

The Vision

From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick
Senior Pastor



"If your church has a preacher, then I'm not coming!"
A person who says this has obviously only been to one church for one time. This person may have liked the music but hated the sermon. The thought must be, "Churches that have preachers have ruined their churches."

This may be the same sentiment for people who don't want Elders. They have seen only a limited number of examples and didn't like them. Well, I have great news, our church will not have any of the models you have experienced! We learned that as we explored other Baptist churches that have Elders. Each and every one of them is different. The autonomous model of the Baptist church prevails. No two are alike.

Our church is developing an Elder-led model. That means that many things will go to the church business meetings for decisions. The Elders will not buy or sell property, will not attain loans, will not develop the budget, and will not approve or deny expenditures. The Elders will work with the Pastor to set the spiritual direction of the church, make sure that sound doctrine is preached and taught, address church discipline and generally address anything spiritual. They will stay away from the things that are physical. They will not renovate the church, nor will they get involved in the church plant maintenance. They will not replace the Board of Directors nor the deacons nor the Discipleship Group teachers.

The greatest decision is how Elders will be chosen. This will take discernment from the church herself. Elders have a very high standard to meet. It is much higher than that of a deacon, though some deacons will already meet this standard. Some of them may be called upon to be Elders.

Elders will have a term they will serve. In our church, Elders will not be Elders for life. They will serve but will not necessarily be rotated back into being an Elder after any amount of time. They will be tested to their eligibility. Their effectiveness as an Elder will be evaluated. They must attend church with approved absences as the only exception. Those will be: sick, work related or out of town on work or vacation. The only other exception might be attending another church to gather ideas for our own church or being on a search committee.

The greatest challenge to the Elder-led committee is the evaluation process for determining if someone is qualified to be an Elder. From that point, the current Constitution and By-laws must be re-written and the church must be informed along the way.

Most pastors coast the last few years of their ministry. They do little and the church shrinks. I am committed not to do so. I have believed that God wanted me to institute Elders at our church for a long time. I could coast and let things be, but I can't follow what I have been told to do if I do so.

In the end, you will still be able to vote this down. I don't worry about this. If the church votes this down, I will have done what I was supposed to do and can retire in peace. Much greater men of God have had things go south on them. Moses wasn't able to go into the Promised Land and I may not see this happen either. I have certainly done worse things than Moses did to keep him out of the Promised Land.

I only ask that you not evaluate anything about Elders until you find out what Elders in our church will be. Truth is, the Elder-led Committee doesn't know that yet. It is different in every Baptist church.

The XP Corner

David Doyle
Executive Pastor

Stuck churches avoid change. Healthy, thriving churches embrace it. Change sounds counterintuitive, because if a church has reached a place of sustained health, what they're doing right now is obviously working. (We all know the saying "if it isn't broken, don't fix it.") But there are three reasons why even healthy churches need to embrace change:

1. Success breeds complacency. When things start working, we get afraid to mess it up. People are financially supporting and rallying behind what we're doing now... So, we begin to avoid change instead of embracing it. Ask yourself: "Are we willing to change?"
2. Change doesn't seem like the "right" or "holy" thing to do. It doesn't take long for our methods to become our traditions. We begin to like the way we do things, and often connect with other networks and leaders who do things the same way. In some instances, churches are more concerned with protecting methodology over theology. Ask yourself: "Is it that the change isn't right or holy, or is it that I don't want to embrace change?"
3. People don't like change. At the end of the day, we like to be comfortable. We like to do things the way we like to do things. But God doesn't want us to be comfortable. We can't have new influence while maintaining our old ways. We won't reach new people with old methods. Ask yourself: "Is it sacred, or is it just familiar? Is it holy, or is it just comfortable?"

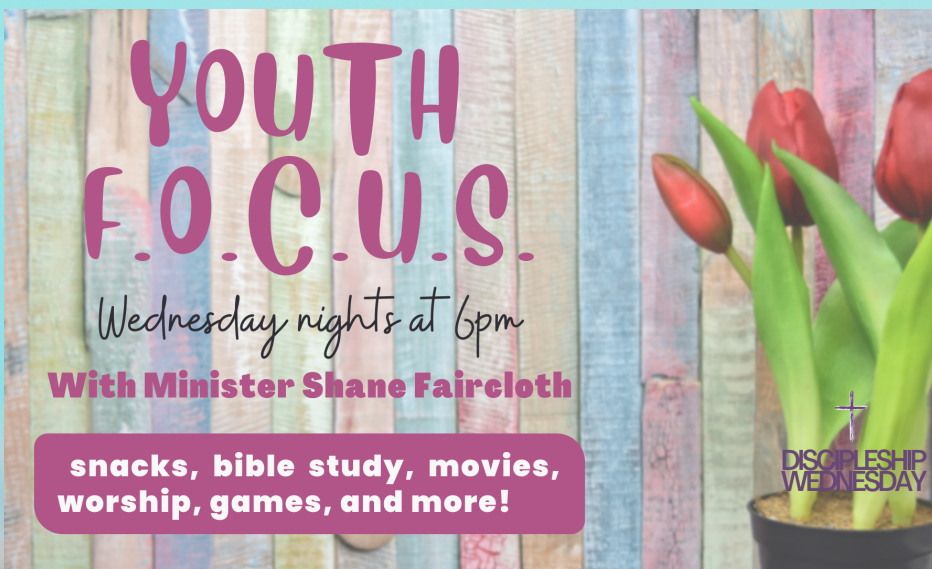
Admittedly, too much change too quickly—even for the right reasons—can lead to chaos. So, change must be tempered and considered. But one fact is clear: churches that refuse to embrace change (we're not talking about theology here!) have already embraced closing their doors ultimately. Change is necessary. Change is healthy. Embrace it! We'll be a much better church for it.



**YOUTH/DEACON
FUN DAY**
SATURDAY, MAY 13TH @ 10A

Call the church office at 757-499-0557 or email our Youth Minister, Shane, at Shane@mytowncenterchurch.com if you have information questions or are interested in volunteering.

The poster features a cartoon illustration of a person in a red shirt and blue pants running on a green field, holding a white flag. A blue ball is in the air. In the foreground, there is a wooden table with a blue cloth and a blue object on it.



**YOUTH
F.O.C.U.S.**
Wednesday nights at 6pm
With Minister Shane Faircloth

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

DISCIPLESHIP
WEDNESDAY

The poster has a background of colorful vertical stripes and a potted plant with red tulips. A small white cross is visible above the text "DISCIPLESHIP WEDNESDAY".



CHURCH 101
Sunday, May 14, 2023
9:45 am - 10:45 am

The poster is a green chalkboard with a wooden frame. The text is written in white and orange chalk. There are some faint chalk marks on the board.



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

For kids currently in 1st-6th grades
Go to www.thalialynn.com to register
or scan the QR code.



**THEME: FOLLOWING JESUS
CHANGES THE GAME!**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
THERE WILL BE NO WALK-IN REGISTRATION
REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1ST.**



Birth - 6th Grade
CORNER

**KIDS Camp + Music Camp
VOLUNTEERS**

No pre-planning involved.
Come have fun with the kids!
For more information about
volunteering, see contact info below.

For more information about volunteering for KIDS Camp,
please contact Kathy Gallup (kahtygallup@yahoo.com).

For more information about volunteering for Music Camp, please contact
our Music Minister, Bret Woodall (bret@mytowncenterchurch.com)

Music Camp Is Back!!!!

AUGUST 14-18

9:00 am - 3:00 pm
for kids who have completed 1st-6th grades

\$45 for first child, \$30 for each
additional child in same family.

Register online at thalialynn.com beginning
Monday, May 15th or scan the QR code.



For more information, please contact our Music
Minister, Bret Woodall.
bret@mytowncenterchurch.com



“LOOSE CASH DRIVE”

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

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.) Please see Kathy Gallup.

**KIDS
ON MISSION**

**RA & GA Night
is May 19**

GA Raingutter Regatta Race
Children 1st - 6th grades
Friday, May 19 at 6 pm at TLBC
Come Support our Girls in Action

RA Pinewood Derby Race
Children 1st - 6th grades
Friday, June 2 at 6 pm
Come Support our Royal
Ambassadors




Music & Me
Wednesdays at 10:00am

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

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31



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!

TLBC Variety Show

PICTURE YOURSELF IN THE SPOTLIGHTS! SPACES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THEIR TALENTS! SIGN ON THE BOARD OUTSIDE THE MEDIA CENTER.

ALSO, MAKE YOUR PICNIC RESERVATION ON THE BOARD BY MAY 14TH.



SUNDAY

may 21

6:00 PM

FREE PICNIC ON THE LAWN

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

PRAY FERVENTLY IN RIGHTEOUSNESS



AND AVAIL MUCH

JAMES 5:16B

NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER



PRAYER SERVICE AT 6:00 P.M. | SPEAKER: BOB PIPKIN

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH CHAPEL | 4392 VIRGINIA BEACH | WWW.THALIALYNN.COM

Why Use REALM?

The church has operated using REALM for several years now. Notwithstanding that REALM is our Church Management Software, REALM also offers a plethora of ministry-centric capabilities. Moreover REALM Connect can be installed on your mobile phone in order to give you instant access to the REALM user capabilities. From a user perspective, REALM Connect is designed to:

- Equip leaders.
- Engage members and allow members to engage each other.
- Improve assimilation.
- Connect members faster to church news.
- Connect groups, communicate within groups.
- Email key updates and prayer lists to disciple groups
- Establish and promulgate pathways and next steps
- Discover, sign up, track church events.
- Serve as online directory (with pictures!)
- Create and manage your own profile and what is made public.
- Facilitate online giving through private access to the church giving site.

Users and leaders within the church are able to do ministry better using REALM Connect. For more information on how REALM can assist you in ministry and in connecting with others please contact the Church Office and ask for Jada. REALM/REALM Connect are designed with ministry and you in mind. Try it. You will be hooked.



MAY SCHEDULE

REHEARSALS - Tuesdays at 9:30
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

OUTREACH
May 18 - 11:00
Sing at Commonwealth

“Easter Monday” was a day off from church work but not from house work I had been postponing. I certainly would’ve preferred gardening, but duty called and I buckled down to the task. As I started decluttering, I was amused to find Easter eggs tucked in unusual places: flower pots, behind cushions, under books on my desk, in drawers . . . Then I remembered!

Our grandchildren had come for a “sleepover” on the Friday before Palm Sunday. They started out by playing with our collection of instruments, and especially enjoyed the 3 microphones Poppi had connected for their experimentation. They began by recording “Blessed Assurance” a capella. We were amazed that they knew most of the words to all three verses. (They regularly listen to hymn CD’s in the car.) Then Sarah and Ruthie recalled the song “Jesus Is Alive” from Preschool Choir. We wrote the chords out and Andrew played the autoharp while they sang. After dinner they found a basket filled with plastic eggs and excitedly planned an indoor egg hunt while I cleaned the kitchen. Bedtime loomed, so we agreed to search for the eggs on Saturday morning. However, upon awakening we were distracted by making pancakes, more singing and recording, and playing before Carrie picked them up at 10:30.

The “hunt” had been forgotten, so the eggs remained hidden for a week and a half until I discovered them. A few of the eggs were clear and I noticed pieces of paper had been rolled up and tucked into all the eggs. My heart was filled with joy as I unrolled the notes and read: Jesus is Alive!, Hosanna!, Music, Easter, Love . . . Sarah, our kindergartener, had painstakingly written thoughts related to truths of Easter she had learned in Sunday School, choir, and Bible story books. To be honest, I hope I haven’t found all the eggs and that I find more in the coming weeks to be reminded anew that “We are an Easter people!” As such we rejoice and celebrate that Christ has defeated death. Because He lives, no tomb of despair, discouragement, lack of faith or depression can hold us.


The phrase “We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song” is attributed to St. Augustine. Despite the uncertain times in which he lived, he declared, “Let us sing here and now in this life, even though we are oppressed by various worries, so that we may sing it one day in the world to come, when we are set free from all anxiety.” His words remain true in our uncertain times.

As Easter people we continue to declare that Christ is alive, His Spirit resides within us, & pain & death are not the last word for us! Alleluia! What a Savior!

*This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*
Psalm 118: 24



JOY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 22 at 2:30 in Room 56
We welcome all who would like to serve with us. Please join us!



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 LUNCH

BASEBALL
Game

TICKET ONLY **\$10** THURSDAY **11** MAY

TEAM A **VS** TEAM B

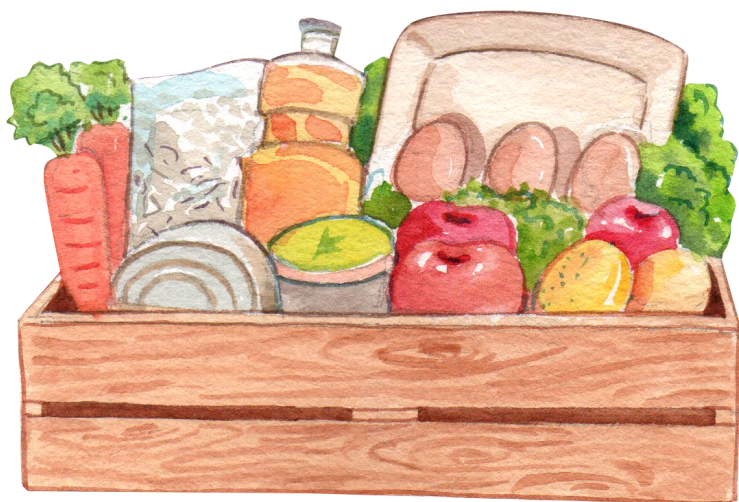
INDOOR BASEBALL **INDOOR STADIUM** DOORPRIZE
TLBC FELLOWSHIP HALL
GATE OPENS AT 12 00 P.M.

MENU: HOT DOGS / POTATO SALAD / BAKED BEANS / DESSERT
RESERVATIONS DUE BY SUNDAY, MAY 7 / JOY ENVELOPES PROVIDED

www.thaliajnn.com

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Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462
Phone: 757-499-0557 Fax: 757-499-5226
www.thalia Lynn.com

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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 & canned fruit. Collection boxes will be in each classroom 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