satan to inoculate their hosts against real Christianity. It's nearly impossible to share the gospel with a cultural Christian because he already gives lip service to it. "Yes, I believe that". But there is no repentance. He merely baptizes a slightly sanitized version of his old self into Christianity".

The most obvious sign that Satan's strategy is effective is that cultural Christians do not produce fruit. How could they, apart from the vine? They are the walking dead -- spiritually worthless and destined to be thrown into the fire (John 15:4-6). Churches are full of them.

## SERVICE OF HOPE

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**November 2, 2025 @ 3:00 pm**  
TLBC Chapel



Guest Speaker:  
Cindy Barr

## CHURCH 101

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

LED BY DAVID DOYLE

**Sunday, November 9, 2025**  
9:45 am - 10:45 am  
Room 61



## 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.



Thalia Lynn Baptist Church

## CHURCH COUNCIL & BUSINESS MEETINGS

**Sunday, November 16**

3:30pm Church Council Meeting  
4:30 pm Business Meeting

FELLOWSHIP HALL  
SANCTUARY

For more information: 757-499-0557 or  
office@mytowncenterchurch.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**



SAVE THE DATE

# The Raleigh Ringers

CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
DECEMBER 6, 2025 - 7:00 PM  
TICKETS FOR SALE SOON!

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS  
2025 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRESENTATION

## SOUNDS of CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025  
IN THE SANCTUARY AT 6:00PM

Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

## POINSETTIAS

Thalia Lynn will adorn our sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent/Christmas season. If you wish to purchase and a plant in honor or memory of someone, please select the size of plant you would like and make the payment on-line along with whom you wish to honor or remember. You may also turn in the payment to the Main Church Office. The Deadline to order plants is Sunday, November 30th. Thank you!

COST: 6 1/2" ~ \$10 | 8" ~ \$17 | 12" ~ \$34



Presented by the TLBC Worship Ministry

## Christmas CANTATA

SAVE THE DATE  
December 14, 2025 - 6:00 pm

## YOU'RE INVITED THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

We will be accepting an  
offering for our Food Pantry

NOVEMBER 23 @ 6PM

## Charles Billingsley

Holiday Concert  
December 16, 2025



TLBC Sanctuary  
at 7:00 pm  
Ticket for sale soon!

## TLBC ADVENT 2025

In addition to regular Sunday morning  
Worship Services & Disciple Groups  
Thalia Lynn invites you to these special events:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Sunday, Nov 30    | <b>HOPE - First Sunday of Advent</b><br>8:30am/11am Sunday Worship<br>9:45am Disciple Groups for All Ages  |
| Friday, Dec 5     | 6:00pm K.I.S.S Women's Ministry<br>Christmas Party   |
| Sunday, Dec 7     | <b>LOVE - Second Sunday of Advent</b><br>8:30am/11am Sunday Worship<br>9:45am Disciple Groups for All Ages<br>6:00pm "Sounds of Christmas"<br>TLBC Music Groups<br>& Tasting Party |
| Thursday, Dec 11  | 12:00pm Joy Senior Adults<br>Christmas Luncheon  |
| Saturday, Dec 13  | Youth Christmas Party  |
| Sunday, Dec 14    | <b>JOY - Third Sunday of Advent</b><br>8:30am/11am Sunday Worship<br>9:45am Disciple Groups for All Ages<br>6:00pm Christmas Cantata   |
| Sunday, Dec 21    | <b>PEACE - Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>8:30am/11am Sunday Worship<br>9:45am Disciple Groups for All Ages  |
| Wednesday, Dec 24 | <b>Christmas Eve</b><br>4:00pm Candlelight Service<br>6:00pm Candlelight Service   |



TLBC JOY MINISTRY

## GIVE THANKS LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 13th @ 11:30

GAMES



PRIZES

Golden Corral  
400 S Independence Blvd.

Scan QR code to register. Space is limited.

REGISTRATION FEE DUE ON SUNDAY. PLEASE USE JOY ENVELOPE.



# NEXT GEN Ministry Momentum

Written by Executive Pastor of  
Ministries: Peggy Peek

## WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am reminded of one of my favorite group of verses in the Bible from Philippians 4. Paul speaks of presenting our requests with thanksgiving to God. What a wonderful counterbalance to our Thanksgiving—we are instructed to ask God for what we need. And that instruction follows God's command to not be anxious—ABOUT ANYTHING. This is hard for many of us. But God has a solution—He gives us His peace—a peace that transcends all understanding—what a superb promise—one that has proved true in my life—time after time.

For my family, Thanksgiving is a difficult holiday because it is when we lost our mom. But every year, God will send a peace that sees me through the anxiety of trauma and loss and grief. My hope is that you will seek God for that same peace that passes understanding. If this season leading up to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays is one where grief is fresh or angst producing, please know your church is praying for you. We would also like to invite you to our annual Service of Hope on Sunday, November 2 at 3pm in the Chapel. It will be a service that reminds us that we can ask God for His peace that will guard our hearts and minds in Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4

grace and peace,  
Peggy

**JOY**  
NOTES 



## NOVEMBER 2025

Rehearsals - Tuesdays at 9:30  
November 4, 11, and 18

### Outreach

Nov. 20 - Commonwealth

Nov. 25 - Bay Lake

Open to anyone whose schedule  
permits! Come join the fun!

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH

## Music & Me

Wednesdays @ 10:00 a.m.

November 5, 12, 19

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

\$10

TLBC KIDS MINISTRY

# PLANET 56 PIZZA & BOWLING

LUNCH & BOWLING AT BOWLERO LYNNHAVEN

Sunday, November 9

12:15pm-2:45pm

Right after the 11AM Worship Service

Scan the code to  
Register & Pay



TLBC-Weekday Learning

## Preschool

**REGISTRATION**  
is now open



**2025 - 2026  
SCHOOL YEAR**

email WLP Director, Jacque,  
for more information at  
[jacque@mytowncenterchurch.com](mailto:jacque@mytowncenterchurch.com)



# YOUTH

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

At the October business meeting, I was truly overwhelmed by the love and support this church has shown, and I'm grateful for the trust you've placed in me to lead our young disciples. Change can be difficult—whether it's a new routine, job, or leadership—but sometimes stepping out of our comfort zone leads to unexpected blessings. Since I was 9 I have always ordered the same Subway sandwich, until I tried the steak and cheese and discovered something new and wonderful. In the same way, I believe God is working in our ministry, preparing something amazing for us. He's brought together a fantastic youth leadership team, and as we follow His lead, I'm confident we'll experience the "steak and cheese" moment we've been searching for.

It's an incredible honor to serve as interim youth ministry leader, something I never imagined I'd say. Thank you for your love and support during this transition.

A few upcoming events:

- DNOW is November 7th–8th, with the theme "No Filter." We're excited to participate this year!
- Stay tuned for details about our Christmas party in December.

Forever growing in Christ,  
Cody Mayfield  
Interim Director of Student Ministries

## COOKIES & COCOA

### Christmas Party

Join us as we indulge in the warmth and sweetness of the holiday season. Bring your favorite cookies to share and wear your most festive Christmas Pajamas or sweater.

Friday, December 5th  
6-8 PM  
TLBC Fellowship Hall



## Greeters Needed

TWO GREETERS ARE NEEDED AT EVERY LOCATION AND SHIFT

The Greeter Ministry is a vital function for any church, and it is often the First Impression visitors receive when attending in person. Visitors who come to worship but feel lost or out of place are not likely to return.

Please contact one of the following or notify the church office if you are interested or need more information.

Randy Carlson:  
svenska1945@gmail.com  
(757-620-0994)

Anita Chastain:  
atc351@gmail.com  
(703-929-1031)

## KIDS ON MISSION

November 21, 2025 at 6:30PM  
meet us in the Fellowship Hall

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

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



## DNOW

### YOUTH RETREAT

NOVEMBER  
7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>

NEWSONG FELLOWSHIP  
833 WOODSTOCK RD.  
VIRGINIA BEACH, 23464

\$20



NO FILTER

Stop Hiding. Live Unhindered.





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

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## 2025 Operation Christmas Bags

Women on Mission (WOM) is hosting the 2025 Operation Christmas Bags project to fill 125 bags for children at five Title 1 Elementary schools. Sign up in the library on NOVEMBER 9, 16, and 23. Drop off completed bags on NOVEMBER 16, 23, and 30. For a Wish List if you can't attend, email Sandra Raker: sandra.raker@gmail.com. **Partner schools: Diamond Springs, Newtown, Bettie F. Williams, Lynnhaven, and Pembroke Elementary.**