

The Vision

From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick
Senior Pastor



Some have asked, "Why is the pastor pushing that the church get elders now?" Well, there are several reasons.

Elders were appointed in every New Testament church. While there was no command to have elders, it is evident that this was the expected governance of the New Testament. With the Reformation, elders were abandoned by reformed churches. I suppose the thought might have been, "Let's do everything differently." But different isn't always better. Maybe that's why so many Baptist churches are returning to an elder led governance for their churches.

I am sixty-eight years of age. While I am not retiring soon, I have learned from the Baptist churches we surveyed who transitioned to an elder led governance took two to four years to do so. No one knows how much time he has. I would like to see this done before I go.

Elders provide a plurality of leadership that has a vested interest in the church. Elders can't get mad at a business meeting, leave, and join another church (as deacons and others have done at Thalia Lynn). They are people who have been recognized as committed to the Lord and to the church. Their commitment is far beyond that of a deacon.

Baptist churches with congregational polity do best with an autocratic pastor. That is a singular leader. When that pastor leaves, the church flounders because there is no one to lead. There is no continuity in leadership. Elders provide that leadership even when the pastoral position is vacant. The church is not dependent on one person for success.

Elders are not only a good sounding board for a pastor, but they can make him re-think a poor decision. The wisdom of several elders could have kept many churches from making catastrophic decisions.

Pastors are not good at nor do they have the time to do everything. Thus, churches have hired more and more staff to fill the void. This model will not last in the future because the cost of hiring and giving benefits will become the entirety of the church budget. Elders provide the pastoral care that the pastor cannot fill.

Now is a great time to do this. The church is still recovering from the pandemic. Many of the unneeded programs have been cancelled. This has freed up space and time that was taken by these programs. However, there are other things to do. Discipleship must be at the forefront of our mission. Even now, that is being hammered out. There is no crisis but there is opportunity. Now is a great time to make this transition.

The XP Corner

David Doyle
Executive Pastor

Developing a Reach Strategy. A lot of churches assume that they can disciple people, send them out, and they will just naturally lead people to Jesus. But the intentional reach strategies that are producing real life transformation are all built around:

Creating an invite culture. 85-90% of people start attending a church because someone invited them. Help your people understand that their missional role is to build relationships—then the church can partner with them to share the good news of Jesus. While some people do lead others to Jesus in a 1:1 setting, this more frequently occurs in a gathering when a person can sit under a gifted teacher, hear, and ponder God's word, wrestle with the teaching, and respond.

Helping people build intentional relationships. We need to help our church identify the people that God already has in their life (family members, neighbors, coworkers, or friends who we are already doing life with). There are several ways that we can do this:

- Are we leading a life that's pointing them to Jesus?
- Praying for people.
- Engaging in intentional time and conversation with people.
- Serving others based on the needs we see in their life.
- Living lives filled with joy, filled with purpose, filled with hope, and filled with God's love.

Designing content that is helpful to the people we're trying to reach. Through both our weekend services and our content online, we need to make sure that we're answering the questions that the people that we're trying to reach are asking. Once you identify what the questions are, begin to think about:

- What are some of the answers we can provide?
- What are some of the resources we could be creating?
- How can we start to connect with people that are currently outside the faith and create content that will draw them to the church?
- How do we prepare people for what they're going to experience once they connect with the church?

(This article was extracted in full from The Unstuck Group.)



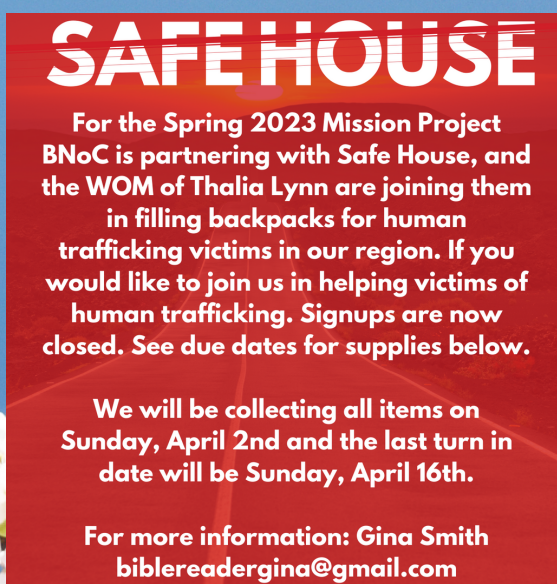
TLBC PRESENTS

Special Needs

**MINISTRY
DANCE**

Free Entry

DOORS OPEN AT 1:30 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH



SAFE HOUSE

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. Signups are now closed. See due dates for supplies below.

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, April 9, 2023

9:45 am - 10:45 am

TLBC Kids

Birth - 6th Grade

CORNER

centrikid

camp

SUMMER CAMP

Skycroft Conference Center
Middletown, Maryland
July 17-21

For kids who are in 3rd-6th grade
Sign up at KIDS Ministry Desk.
Spots are limited.

We are in NEED of financial assistance .
Cost is \$325.00 to send a child to camp.
(We will accept any donation to go
toward camp.)

“LOOSE CASH DRIVE”

April 16th - May 28th
Save your loose cash & donate to the
Centri-Kid fund.
Containers located in the church office
and the Kid’s Ministry Desk.

Music & Me

Wednesdays at 10:00am

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

Starts April 5



KID'S SUMMER CAMP

For completed 1st-6th graders

June 26th-29th

OR

July 10th-13th

****Kids will choose 1 camp to attend****

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN IN MAY.

KIDS

ON MISSION

Date Change for April!
April 21

Girls in Action for girls
Children 1st - 6th grades
6:30-8:00 pm at TLBC

Royal Ambassadors for boys
Children 1st - 6th grades
RA's will be camping at
Triple R Ranch

Holy Week **SCHEDULE**

NIGHTLY SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY

WHY CLEANSE THE TEMPLE AGAIN?	APRIL 3 6PM
WHO GAVE JESUS HIS AUTHORITY?	APRIL 4 6PM
WHO IS SAVED?	APRIL 5 6PM
PICTURE OF THE CROSS	APRIL 6 6PM
THE PRICE	APRIL 7 6PM



Old Dominion U
Orchestra & Choir Concert

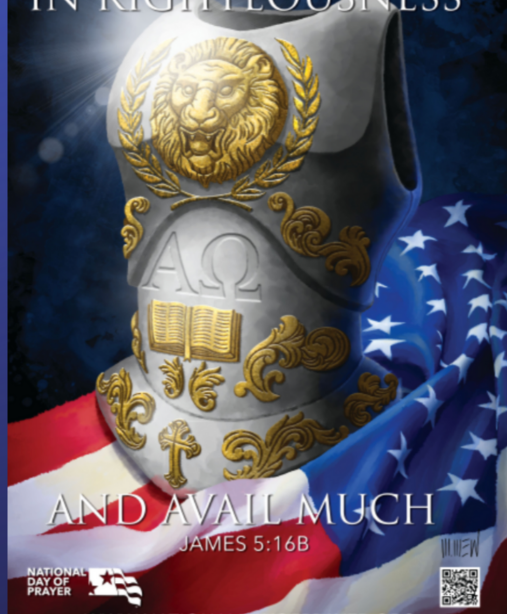
LIVE MUSIC - FREE PARKING

April 14, 2023
Location :
TLBC Sanctuary
More Information :
bret@mytowncenterchurch.com




THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

**PRAY FERVENTLY
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**



AND AVAIL MUCH
JAMES 5:16B

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER




LOW IMPACT AEROBIC EXERCISE

Mondays at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall
4392 Virginia Beach Blvd. | 757.499.0557

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

PRAYER SERVICE AT 6:00 P.M. | SPEAKER: BOB PIPKIN
THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH CHAPEL | 4392 VIRGINIA BEACH | WWW.THALIALYNN.COM



JOY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 24th at 2:30 in Room 56

We welcome those who would like to serve
with us. Please join us!

Have you ever wondered what the difference between a growing church and a declining church? A survey by The Unstuck Group recently revealed these differences:

- Growing churches are more likely to have small groups and more people connected to those smaller groups while declining churches are more likely to have Sunday school.
- Declining churches have fewer people making decisions to follow Jesus or getting baptized.
- Declining churches have far fewer first-time connections to the church indicating that they've become insider focused.
- Growing churches spend less on paid staff and have more volunteer engagement.
- Declining churches are more likely to be connected to a denomination.
- Growing churches are more likely to only offer contemporary or modern worship and no traditional worship.
- Growing churches have a higher percentage of people engaging online services.
- Declining churches are reaching far fewer young families with kids or students.
- Growing churches are seeing people give more to the mission of the church.
- Growing churches have 30% more volunteer leaders than declining churches.



Our granddaughter Ruthie and I had the opportunity to spend several hours on a recent “Friday Fun-Day” at one of our family’s favorite destinations – the Norfolk Botanical Garden. We were blessed to be there on one of those beautiful spring-like days in mid-February. The sun was shining and the temperature was unseasonably warm. As we drove into the park, we were surprised to see excavators, bulldozers, dump trucks, and front loaders scurrying about. The walk to the main building had been rerouted because the fountain was being torn out. Almost 1/3 of the pavement in the parking lot had been peeled away. Obviously the renovations we had read about in the garden’s magazine last year are underway. It was fascinating to watch the machines at work for awhile.

Ruthie and I were excited to see a tram driving around a corner. We assumed that meant that the trams were running again after their winter rest. Upon inquiry at the desk, we learned that, no, the trams were not scheduled to resume operation until April; the drivers were in training. After perusing the gift shop where we found a book about bird-watching that we “needed”, we decided to hike to the sand mountain where Ruthie enjoyed the slide and tunnel. As we walked along the crepe myrtle-lined path, Ruth asked, “Where are the flamingos?” I had to think a bit to recall that two years ago (when she was 2!) there had been a special display of flamingos in that location! Lunch time was nearing so we decided to head to the café for a bite to eat. On the way we marveled over the beauty of several sweeping beds of sunny daffodils, along with the billowy trees in shades of pink, and various varieties of camellias in bloom. Ruthie asked, upon looking over the rose garden, “Where are the roses?” We discussed the fact that roses usually bloom in May and June. We inspected the prickly canes, noting the fresh maroon-colored leaves unfolding at the end of new growth. We promised to return in May to see the blooms.

As is our tradition, we climbed to the top of the NATO tower where we had a great view of the gardens and saw several airplanes take off and land. Ruth recalled that last summer we had watched a blue heron as he fished along the edge of the water below. Further down the pathway, the water feature in the perennial garden provided a balance beam for an adventurous little girl. Then we found another of our favorite places, the Japanese Garden, where we enjoyed crossing the rock slab bridge over the koi pond. Sadly, we arrived at the café to find it was closed due to the renovations. So we departed the Garden a little earlier than we had hoped to find our lunch. We agreed that we had had a wonderful time!

What a glorious day! As I thought about our adventures later, I felt such gratitude to God for the day in His world with His child. I thought back over the years with fond memories: going with my mother when she visited 35 years ago; taking our children, grandchildren, and friends; enjoying picnics as we sat on the berm and watched the airplanes fly in and out . . . This day will stand out because of the one-on-one time I had with Ruthie. There was no competition with siblings to be heard, or picking out where we would go next, or negotiating for a favorite place to eat. Then I had the thought: Maybe our Father feels the same delight when we choose to be alone with Him, enjoying His creation, conversing with Him, spending time together . . . Oh, Lord, may I be more intentional in making time to be fully present with You and with your children!

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness.
Psalm 145: 3-4, 7

Women IN THE Word



The Wednesday afternoon ladies’ Disciple Group will begin a 6-week study of “The Feasts of the Bible” on April 19 at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Our study will connect the Hebrew roots of Christianity and the symbolism that points to Jesus Christ. Books will be available at \$10 each. Those who wish are encouraged to bring a lunch at 12:45 for a time of fellowship before the study begins. Please join us!

JOY Ministry ~ 2nd Thursday

Let's do LUNCH!

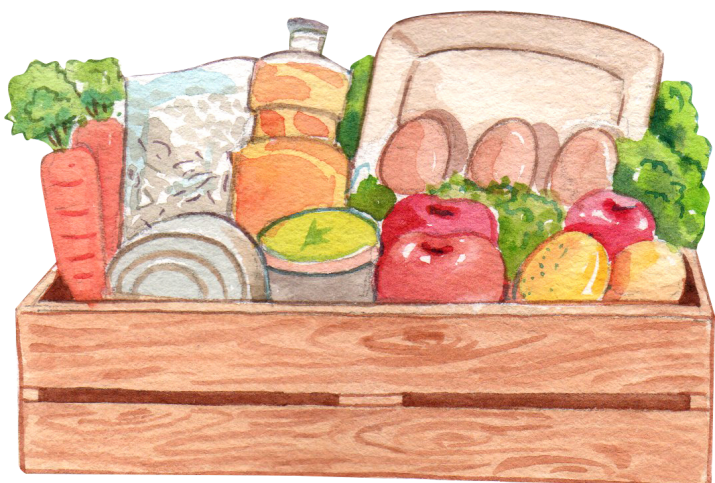
April 13 at 11:30



Please make your reservation by calling the church office (757.499.0557) by April 10th at 4:00. Indicate at that time if you will be meeting us at the restaurant or if you wish to carpool from the church.

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TLBC Spring Food Pantry Collection

SPONSORED BY PLANET 56 CLASS

All Sunday school classes are encouraged to bring canned food items for the TLBC Food Pantry. Most needed items are canned soups and canned fruit. Collection boxes will be in each classroom from April 16th through May 21st. The items will be collected from the rooms by the Planet 56 preteens on May 21st at noon.

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